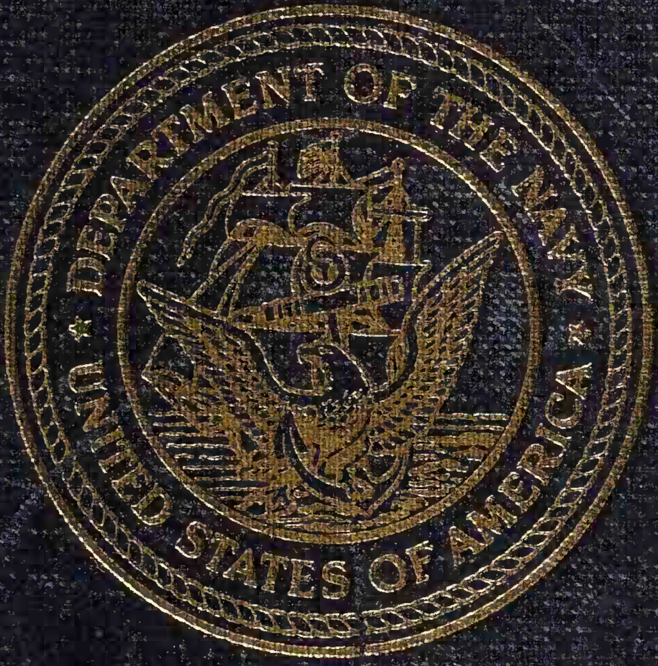
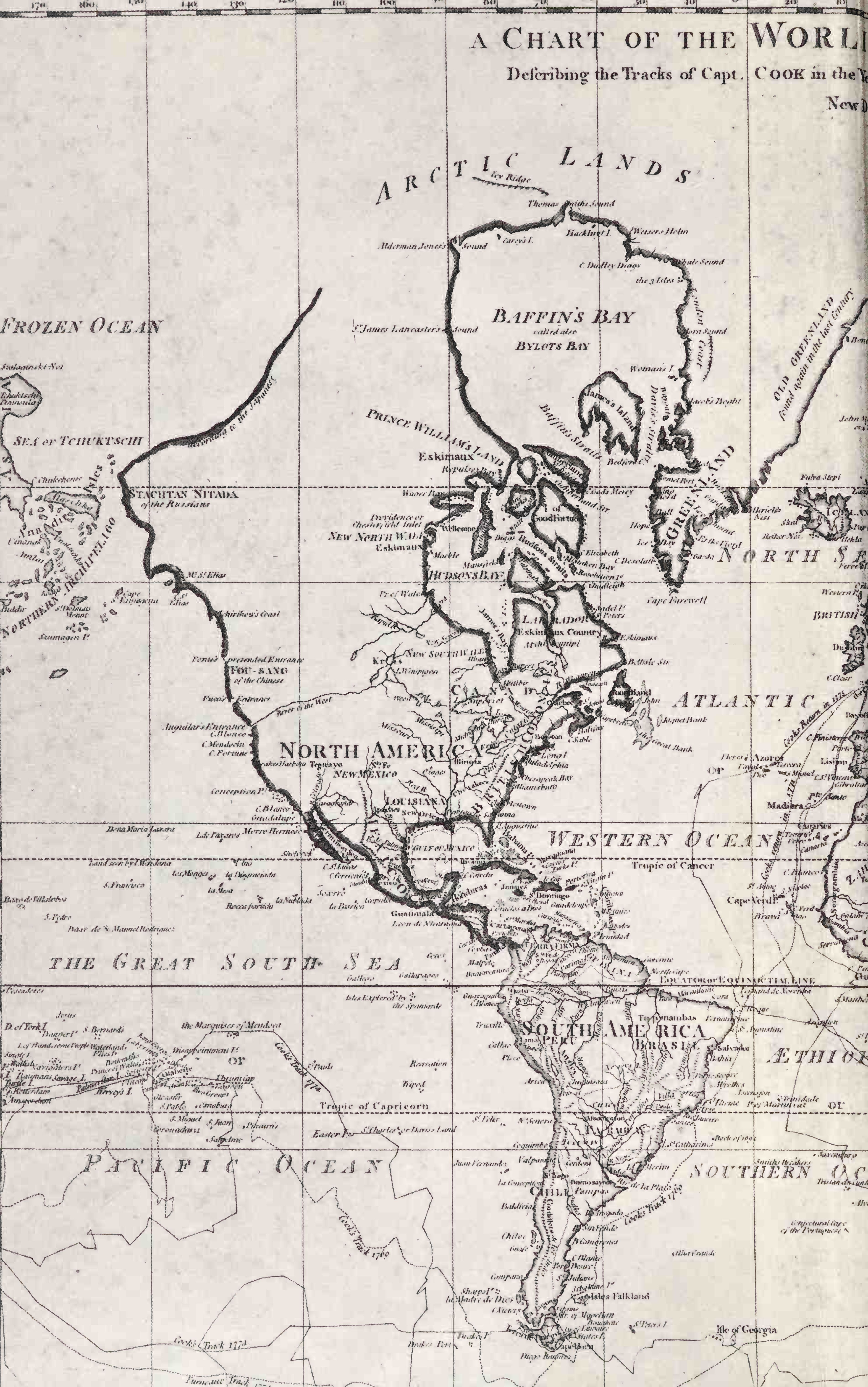


DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



A CHART OF THE WORL

Deſcribing the Tracks of Capt. COOK in the Y

New D

ARCTIC LANDS
Icy Ridge
Thomas Smiths Sound
Alderman Jones's Sound
Carey's I.
Hackluyt I.
Wetsers Helm
Whale Sound
C. Dudley Diggs
the 3 Isles
BAFFIN'S BAY
called also
BYLOTS BAY
St. James Lancaster's Sound
Horn Sound
London Coast
Womans I.
James's Island
Baffins Straits
Davis's Straits
Jacob's Bight
OLD GREENLAND
found again in the last century
GREENLAND
FROZEN OCEAN
SEA OF TCHUKTSCHI
Isles
STACHTAN NITADA
of the Russians
According to the Japanese
NORTHERN ARCHIPEL.
PRINCE WILLIAM'S LAND
Eskimaux
Repulse Bay
Wager Bay
Providence or Chesterfield Inlet
NEW NORTH WALES
Wellcome
Marble
I. of Good Fortune
Hudsons Straits
HUDSONS BAY
Cumberland Str.
Gods Mercy
Cape Farewell
C. Desolation
Resolution I.
Mt. St. Elias
Cape St. Elias
Tchirikow's Coast
Fonte's pretended Entrance
FOU-SANG
of the Chinese
Fuca's Entrance
River of the West
Aguilar's Entrance
C. Blanco
C. Mendocin
C. Fortune
Drakes Harbour
NEW SOUTH WALES
LABRADOR
Eskimaux Country
Belisle Str.
CANADA
Quebec
Boston
NORTH AMERICA
NEW MEXICO
LOUISIANA
New Orleans
Illinois
Philadelphia
Chesapeak Bay
Williamsburg
BRITISH COLONIES
ATLANTIC
Great Bank
Azores
Madeira
Canaries
Cape Verd I.
Conception Pt.
C. St. Lucas
Mendoza
GULF of MEXICO
Havana
Jamaica
St. Domingo
Porto Rico
Guatimala
Carthagena
WESTERN OCEAN
Tropic of Cancer
Land seen by J. Mendana
THE GREAT SOUTH SEA
Gallapagos
Isles Explored by the Spaniards
EQUATOR or EQUINOCTIAL LINE
SOUTH AMERICA
PERU
BRASIL
Lima
Arica
Callao
St. Salvador
Bahia
ÆTHIOP
the Marquises of Mendoca
Cook's Track 1774
Disappointment I.
Otaheite
Tropic of Capricorn
Easter I.
St. Charles or Davis's Land
Juan Fernandez
Valparaiso
PARAGUAY
Buenos Ayres
Rio de la Plata
CHILI
Pampas
Cook's Track 1769
PACIFIC OCEAN
SOUTHERN OCEAN
Isles Falkland
Isle of Georgia
Cape Horn
Cook's Track 1774
Furneaux Track 1774
Drakes Port
Diego Ramirez
170
160
150
140
130
120
110
100
90
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
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w MERCATOR's PROJECTION.

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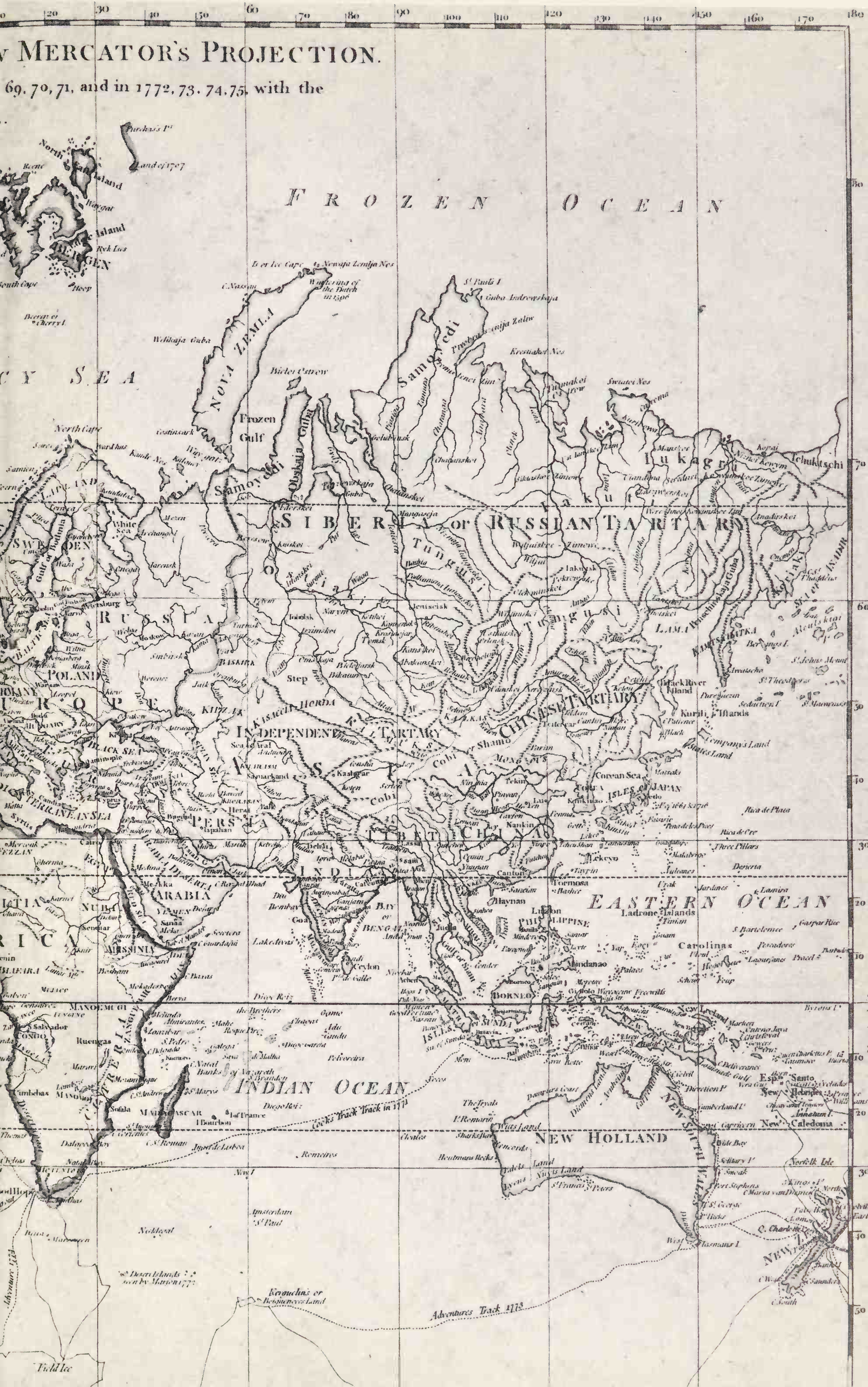
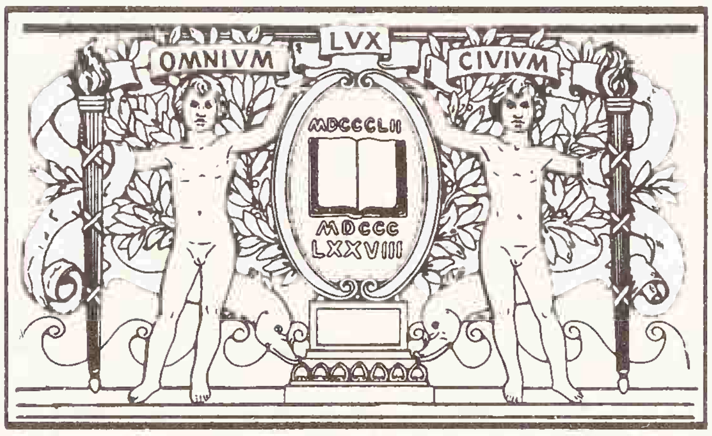

FROZEN OCEAN
NOVA ZEMLA
Frozen Gulf
Samoyedi
SIBERIA or RUSSIAN TARTARY
Tungusi
Jukagri
Jakuti
Tchukutschi
KAMTSCHATKA
RUSSIA
LAPLAND
SWEDEN
White Sea
POLAND
EUROPE
BLACK SEA
MEDITERRANEAN SEA
INDEPENDENT TARTARY
KIRZAK
ASIA
Cobi
CHINESE TARTARY
PERSIA
ARABIA
TIBET
CHINA
INDIA
Bay of BENGAL
Ceylon
Corean Sea
ISLES of JAPAN
Formosa
PHILIPPINE
Ladrone Islands
Carolinas
EASTERN OCEAN
BORNEO
SUNDA ISLES
New Guinea
New Ireland
New Britain
NUBIA
AFRICA
ABISSINIA
CAFFRARIA
MADAGASCAR
INDIAN OCEAN
Cooks Track Track in 1771
NEW HOLLAND
NEW SOUTH WALES
New Caledonia
Norfolk Isle
NEW ZEALAND
Q. Charlotte's Sound
Kerguelen's or Rendezvous Land
Adventures Track 1773
Adventure 1774
Desert Islands seen by Marion 1772
Amsterdam St Paul
Field Ice
10
20
30
40
50
60
70
80
90
100
110
120
130
140
150
160
170
180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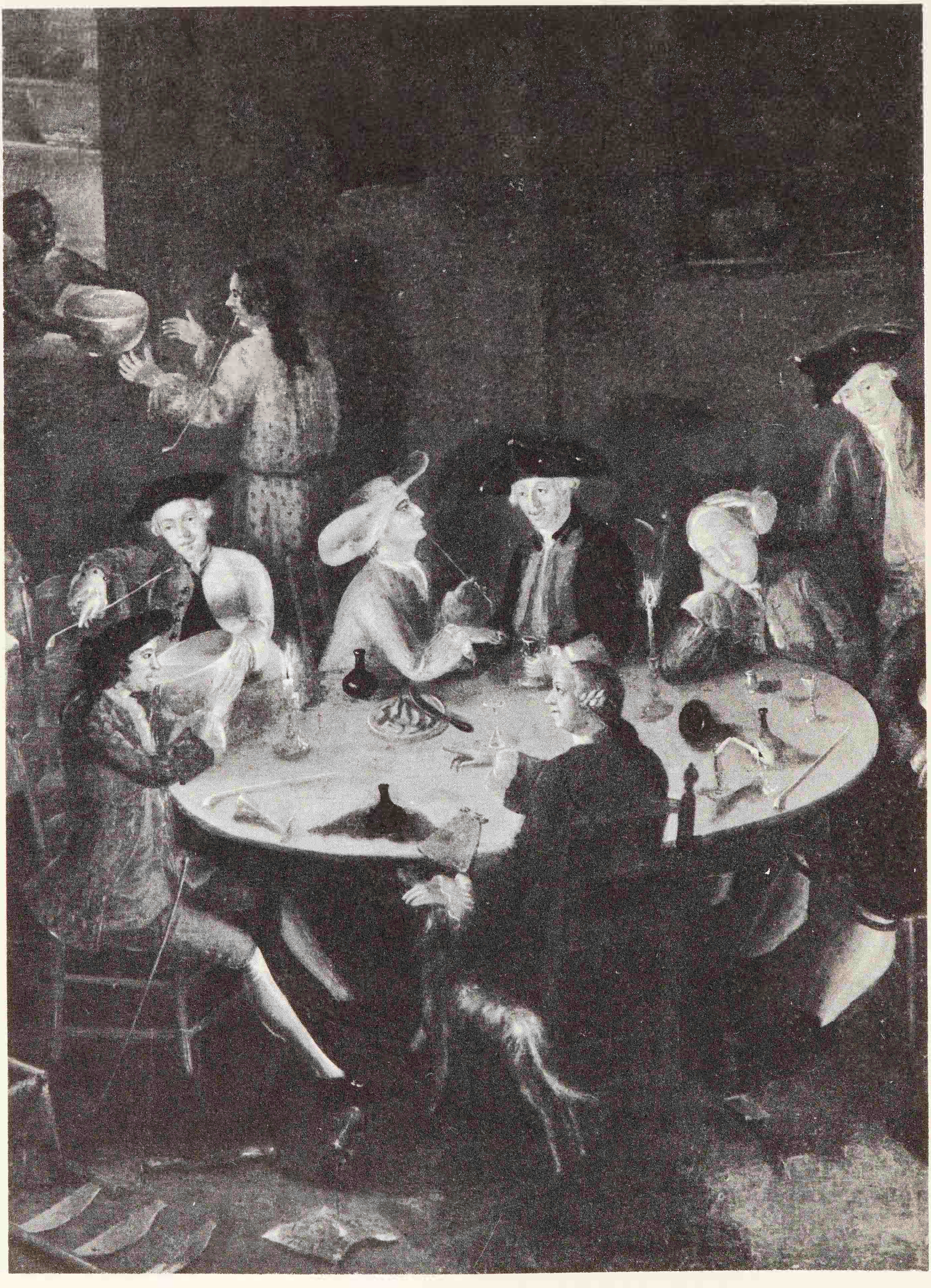
The American Revolution



Commodore Esek Hopkins (seated center rear) in Surinam.

NAVAL DOCUMENTS OF
The American Revolution

VOLUME 3

AMERICAN THEATRE: Dec. 8, 1775–Dec. 31, 1775
EUROPEAN THEATRE: Nov. 1, 1775–Jan. 31, 1776
AMERICAN THEATRE: Jan. 1, 1776–Feb. 18, 1776

WILLIAM BELL CLARK, Editor
For and in Collaboration with
The U.S. Navy Department

With a Foreword by
PRESIDENT LYNDON B. JOHNSON
And an Introduction by
REAR ADMIRAL ERNEST McNEILL ELLER, U.S.N. (Ret.)
Director of Naval History

WASHINGTON: 1968

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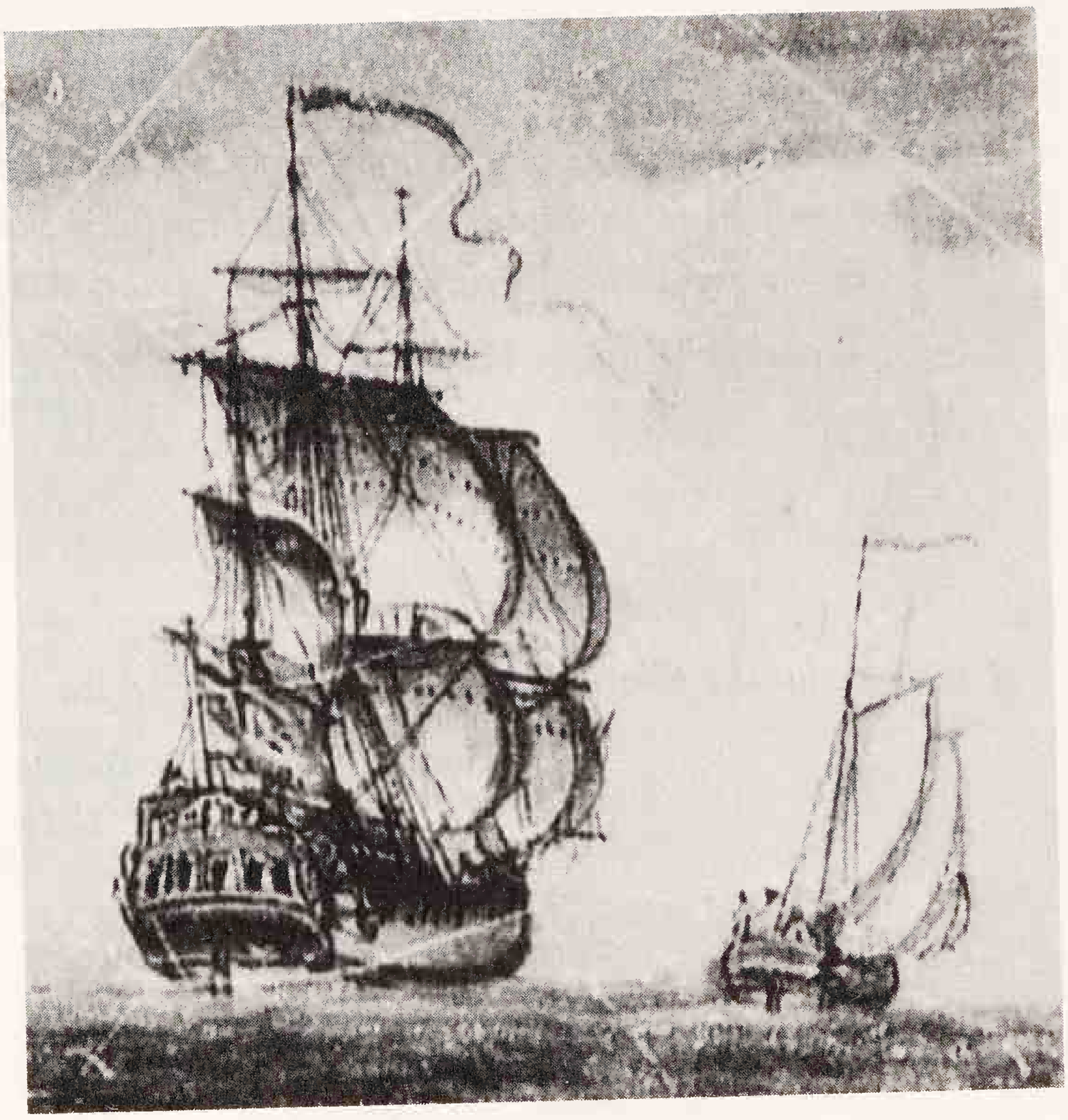
. . . I could wish a Distinction to be made between Prisoners taken on Shore and on Sea, which last Mode of War will hurt us more effectually than any thing they can do by Land during our Stay at this Place.

Major General William Howe to Lord Dartmouth
1775

I well know the Glorious Cause I am engaged in.

Captain Nicholas Biddle
1776



This drawing and others of similar nature throughout the Volume are from journals kept on board ships *Lloyd* and *Betsey,* Nicholas Pocock, Master. (Courtesy of the Trustees of the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, England.)

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 13, 1967

FOREWORD

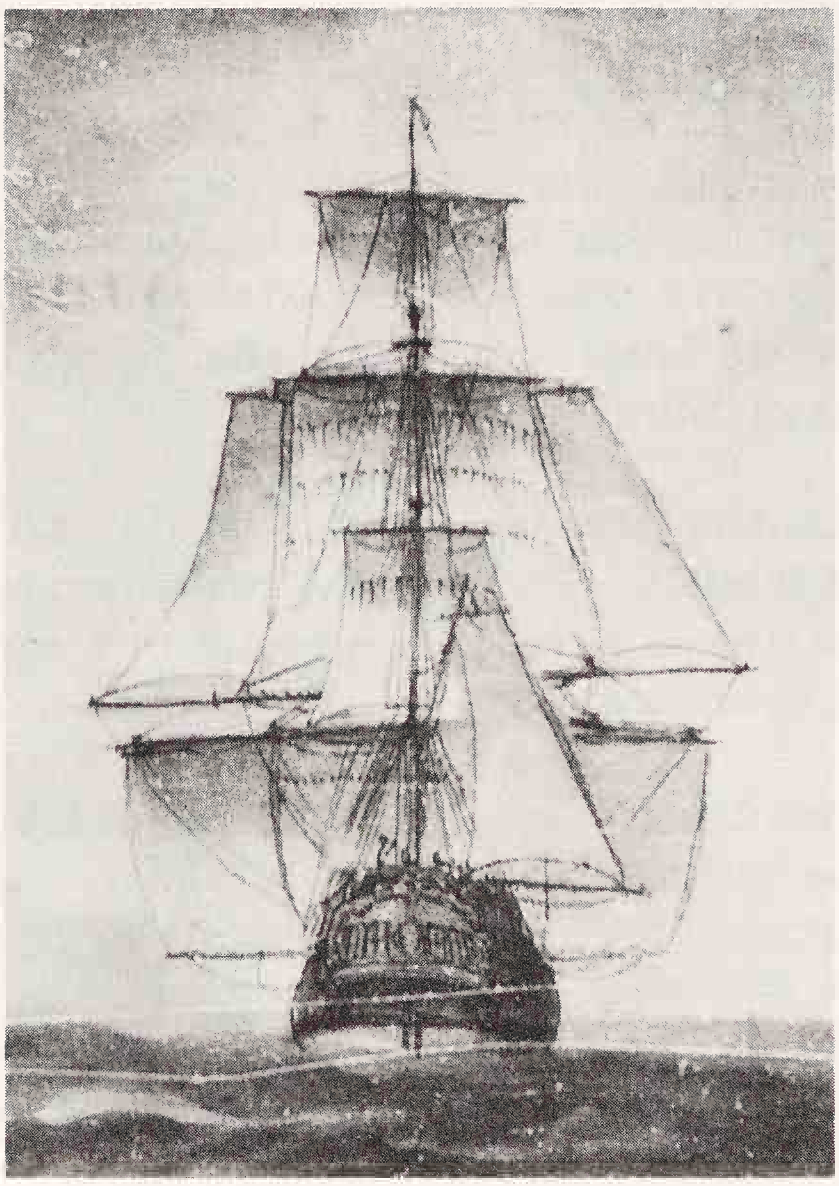
One of the letters in this volume of *Naval Documents of the American Revolution* reveals the alarm -- and perhaps the surprise -- of a British Naval Officer at the spread of revolution across the colonies. He reports that the people of "Cumberland and its Neighbourhood have formed themselves into a Committee, the same as the other Rebellious Meetings...for what they call the preservation of Liberty."

And indeed that is precisely what we did call it then, and what we call it still. For almost two centuries, our National goals have developed around this most fundamental commitment: the preservation of liberty.

In our time we have come to understand clearly the universal and indivisible quality of liberty. But this is only an extension of -- not a departure from -- the concept as it was seen by our Founding Fathers. As George Washington told the people of Bermuda, in a letter published in Volume II: "...Liberty is Confined to no Continent or Climate..."

It was in the American Revolution that our National ideals and institutions took shape. The original documents of that experience are more than treasures of our heritage. They reveal the frame on which our still-evolving history is built.

In the material presented in the third volume of this valuable series, we can trace the steady development of that tiny forerunner of the U.S. Fleets which guard the preservation of liberty around the globe today.



INTRODUCTION

Volume 3 of our series opens at a critical stage in the affairs of America. At Boston General Washington perennially short of munitions besieges the British in a stalemate while his little Navy contributes importantly in slowing British supply by sea—the artery of life for the foe as well as for America.

At Philadelphia the Continental Navy, authorized by Congress in October, prepares for its first operation; appropriately it would become an amphibious landing designed to bring in munitions across the sea highways. Meanwhile, Congress took step after step which led to the fateful 4 July 1776 that would influence the course of the world forever after.

The flow of events hinged in large degree upon seapower. Britain had far too few warships on the American coast. Most were small, and, except for the concentration at Boston, they were thinly spread down the long seaboard to Florida. They afforded little offensive punch to support the strong Tory sentiment in every colony or to suppress the "liberty men." Had the British government promptly appreciated the true situation and poured in powerful reinforcements afloat and ashore, events in the New World would have taken a different course.

They would have taken a different course, too, in the Old World. England's ancient rivals—Spain, Holland, France—watched developments overseas with acute interest. While professing neutrality, as documents in this volume show, under the table they fed the fires of revolution—at this stage principally by closing official eyes to the clandestine flow of munitions. It would be too much of a gamble now to support the rebellion openly; but if it should grow, what opportunity that might bring to injure the Mistress of the Seas.

In this volume, therefore, events steadily mount in intensity. Like a rising gale, the sea's influence pervades all that happens ashore. Hence, the number of documents multiplies and the time span covered within this stout hull shrinks even though we have purposely restricted selections.

From the start, our interpretation of "naval" has included the full scope of events on the sea, and those political, mercantile and military affairs that affected events there. In this framework, we have of necessity had to eliminate certain fringe documents. As the density of our document holdings increases, Volume 3 expands this screening policy.

We have reduced the number of the purely mercantile documents which received adequate coverage in earlier volumes. We have also omitted more of those repetitious naval items that cover the same event in similar words—for example, the many similar work vouchers for the Maryland Navy's ship *Defence* for which we have enough records to list the Pentagon. We do not heave these naval ones overboard without due process, retaining unique and pertinent extracts, referring to others in notes. Future volumes will adhere to this policy even more closely.

As Mr. Clark mentions hereafter, those interested in reviewing our complete editorial sailing directions for this series will find them in Volume 1 with some slight modifications in Volume 2.

Most of those who made possible the first two ships of the battle line of our growing fleet still serve. Volume 3, like its predecessors, builds on the solid foundation of Mr. William Bell Clark's unique knowledge and tireless application. The end product is the result of the work, scholarship, cooperation, interest, and contributions, large and small, of scores of people in the United States and abroad. Ever helpful staffs in libraries, archives, and historical societies have continually assisted. To each of you we send warm appreciation. Numerous private individuals have given of themselves and, not infrequently, their personal collections without stint. Unpublished Crown copyright material in the Public Record Office, London, is reproduced by permission of the Controller of H. M. Stationery Office.

The great burden of this effort, including both bookmaking and infinite labors to make the series as accurate and useful as possible, falls upon the shoulders of Dr. William James Morgan and his section—Lieutenant (junior-grade) Patrick A. Lyons, Mr. and Mrs. Henry J. Scheffenacker, Mr. Robert Campbell, Mrs. Eleanor Roll, Chief Yeoman Frederick S. Coward, and Yeomen Second Class Thomas E. Culbert and Joseph V. Eckert. Mr. W. Bart Greenwood, Navy Department Librarian, and Miss Mary Pickens, together with Commander V. James Robison, Assistant Navy Department Curator, and Lieutenant (junior-grade) J. D. Bogart of his office, have rendered skillful aid and guidance with charts and illustrations. Mr. Marko Zlatich prepared the index.

Rear Admiral F. Kent Loomis continues to play a wise and knowledgeable role in this as in all other of the Division projects. Chief Yeoman Morris Randolph has handled those American Revolution matters that have come his way amongst much other work with skill and dispatch.

Fortunately, as noted, we have been able to call upon most of those who made their talents available for the first two volumes, including the distinguished members of the Secretary of the Navy's Advisory Committee on Naval History and the Special Consultants who are listed on a fore page. We likewise welcome several new spare time members to the "team." Professor Kendall E. Lappin of the U.S. Naval Academy, Mr. William H. Beach, Colonel G. Edward Borst, and Commander Canio J. Di Cairano have provided able translations of documents from European archives. In London, Commander W. B. Rowbotham, Royal Navy (Retired), is doing essential research of great importance. Whenever needed, U.S. naval commands in the United States and overseas have responded to our requests for assistance with traditional "can do" results.

We gratefully acknowledge our indebtedness to all, old hands and new alike. Without you, an undertaking of this magnitude would be impossible.

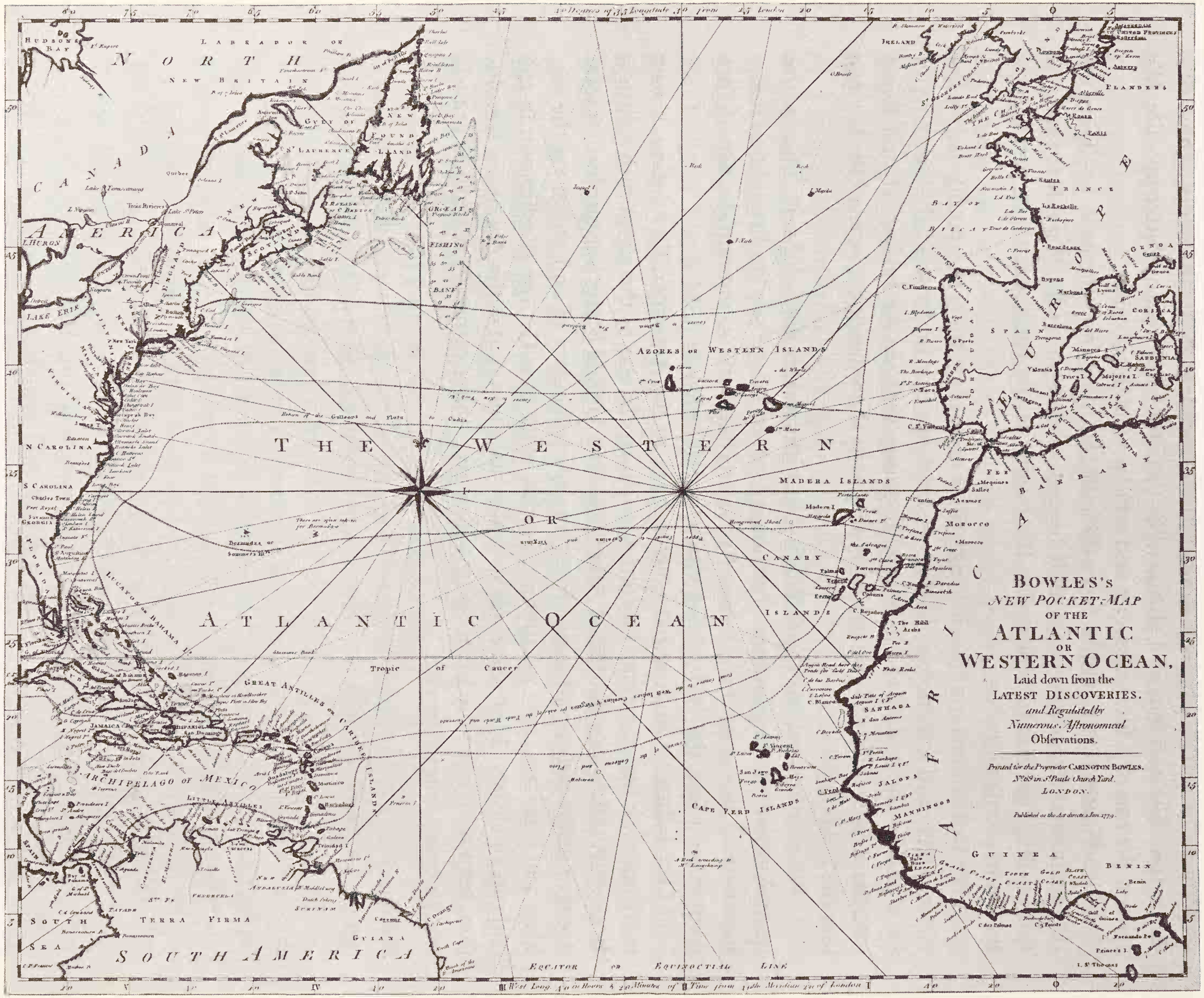
Volume 1 Introduction gave special note to the excellent work of Lieutenant David Patterson of the Naval History Division. Upon returning to civilian life, he continued the study of history as a doctoral candidate at Northwestern University. An automobile accident on February 18, 1967 took Lieutenant Patterson's life. We mourn the loss of a fine colleague and scholar of high promise.

Americans, being people, have difficulty learning from the past, justifying the statement that "history repeats itself because people won't listen the first time." A special difficulty has been learning the lessons of the fundamental importance of the sea to our destiny.

We can understand this difficulty since most of us know thoroughly only what we see, feel, and experience. Living on land, we can understand the meaning of land power and today of air power in planes that we see taking off and flying overhead. Seapower still remains a mystery as its ships disappear beyond the horizon into the unknown.

We can understand the difficulty but history does not forgive it. This failure to understand the importance of necessary power on the sea has brought us many sorrows and encouraged aggression by tyrants like today's communists, who do not comprehend that this is defective vision, not decadence.

Our failure to understand reaches back to the American Revolution, a vast maritime war that developed into the fourth world war of the eighteenth century. It extends today into Southeast Asia where the United States can project its total strength in the defense of man's freedom only by control of and power on the sea. May you who use these documents see this truth that George Washington in the end saw so clearly. May you come to realize with him that in the American Revolution, seapower was "the pivot upon which everything turned"—a truth as gravely true today as ever in the past.


BOWLES'S
NEW POCKET-MAP
OF THE
ATLANTIC
OR
WESTERN OCEAN,
Laid down from the
LATEST DISCOVERIES.
and Regulated by
Numerous Aſtronomical
Obſervations.
Printed for the Proprietor CARINGTON BOWLES.
No. 69 in St. Pauls Church Yard.
LONDON.
Published as the Act directs 1 Jan. 1779.
THE WESTERN OR ATLANTIC OCEAN
NORTH AMERICA
SOUTH AMERICA
EUROPE
AFRICA
Tropic of Cancer
EQUATOR or EQUINOCTIAL LINE
AZORES or WESTERN ISLANDS
MADERA ISLANDS
CANARY ISLANDS
CAPE VERD ISLANDS
ARCHIPELAGO OF MEXICO
GUINEA

EDITOR'S PREFACE

This, the third volume of *Naval Documents of the American Revolution,* contains that which has been preserved in letter and document of the outfitting of the first Continental fleet, and the groundwork for the building of thirteen frigates, which where to be the backbone of the American Navy. Surprisingly enough, the new material unearthed, added to what little had been previously known and printed, provides a remarkably clear picture of these momentous events, and refutes certain hitherto accepted errors. The volume concludes with the sailing from the Delaware Capes in February 1776 of "The first American fleet that ever swelled their sails on the Western Ocean," in the words of Christopher Gadsden.

The magnitude of the naval effort at this time by George Washington in New England, by the Continental Congress in Philadelphia, and by the Massachusetts Bay, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Pennsylvania and South Carolina colonies unfolds in this volume as the closing days of 1775 merge into the new year. Considering the general unpreparedness for war, the sparsity of material and the limitations of finance and credit, these pages provide an amazing description of the resourcefulness of the Revolutionary leaders.

Neither was there idleness in maritime endeavors other than naval within the thirteen United Colonies. Letters tell of merchants, either by contract with the Secret Commitee of Congress or upon their own initiative, widely engaged in exporting to Europe and the foreign West Indies. The products of their respective provinces were there to be exchanged for arms, ammunition and gunpowder, or saltpetre and sulphur for the manufacture of the latter. That this was indeed a hazardous undertaking is amply demonstrated in the extracts from journals and logs of English cruisers recounting the capture of some of these venturesome skippers and their vessels. Despite these prizes, the replacement of one British admiral by another did not solve the problem of stifling American trade. Letters from Samuel Graves are succeeded by letters from Molyneux Shuldham pleading for more ships, and dwelling upon the insufficiency of the squadron on the American coast. In the Leeward Islands and Jamaica the dispatches of other British admirals contain similar complaints of inadequate forces.

Within the pages of this volume are the details of the disaster which overtook the amphibious invasion of Canada—the death of Richard Montgomery before the walls of Quebec. Even so, here is unfolded a remarkable picture of the maintenance of the siege by a few hundred half-starved Americans under Benedict Arnold. More successful were the Virginians, whose letters relate how they routed Lord Dunmore's little army at the Great Bridge over the Elizabeth River, forced his Lordship out of Norfolk, and then witnessed the destruction of that town by the guns of British warships and the flaming torches in the hands of his Majesty's Marines and sailors. Further south, other letters tell how South Carolina and Georgia contemplated an invasion of East Florida, which, while never materializing, sent anguished cries from the British Governor in St. Augustine for naval support.

In Great Britain, in this period, Lord George Germain became Secretary of State for the Colonies, and, as these pages disclose, his appointment was not the happiest for the success of British arms in America. In England also, as documents and letters reveal, a subservient Parliament voted an unprecedented number of seamen and Marines to man the King's navy, and learned that more than seventy ships of war eventually would comprise the fleet on the American station. Fully described are the debates in opposition to the Prohibitory Act with its very apparent intent to subdue the rebellious colonists at all costs. Many of the letters and orders in the European Theatre concentrate upon the difficulties of assembling and dispatching Sir Peter Parker's fleet, convoying 4,000 men under Lord Cornwallis to the Southern colonies to cooperate with a detachment sent from Boston under Sir Henry Clinton. Précis, for the benefit of the King, recount the progress of this expedition in its planned invasion of North Carolina; an invasion envisaged by Royal Governor Martin as occasioning a simultaneous uprising of the Scots and others.

Across the English Channel, as told in numerous letters between Louis XVI's foreign minister and his ambassador in London, the French, wary of too great an affront to the British Ministry, showed no intention of desisting from clandestine aid to the American rebels, even though refusing them permission to trade in French ports. Such courtesy to the English, wrote Vergennes, "must not turn to the detriment of our own trade." With such trade in mind, there is interesting correspondence with Beaumarchais, including the latter's ambitious project to set up the mythical house of Roderique Hortalez et Cie with a capital of three million livres, all to be expended in behalf of the embattled Americans and some profit for Beaumarchais himself.

The editorial policy and the format for Volume 3 follow those for the previous two volumes. Because of the time lapse in the days when the sailing ship was the sole means of oceanic communication, the material continues to be divided into the American and European theatres. It will be recalled that ships' journals and logs are adjusted from sea time to standard time to reconcile them with letters covering the same event or period. For a full description of the editorial policy governing this series, reference should be had to the editor's preface for Volume 1.

To the many individuals and depositories set forth in Volumes 1 and 2, the editor again wishes to express his deep appreciation, and to two more who have more recently been of great help, namely: Mrs. Norbert S. Lacy, Manuscript Custodian, New Hampshire Historical Society, and Miss Stella J. Scheckter, Head of Reference and Loan Division, New Hampshire State Library.

DEPOSITORY LOCATION ABBREVIATIONS[1]

AAS	American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, Massachusetts
AMAE	Archives Du Ministère Des Affaires Étrangères, Paris
APL	Service historique de la Marine Archives du Port de Lorient, Lorient, France
APS	American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia
Bda. Arch.	Bermuda Archives, Hamilton, Bermuda
BHS	Beverly Historical Society, Beverly, Massachusetts
BM	British Museum, London
BPL	Boston Public Library, Boston
ChHS	Chicago Historical Society, Chicago
CL	William L. Clements Library, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
ConnHS	Connecticut Historical Society, Hartford
ConnSL	Connecticut State Library, Hartford
CUL	Columbia University Library, New York
CW	Colonial Williamsburg, Williamsburg, Virginia
DAC	Dominion (Public) Archives of Canada, Ottawa
DARL	Daughters of the American Revolution Library, Washington
DCL	Dartmouth College Library, Hanover, New Hampshire
DLAR	David Library of the American Revolution, Washington Crossing, Pennsylvania
DUL	Duke University Library, Durham, North Carolina
EI	Essex Institute, Salem, Massachusetts
FDRL	Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, Hyde Park, New York
HCL	Haverford College Library, Haverford, Pennsylvania
HH	Hempstead House, New London, Connecticut
HL	Hayes Library, Edenton, North Carolina
HSD	Historical Society of Delaware, Wilmington
HSP	Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia
HU	Harvard University Library, Cambridge, Massachusetts
HUL	Henry E. Huntington Library, San Marino, California
JCBL	John Carter Brown Library, Providence, Rhode Island
LC	Library of Congress, Washington

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1. The list includes depositories from which manuscripts have been used in this and previous volumes. Our collection includes materials from a number of other depositories which will appear in later volumes. The Descriptive List of Illustrations includes additional sources from which only graphic material has been used in Volume 3.

MarbHS	Marblehead Historical Society, Marblehead, Massachusetts
Mass. Arch.	Massachusetts Archives, Boston
MassHS	Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston
MCL	Marietta College Library, Marietta, Ohio
Md. Arch.	Maryland Archives (Hall of Records), Annapolis
MdHS	Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore
MeHS	Maine Historical Society, Portland
MHA	Marine Historical Association, Mystic, Connecticut
MNHP	Morristown National Historical Park, Morristown, New Jersey
Mor. Arch.	Moravian Archives, Winston-Salem, North Carolina
NA	National Archives, Washington
NCDAH	North Carolina Department of Archives and History, Raleigh
NHA	Nantucket Historical Association, Nantucket, Massachusetts
NHCHS	New Haven Colony Historical Society, New Haven, Connecticut
NHHS	New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord
NHS	Newport Historical Society, Newport, Rhode Island
NLCHS	New London County Historical Society, New London, Connecticut
NMM	National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, England
N.S. Arch.	Nova Scotia Archives, Halifax
NYHS	New-York Historical Society, New York
NYPL	New York Public Library, New York
NYSL	New York State Library, Albany
Pa. Arch.	Pennsylvania Archives, Harrisburg
PM	Peabody Museum, Salem, Massachusetts
PML	Pierpont Morgan Library, New York
PRO	Public Record Office, London
PS	Pilgrim Society, Plymouth, Massachusetts
PUL	Princeton University Library, Princeton, New Jersey
R.I. Arch.	Rhode Island Archives, Providence
RIHS	Rhode Island Historical Society, Providence
SCHS	South Carolina Historical Society, Charleston
UNCL	University of North Carolina Library, Chapel Hill, North Carolina
USNAM	US Naval Academy Museum, Annapolis, Maryland
UVL	University of Virginia Library, Charlottesville
VHS	Virginia Historical Society, Richmond
VSL	Virginia State Library, Richmond
WPL	Public Library, Whitehaven, England
WSL	William Salt Library, Stafford, England
YUL	Yale University Library, New Haven, Connecticut

CONTENTS

Foreword ix
Introduction xi
Editor's Preface xv
Depository Location Abbreviations xix
Descriptive List of Illustrations xxiii
American Theatre, Dec. 8, 1775–Dec. 31, 1775 1
European Theatre, Nov. 1, 1775–Jan. 31, 1776 333
American Theatre, Jan. 1, 1776–Feb. 18, 1776 551

Appendices

A. Cost of Outfitting Washington's Schooner *Lynch* 1353
B. Entries into the Port of Baltimore, March 13, 1775 to March 16, 1776 1367
C. Maryland Ship *Defence* - Estimated Cost, Dimensions, Inventory 1371
D. Chandlery Supplied to the Continental Fleet 1377
E. "The present disposition of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels in Sea Paye." Admiralty Office, December 1, 1775 1393
Bibliography 1415
Index 1417

DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Page

A Chart of the World Upon Mercator's Projection .... Endsheets
From *The American Atlas*, Thomas Jefferys (William Faden, compiler), London, 1776. (Collections of The Library of Congress, Washington.)

Commodore Esek Hopkins .... Frontispiece
Detail from "Sea Captains Carousing in Surinam," painting in oil on bed ticking, by John Greenwood, *c.* 1758. (Courtesy of the City Art Museum of Saint Louis, Missouri.)

"Bowles's New Pocket-Map of the Atlantic or Western Ocean, Laid down from the Latest Discoveries . . . 1779" XIV
From Jean Palairet, *Bowles's Universal Atlas*, Carington Bowles, London, 1775–1780. (Collections of The Library of Congress, Washington.)

A Map of the British Colonies in North America 8
From William Faden, *The North American Atlas*, London, 1777. Engraved by William Faden. (Collections of The Library of Congress, Washington.)

General George Washington 18
Portrait in oil, by Charles Willson Peale, 1776, painted for John Hancock. (Courtesy of The Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, New York.)

"Manly. A Favorite New Song in the American Fleet. By a Sailor.—It may be sung to the Tune of Washington." 47
A woodcut of Captain John Manley appears with the song. Published by E. Russell, Salem, 1776. (Courtesy of the Peabody Museum, Salem, Massachusetts.)

A form used to determine the number of ships available and seamen "who are desirous of inlisting on board of armed Vessels, in the Service of the United Colonies, or of this Colony or private Adventures;" in the various Massachusetts towns 51
(Collections of The Library of Congress, Washington.)

A broadside proclamation of the Provincial Congress of New York . . . 68
Summons a group of men from Queen's County to appear before the Congress to explain why they "have been supplied with Arms and Ammunition from on board the *Asia* Ship of War," December 12, 1775. (Courtesy of The New-York Historical Society, New York.)

Extract from *The Pennsylvania Evening Post*, December 12, 1775 70
Gives an inventory of stores on board *Nancy* captured by Captain John Manley.

General Sir William Howe 83
Line engraving, by an unknown engraver, published in *The Hibernian Magazine*, Dublin, November, 1776. (Courtesy of The British Museum, London.)

Detail of coastline from "A Map of the Most Inhabited part of New England . . . 1774" 98
From Thomas Jefferys and others, *The American Atlas*, R. Sayer and J. Bennett, London, 1776. (Collections of The Library of Congress, Washington.)

Silver Oar, Mace of the Vice Admiralty Court of New York 107
By Charles Le Roux, *c.* 1725. (Courtesy of the Museum of the City of New York. On loan from the United States District Court for the Southern District of the Province of New York.)

"An Exact Prospect of Charlestown, the Metropolis of the Province of South Carolina." 134
Colored line engraving, by an unknown engraver, published in the *London Magazine*, *c.* 1762. (Courtesy of The Mariners Museum, Newport News, Virginia.)

A broadside containing a letter from Captain Hyde Parker, R.N., to Royal Governor Tryon 160
Here also is Tryon's letter to Mayor Whitehead Hicks requesting that Captain Parker's message be inserted in the "Public Papers" for the information of New York citizens, December 18, 1775. (Collections of The Library of Congress, Washington.)

"Nieuwe Kaart van het Eyland St. Eustatius" 169
Engraved and published by Reinier Ottens, Amsterdam. 1775. (Collections of The Library of Congress, Washington.)

A View of St. Pierre, Martinique 178
Line engraving, by J. F. Ozanne after Nicholas Ozanne, published by Gouaz, Paris, 1780. (Courtesy of The Mariners Museum, Newport News, Virginia.)

English ship models 198
A model of the 64 gun ship-of-the-line, *Intrepid*, *c.* 1771. (Courtesy of the Trustees of the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, England.)
A model of the British fire ship *Firebrand*, 1777. (Courtesy of the Trustees of the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, England.)

A warrant from the Continental Naval Committee appointing John Berriman boatswain on board *Andrew Doria* 217

The warrant is signed by Stephen Hopkins, Christopher Gadsden, Silas Deane, Joseph Hewes, and Richard Henry Lee, December 23, 1775. (Facsimile in the Collections of The Library of Congress, Washington.)

General Patrick Tonyn 230

Mezzotint, by G. Clint after M. A. Shee, 1804. (Courtesy of the National Portrait Gallery, London.)

A Chart of the Capes of the Chesapeake Bay Area 243

Anonymous manuscript chart, *c.* 1781. (Collections of The Library of Congress, Washington.)

"The Yankie Doodles Intrenchments Near Boston, 1776" 255

This is a rarity among British satires of the period since it is critical of the Americans. The artist does not seem to know that General Washington was Commander-in-Chief. (Courtesy of The British Museum, London. British Crown Copyright.)

Guns and bayonet of the Revolutionary period 265

British naval musket, *c.* 1756–1780. (Courtesy of George C. Neumann Collection, Westbury, New York.)

Bayonet in scabbard. (Courtesy of Warren M. Moore Collection, Ramsey, New Jersey.)

American naval blunderbuss, the iron barrel and lock are British made, *c.* 1765–1783. (Courtesy of George C. Neumann Collection, Westbury, New York.)

Maple-stocked pistol, entirely American made, with steel belt hook indicating naval use, *c.* 1770. (Courtesy of Warren M. Moore Collection, Ramsey, New Jersey.)

A View of Basse Terre, Guadeloupe 271

Line engraving, by J. F. Ozanne after Nicholas Ozanne, published by Gouaz, Paris, 1780. (Courtesy of The Mariners Museum, Newport News, Virginia.)

A Map of Halifax Harbor, 1781 289

From *The Atlantic Neptune*, J. F. W. Des Barres, London, 1781. (Collections of The Library of Congress, Washington.)

Continental ship *Alfred* 303

Sketch from an old account book of the Richard family, 1777. (Collections of the Department of the Navy, Washington.)

Lieutenant John Paul Jones 303

Silhouette on a board, by Jean Millette, probably the earliest known likeness of Jones. (Courtesy of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, Hyde Park, New York.)

An American made rum cask of the Revolutionary period 317
(Courtesy of Warren M. Moore Collection, Ramsey, New Jersey.)

Coopers' tools 317
Howel, adze, hoop iron, reamer, and scorpers. (Courtesy of Old Salem, Inc., Winston-Salem, North Carolina.)

"The British Isles, comprehending Great Britain and Ireland; with the Adjacent Islands . . . 1774" 332
From Samuel Dunn, *A New Atlas of the Mundane System; or of Geography and Cosmography*, R. Sayer and J. Bennett, London, 1778–1783. (Collections of The Library of Congress, Washington.)

A View of Portsmouth, England 354
Line engraving, by an unknown engraver, published in *Town and Country Magazine*, London, 1790. (Courtesy of the Peabody Museum, Salem, Massachusetts.)

Philip Stephens 376
Line engraving, by J. Collyer after W. Beechey, published by Captain James Colnett, London, 1798. (Courtesy of the Trustees of the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, England.)

"A View of Gravesend in the County of Kent" 402
Line engraving, by an unknown engraver, published by Robert Sayer, London, Revolutionary period. (Courtesy of The Mariners Museum, Newport News, Virginia.)

George III 411
Relief in glass-paste, by James Tassie, *c.* 1780. (Courtesy of The Victoria and Albert Museum, London.)

Charles James Fox 411
Pencil and pen and ink sketch on blue lined paper, artist and date unknown. (Courtesy of The Victoria and Albert Museum, London.)

Benjamin Franklin 411
French wax miniature, by an unknown artist, *c.* 1776–1785. (Courtesy of the Trustees of The Wallace Collection, London.)

A View of London 418
Colored line engraving, published by Carington Bowles, London, *c.* 1773. (Courtesy of The Mariners Museum, Newport News, Virginia.)

"Carte de la Manche" 428
Published in *Neptune français*, 1773. (Bibliothèque Nationale, Département des Cartes et Plans, Paris. Photo Bibliothèque Nationale.)

"The State Blacksmiths Forging fetters for the Americans" 436
Depicts opposition to Lord North's proposal for prohibiting all intercourse with the American colonies and the seizure of American shipping. Engraving, published March 1, 1776. (Courtesy of The British Museum, London. British Crown Copyright.)

A Map of the Thames River "from London to the Buoy of the Noure". 447
From Greenvile Collins, *Great-Britain's Coasting Pilot*, Mount and Page, London, 1785. (Collections of The Library of Congress, Washington.)

A View of a dockyard with ships under construction 464
Colored line engraving, by A. Fontanne, published by Daumont, Paris, date unknown. (Courtesy of The Mariners Museum, Newport News, Virginia.)

A View of Paris 474
Colored line engraving, by Georg Balthasar Probst, date unknown. (Courtesy of The Mariners Museum, Newport News, Virginia.)

"A Large Chart of the Downs" 493
From Greenvile Collins, *Great-Britain's Coasting Pilot*, Mount and Page, London, 1785. (Collections of The Library of Congress, Washington.)

"Carte particuliere des Costes de Flandres de Picardie et de Normandie . . ." 508
Published in *Neptune français*, 1773. (Bibliothèque Nationale, Département des Cartes et Plans, Paris. Photo Bibliothèque Nationale.)

A model of the 16 gun British sloop *Atalanta*, 1775 517
(Courtesy of the Trustees of the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, England.)

Louis XVI 526
Line engraving, by an unknown engraver, published in *Lady's Magazine*, London, June 1774. (Courtesy of The British Museum, London.)

Caron de Beaumarchais 526
Engraver unknown, published by Ménard and Desenne, Paris, date unknown. (Bibliothèque Nationale, Département des Estampes, Paris.)

A Map of Bermuda 538
From Antonio Zatta, *Atlante Novissima*, Venice, 1779–1785. (Collections of The Library of Congress, Washington.)

Plans for ship gun carriage 556
Published in John Muller's *A Treatise of Artillery*. The Third Edition, London, 1780. Reprinted by the Museum Restoration Service, Ottawa, 1965.

A Map of Norfolk and Portsmouth and the immediate surroundings . . 564
Anonymous manuscript sketch map, date unknown. (Courtesy of the William L. Clements Library, the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.)

A broadside proclamation of William Tryon, Royal Governor of New York, dissolving the General Assembly, January 2, 1776 576
(Courtesy of The New-York Historical Society, New York.)

A View of Pierced Island, Gulf of St. Lawrence 597
Colored line engraving, by an unknown engraver, date unknown, taken from a group of plates entitled, "Twelve Remarkable Views in North America and West Indies," London. (Courtesy of The Mariners Museum, Newport News, Virginia.)

A Map of Long Island Sound 604
Detail from "A Chorographical Map of the Province of New-York in North America . . ." Compiled by Claude Joseph Sauthier, engraved and published by William Faden, London, 1779. (Collections of The Library of Congress, Washington.)

Captain Hyde Parker, R.N 614
Portrait in oil, by George Romney, 1779. (Courtesy of Sir Richard Hyde Parker, Bt., Melford Hall, Suffolk, England.)

Cannonball embedded in St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Norfolk, Virginia 620
Shot fired by one of Lord Dunmore's ships in 1776 remains in the church wall. (Courtesy of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Norfolk, Virginia; Norfolk Tour Photograph.)

Continental sloop *Hornet* 639
Detail from portrait in oil of Captain William Stone, by Charles Willson Peale, 1774. (Courtesy of Mr. J. William Middendorf, Jr., Baltimore, Maryland.)

Abraham Whipple 656
Portrait in oil, by Edward Savage, date unknown. (Courtesy of the U.S. Naval Academy Museum, Annapolis, Maryland.)

A Topographical Chart of Narragansett Bay 668
Surveyed by Charles Blaskowitz. From William Faden, *The North American Atlas*, William Faden, London, 1777. (Collections of The Library of Congress, Washington.)

Josiah Bartlett 682
Portrait in oil, by E. T. Billings after John Trumbull, date unknown. (Courtesy of the Trustees of Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire.)

Captain John Hazard's appointment to command the Continental sloop *Providence* 695
(Courtesy of Haverford College Library, Haverford, Pennsylvania.)

Detail from "The Caribbee Islands and Guayana" 707
Drawn by Delarochette. From William Faden, *The North American Atlas*, William Faden, London, 1777. Engraved by Thomas Jefferys. (Collections of The Library of Congress, Washington.)

Captain William Stone 718
Portrait in oil, by Charles Willson Peale, 1774. The ship in the background later becomes the Continental sloop *Hornet*. (Courtesy of Mr. J. William Middendorf, Jr., Baltimore, Maryland.)

A Map of Portsmouth, New Hampshire and the Piscataqua Harbor . . 744
Anonymous colored manuscript map, date unknown. (Bibliothèque Nationale, Département des Cartes et Plans, Paris. Copy, courtesy of the John Carter Brown Library, Providence, Rhode Island.)

A View of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, 1777 745
From the 1778 edition of the *Atlantic Monthly*, published by J. F. W. Des Barres. (Courtesy of The Mariners Museum, Newport News, Virginia.)

A Map of the North Carolina coastline 758
Detail from "A Compleat Map of North-Carolina." Surveyed by John Collet, engraved by I. Bayly, published by S. Hooper, London, 1770. (Collections of The Library of Congress, Washington.)

A View of Philadelphia, 1777 771
Sepia drawing, by Archibald Robertson, done while serving with the British troops in America. (Courtesy of the Spencer Collection of the New York Public Library, New York.)

A letter from Christopher Gadsden to Commodore Esek Hopkins, January 15, 1776 806
(Courtesy of The Rhode Island Historical Society, Providence.)

Edged weaponry of the Revolutionary period 819
British naval sword and hilt detail, *c.* 1770–1785. (Courtesy of George C. Neumann Collection, Westbury, New York.)
American silver hilt sword, *c.* 1765–1780. (Courtesy of James A. Knowles Collection, Baltimore, Maryland; Smithsonian Institution Photograph.)
American made cutlass with maple grip, *c.* 1770. (Courtesy of Warren M. Moore Collection, Ramsey, New Jersey.)

"*Sukey*, Captured by the Privateer *Washington* Jany 15 1776. Entering Newburyport Under a Prize Crew." 843
Watercolor, by an unknown artist, probably contemporary. (Courtesy of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, Hyde Park, New York.)

"A South West View of the City of New York" 860
Drawn on the spot by Captain Thomas Howdell of the Royal Artillery, engraved by P. Canot, published by Thomas Jefferys, London, 1768. (Collections of The Library of Congress, Washington.)

Amputation instruments used by a naval surgeon 872
By the London surgical instrument maker, Evans, late 18th century. (Courtesy of the Wellcome Trustees, London.)

Extract from *The Providence Gazette*, January 20, 1776. Advertisement for ships' carpenters and timber for building Continental frigates at Providence 881

A plan for a floating battery, submitted by James Campbell to the Maryland Council of Safety, January 20, 1776 893
(Courtesy of the Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.)

"A Plan of the East Part of Long Island Sound from Remarks made on board His Majesty's Ship the *Lark*, A.D. 1777" 923
Manuscript map with detailed sailing directions by Lieutenant Knatchbull, 1778. (Collections of The Library of Congress, Washington.)

John Adams 935
Portrait in oil, by James Peale, date unknown. (Courtesy of the Ehrich Galleries, New York.)

"A Plan of the Town and Harbour of Port Royal" 947
Inset from a manuscript map "A General Plan of the Harbours of Port Royal and Kingston, Jamaica." By George Gauld, 1772. (Courtesy of the William L. Clements Library, the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.)

"View of the Light House at Sandy Hook" 958
Line engraving, by Tiebout, published in *New York Magazine*, August, 1790. (Courtesy of The Mariners Museum, Newport News, Virginia.)

Powder horn engraved with the town map of Providence, Rhode Island, 1777 971
The town hall, churches, and other buildings are identifiable. Ships are shown in the harbor. (Courtesy of Warren M. Moore Collection, Ramsey, New Jersey.)

"A Draught of his Majesty's Fireship the *Vulcan*, as fitted at Plymouth May 1778." 982–83
Plans of upper and lower decks are also shown. (Courtesy of the Trustees of the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, England.)

"Carta esatta rappresentante l'Isola di Barbados" 989
From *Atlante dell' America*, G. T. Masi and Company, Leghorn, Italy, 1777. (Collections of The Library of Congress, Washington.)

A broadside proclamation of "The Sentinel" urging patriotic New Yorkers to take a firm stand against those citizens who aid and carry intelligence to Royal Governor Tryon on board *Dutchess of Gordon*, January 27, 1776 1011
(Courtesy of The New-York Historical Society, New York.)

A Map of Plymouth Bay, Massachusetts 1032
From *The Atlantic Neptune*, J. F. W. Des Barres, London, 1781. (Collections of The Library of Congress, Washington.)

John Hancock and his wife, Dorothy Quincy Hancock 1044
Portrait in oil, by Edward Savage, date unknown. (Courtesy of The Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington; bequest of Woodbury Blair.)

"Plan of the Town of Baltimore and It's Environs, Dedicated to the Citizens of Baltimore; Taken upon the spot by their most humble Servant, A. P. Folie, French Geographer" 1053
Engraved by James Poupard, Philadelphia, 1792. (Collections of The Library of Congress, Washington.)

A View of the City of Quebec 1073
Colored line engraving, by an unknown engraver, date unknown, taken from a group of plates entitled, "Twelve Remarkable Views in North America and West Indies," London. (Courtesy of The Mariners Museum, Newport News, Virginia.)

Vice Admiral Molyneux Shuldham 1098
Stipple engraving, by Orme, Jr., 1796. (Courtesy of the Anne S. K. Brown Military Collection, Providence, Rhode Island.)

John Langdon 1114
Pastel on paper, by James Sharples, Sr., *c.* 1795. (Courtesy of Inpendence National Historical Park, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.)

A View of St. Eustatius 1128
Engraving, by I. Ottavicini after N. Matraini, date unknown. (Courtesy of The Mariners Museum, Newport News, Virginia.)

Selected ordnance of the Revolutionary period 1148
Wooden shot gauge for nine and twelve pound shot. (Courtesy of The Smithsonian Institution, Washington.)
British naval twelve pound shot. (Courtesy of The Smithsonian Institution, Washington.)
Powder tester. (Courtesy of the Peabody Museum, Salem, Massachusetts.)
Gunners' quadrant. (Courtesy of the Peabody Museum, Salem, Massachusetts.)

A model of a 44 gun ship, 1774–1786 1171
(British Crown Copyright. Lent to The Science Museum, London, by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.)

"Carta Della Virginia Della Baja Chesapeack" 1208
From Jacques Nicolas Bellin, *Teatro della Guerra Marittima, e Terrestre*, Venice, 1781. (Collections of The Library of Congress, Washington.)

A View of Curaçao, Dutch West Indies 1229
Anonymous tempera painting, 1785. (Courtesy of The Mariners Museum, Newport News, Virginia.)

Sheer draft of HM Sloop *Raven*, 14 1240–41
(Courtesy of the Trustees of the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, England.)

Log entries of HM Sloop *Raven*, February 10–12, 1776 1240–41
(Courtesy of the Public Record Office, London, Adm. 51/771.)

Elias Hasket Derby 1246
Portrait in oil, by James Frothingham, date unknown. (Courtesy of the Peabody Museum, Salem, Massachusetts.)

A "ruff Diagram" of a keel for a 28 gun ship drawn by Alexander McDougall and included in a letter to John Jay, February 13, 1776 1256
(Courtesy of the U.S. Naval Academy Museum, Annapolis, Maryland.)

Cargo manifest of ship *John* on a voyage from Maryland to the West Indies, February 13, 1776 1265
(Courtesy of the Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore.)

A letter from Commodore Esek Hopkins to Captain Nicholas Biddle, February 14, 1776 1290
(Courtesy of The Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.)

Extracts from a letter from Captain Nicholas Biddle to his brother, James, February 15, 1776 1308
(Courtesy of The Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.)

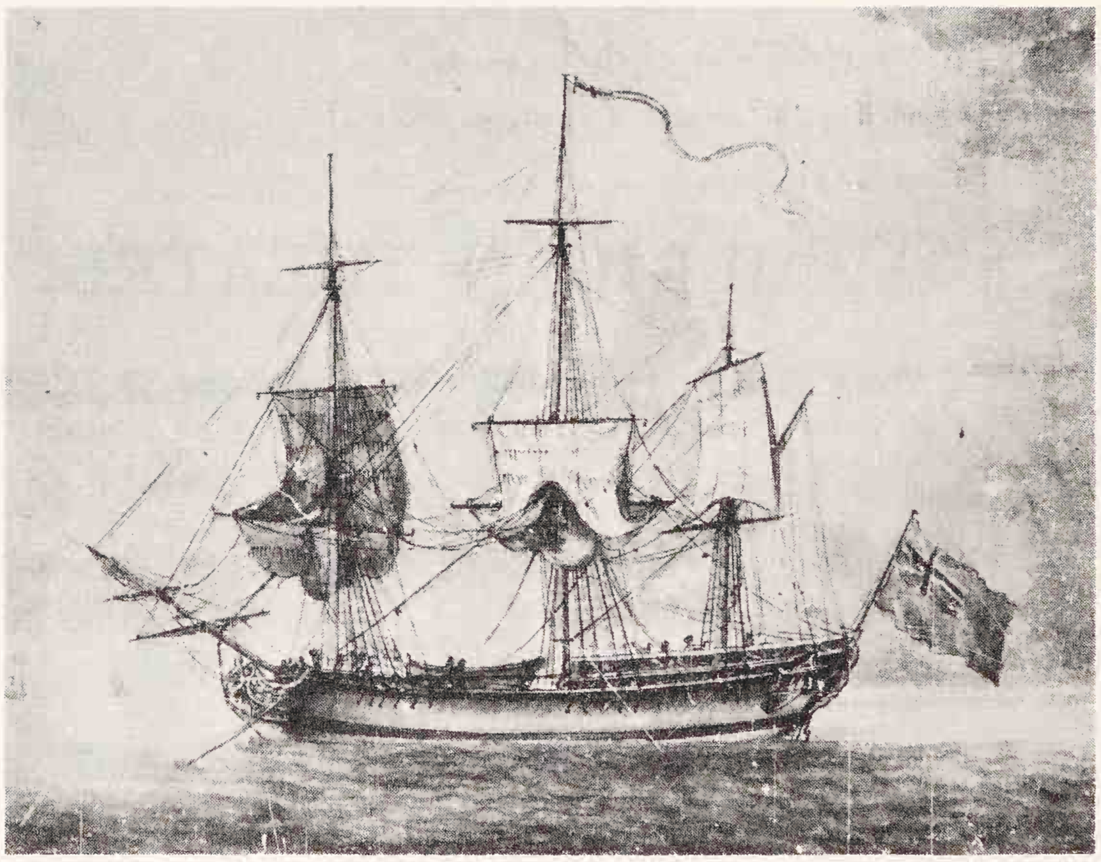
Vice Admiral Clark Gayton 1330
Portrait in oil, by John Singleton Copley, 1779. (Courtesy of the Trustees of the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, England.)

A sketch of HM Frigate *Liverpool* by Jeremiah Riley 1339
(Courtesy of the Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.)

Detail from a map of the coast of Florida 1344
Anonymous manuscript map, *c.* 1742. (Collections of The Library of Congress, Washington.)

AMERICAN THEATRE

From December 8, 1775, to December 31, 1775



AMERICAN THEATRE

From December 8, 1775, to December 31, 1775

SUMMARY

In the closing weeks of the year 1775, the Continental Congress committed the revolting colonies irrevocably to a definite and extensive establishment of an American navy. The fleet, which had been created earlier, and which, during the first week of December, had seen John Paul Jones raise the Grand Union flag on board *Alfred,* had been one of expediency—adroitly engineered by those members who appreciated the importance of sea power, but who knew the impossibility of committing a reluctant Congress to so drastic a step. But sentiment had changed as British aggression mounted, and the long tabled Rhode Island resolution of the previous August (recommending a strong fleet be built) was reintroduced. Within a week, Congress agreed to build thirteen frigates, of from 24 to 32 guns, and appointed a Marine Committee with a member from each Colony. But policy, a sop to those who still strove for reconciliation, restricted the offensive to attacks against English war vessels or merchant ships and transports carrying supplies or troops to the British fleet and army in America. Congress, or some of its members, fatuously still thought of good King George III, and blamed the war on a corrupt ministry.

In New England waters, one of Washington's small cruisers intercepted a British tender carrying dispatches from Virginia to Boston. These documents, revealing the measures being taken by the Colonial governors to suppress the rebellion in the South, were laid before Congress late in December. As a result of this intelligence, the Hopkins Fleet was left to the direction of the original Naval Committee, with fond desires that it would destroy Lord Dunmore's force in Virginia. December thus witnessed the assignment of the Continental naval officers to their respective vessels and the establishment of their rank which the Congress, almost a year later, would completely upset.

All these measures and many others were observed and recorded by an astute semiofficial French agent whose report, written almost at year's end, would influence the French Court's decisions in support of the American cause.

The British were penned tightly in Boston, and Dunmore was forced out of Norfolk by defeat at the Great Bridge. Cherished hopes of driving the enemy from Canada, however, had ended, along with the year 1775, in the death of Richard Montgomery and the defeat of the American army before Quebec.

8 Dec.

Robert Stewart to Lord Dartmouth [1]

Island of St John Charlotte Town
8th Decr 1775

My Lord,

I am sorry to inform your Lordship that on the 17th Ulto two armed Schooners from New England came to this Harbour, the Crews of which plundered Govr Patterson's House of everything Valuable in it as well as his publick and private Papers,[2] seiz'd the Persons of Phillips Callbeck Esqr the Commander in Chief & Mr [Thomas] Wright the Surveyor General and carried them off Prisoners with all the effects of the former Amounting to a considerable Value, They have since seiz'd a Vessel from London with Messs [John Russell] Spence & Higgins whom they have likewise robbed to a great amount and carried the latter with them Prisoner.[3]

As we have no force of any kind here I have wrote to the Commander in Chief at Boston begging for Assistance, at same time least little regard should be paid to that, I hope Your Lordship will be pleased to interpose in our Behalf and cause such Force to be sent as will Screen us from the Invasion of the Rebels who seem to be particularly bent on our Destruction on Account of our Loyalty to our King & Country.

If no assistance is sent us early in Spring this Colony from being in a very promising way will certainly be totally ruined.

I beg Leave to Submitt the whole of our Distresses to Your Lordship and I am with due Respect My Lord [&c.]

Robert Stewart D. Govr

Whitehall
[Endorsed] Rd 8th July 1776

[1] DAC, copy from PRO, Colonial Office, 226/6. Stewart was Deputy Governor of the island of St. John. Dartmouth was Secretary of State for the Colonies until November 1775 when he was appointed Lord Privy Seal.

[2] Governor Patterson sailed for London with "his Lady and Family," on August 2, 1775, in the ship *Two Friends*, Captain Lemmon. *Nova-Scotia Gazette: and the Weekly Chronicle*, August 22, 1775.

[3] The schooner *Lively*, seized at Canso.

Minutes of the Executive Council of Nova Scotia [1]

At a Council aHolden at Halifax on the 8th December 1775

The Governor proposed to the Council, that a Proclamation be published requiring all Persons not Settled Inhabitants, who since the last of September have or shall come into this Town to give Notice, to two Magistrates who shall be Appointed for that purpose on pain of being treated as Spies; Also requiring Inn keepers, and publick House keepers to give notice of the Arrival of any Strangers under the like penalty in case of Neglect; And Also forbiding all Vessells to enter the North West Arm, without special Licence for so doing –

On Application from Captain Hamond of His Majesty's Ship *Roebuck* – Resolved that 3000 Acres of land be granted him in the Bay of Chaleur, in consideration of his Services in the late War as a Lieutenant in the Navy –

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1. Minutes of the Executive Council of Nova Scotia, January 2, 1775 to October 6, 1783. Public Archives of Nova Scotia, Halifax, N. S. Hereafter cited as Council Minutes, N. S. Arch.

DIARY OF SIMEON PERKINS, LIVERPOOL, NOVA SCOTIA [1]

Friday, Dec. 8th, — Capt. John Cobb, in the schooner *Property*, arrives from Cape Nichola Mole, with some molasses, etc. He had about six weeks' passage, fell to the eastward, has been in at Prospect. Brings news from there that two armed vessels, a ship of 24 guns, and a schooner of 12 guns, were at Canso, and had taken about 22 prizes, which were all lying in Canso Harbour. Which news comes from Halifax, and was brought there by a schooner belonging to Messrs [Thomas, James & William] Cochrans, that was taken and released again,[2] and also that Messrs. Cochrans had lost their small brig, going to Margarets Bay.[3]

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1. Harold A. Innis, ed., *The Diary of Simeon Perkins 1766–1780* (Toronto, 1948), 109. Hereafter cited as Innis, ed., *Perkins' Diary.*
2. This is a rather garbled account of the activities of Broughton and Selman in Washington's armed schooners *Hancock* and *Franklin.*
3. Margaret's Bay is the first large inlet west of Halifax, and Prospect is a town on its northeast coast near the bay entrance.

INHABITANTS OF YARMOUTH TO GOVERNOR FRANCIS LEGGE [1]

Yarmouth December 8th 1775.

May it Please your Excellency

We the Subscribers, Inhabitants of the Town of Yarmouth, beg leave at this critical and alarming time to address ourselves to your Excellency, We want to Express to you the opinion we have of our Situation at present: and hope to be inform'd in what manner we may live and enjoy our Possessions. We do all of us profess to be true Friends & Loyal Subjects to George our King, We were almost all of us born in New England, we have Fathers, Brothers & Sisters in that Country, divided betwixt natural affection to our nearest relations, and good Faith and Friendship to our King and Country, we want to know, if we may be permitted at this time to live in a peaceable State, as we look on that to be the only situation in which we with our Wives and Children, can be in any tolerable degree safe, your Excellency cannot be unacquainted how easy a thing it is for those people, if they once suppose us their Enemies, to burn and destroy all before them in this Quarter: We are in no Capac[it]y to defend ourselves. Few in number, and those few Scatterd up and down the Woods. Arms we are but poorly Accoutred with, Ammunition we have none, an alarming instance of our Weakness happend last Week. two Arm'd Vessels Mounting eight Guns each, and one hundred & twenty Men, came into our Harbour about Ten OClock in the Morning, having been inform'd before they came here, that it was the day our light Infantry Company was to be Muster'd, they repair'd on Shore, went to the house where the Officers were, took them all off, they offer'd no abuse to any one else, and say they will offer none provided we do nothing against them, but in Case we take up Arms against them, threaten us highly;[2] As our situation is thus unhappy, we must beg of your Excellency not to be call'd to Action in this matter. if that cannot be granted we have nothing to do, but retire from our habitations either to Halifax or to New England. We beg of your Excellency not to conclude, as we desire to be Neuter, that we are in any measure disaffected to our King or his Government, For we do assure your Excellency we never have done, neither have we any disposition to do any thing whatever, by way of Aiding or Assisting the Americans in their Opposition to Great Britain. It is self preservation and that only, which drives us at this time to make our Request.

(Copy) [Endorsed] (Signd) by eighty two Inhabitants

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1. PRO, Colonial Office, 217/52. Enclosed in Legge to Dartmouth, December 20, 1775. Legge was Governor of Nova Scotia.
2. See Citizens of Yarmouth to Legge, December 5, 1775, Volume 2, 1281–82.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Senegal*, CAPTAIN WILLIAM DUDDINGSTON [1]

Decemr 1775 Cape Sable W17S 13 Leags

Friday 8 AM fresh gales & rain, Empld occasionally – Light airs & Cloudy ½ past one PM fired a Gun & md Sigl to weigh Do weighed & made sail [from Halifax] with 3 Ships, a Brigg & Sloop under Convoy,

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1. PRO, Admiralty 51/885.

THOMAS JONES AND OTHERS TO BENJAMIN GREENLEAF [1]

Sir: Newburyport, December 8, 1775.

The needful of this is to beg the favour you will assist the bearer, Captain Offin Boardman, in getting a commission for the schooner *Washington*,[2] as we have fitted her for a privateer. In case you would be bondsman for Captain Boardman, we will, at all events, indemnify you. Your compliance with this request will lay us under the strongest obligations to you. We are, with respect, [&c.]

Thomas Jones, Nathan Blodget,
John Stickney, Abner Greenleaf,
Joseph Marguand.

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1. Peter Force, comp., *American Archives*, Fourth Series (Washington, 1837–43), IV, 1229. Hereafter cited as Force, comp., *American Archives*.
2. *Ibid.*, endorsed in council, December 11.

JONATHAN TITCOMB AND OTHERS TO BENJAMIN GREENLEAF [1]

Honoured Sir: Newburyport, December 8, 1775.

We are engaged in fixing out Captain Peter Roberts, the bearer, in a small sloop, for a privateer, and have to ask the favour of you to assist him in procuring a commission for that purpose, as we are all pretty much engaged in privateers, powder vessels, recruits, &c., and cannot, with any convenience, come down. If you will stand in with Captain Roberts, as a bondsman, we hereby engage to stand between you and harm, as though our names were down instead of yours, in the bond.[2] We are, Sir, [&c.]

Jonathan Titcomb, Moses Little,
Tristram Dalton, Stephen & Ralph Cross.
Jackson, Tracy, & Tracy.

P.S. The sloop *Game Cock*, burden about twenty tons.

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1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, IV, 1229–30.
2. *Ibid.*, endorsed in council, December 11.

George Washington to William Ramsay [1]

[Extract] Cambridge, December [8] 1775.[2]

I am sorry to find by your favour of the 14th. Ulto. that there is so little prospect of stopping the Navigation of the Potomack, by sinking of Vessels, or Cheveaux de Frieze; the Channel being not only deep but wide in those places which you judged most likely to admit of these obstructions. What ever plan you adopt, if executed at the expence of Individuals, should be as extensive as possible in its operation; for you will not be able to get Men to contribute to a Work of defence, from which they derive no advantage, immediate or remote; this is my objection to Colo. [George William] Fairfax's, otherwise I do not know a more advantageous Situation, as a Battery up on the Hill, in Front of the House,[3] could never be hurt by any Ship in the World and would sink any Ship before she could pass it, having the full rake of a Vessel from the time it comes within reach of its Guns, till it had got out of shot above.

I am not acquainted with the Situation of the Ground, or bearings of the River at the Indian highlands,[4] so that I can give no opinion of that particular spot; but think the Method you propose of fitting out two Privateers under the Conduct of those Gentlemen you have named aided by a couple of Row-Gallies (upon the Philadelphia plan) not a bad one; but then, I would have these again supported by Land Batteries in some advantageous spot, where the whole might co-operate against any considerable Force, if need be; this stand of defence I would have as low down the River as a convenient Situation could be found on account of the number of Inhabitants it will cover, and the benefits that will result from it; for I have no expectation that the Committee of Safety will take this matter up, upon a contracted Plan; if they give in to it at all, it must be upon a larger Scale.

If you could get Guns, the cost of such a defence as is above describd could not be much; Men's wages and Provisions would be the chief, the Vessels might, I should presume (Insuring them) be hired cheap, and the building of the Batteries, in a manner nothing, as a few Men would throw them up in a day or two, the Row Gallies would be the principal cost, and perhaps another Privateer might answer the Purpose of them. . . .

Finding we had no great prospect of coming to close Quarters with the Ministerial Troops in Boston, I fitted out at the Continental Expence, several Privateers; chiefly with design to Intercept their Fresh Provision Vessels from Nova Scotia and Canada, in which we have succeeded [and within] this few days, have taken a Store

Ship from London with a fine brass Mortar, 2000 stand of Arms, Shot, Shells etc. to the Amount, it is supposed, of £16,000 Stg. but no Powder;[5] also a Ship of Dry Goods [shipped by] a Compy. in Greenoch, Scotland [to a] Tory in Boston, worth £3,600 Stg., what [the] Congress will do with the latter I know not [the] matter is now before them. . . .[6]

[1] John C. Fitzpatrick, ed., *The Writings of George Washington* (Washington, 1931–44), IV, 200–02. Hereafter cited as Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington.* Ramsay, a resident of Alexandria, was a close friend of Washington.

[2] Date of the letter is based upon the fact that but two prizes are mentioned. Had it been written a day later, there would have been two more important captures for Washingon to record.

[3] Belvoir, the Fairfax home, just below Mount Vernon.

[4] Now known as Indian Head, on the Maryland shore of the Potomac, about four miles below Mount Vernon.

[5] The brig *Nancy,* sent into Gloucester on November 29, 1775. The bracketed words in this paragraph are logical ones but are not printed in Fitzpatrick, the manuscript being mutilated.

[6] The ship *Concord,* James Lowrie, master, owned by Crawford, Anderson & Co., and consigned to part owner, James Anderson, a Boston Tory.

STEPHEN MOYLAN TO COLONEL JOHN GLOVER[1]

Sir Cambridge 8th Decr 1775 –

I am Commanded by his Excelly to desire you will put Mr Richard Darby Junr in the proper road, to get his Brig *Kingston packett* & her Cargo into his possession,[2] Whether she is to proceed on her intended voyage to the West Indies or not, the General Cannot himself determine, that is the business of Committees of Safety — the General is determined to have no further trouble with this vessel, you will therefore Sir, Manage the matter, so as Head Quarters may hear no more of her – I beg you will be attentive to Mr Callbeck's goods, Let him have every thing that he has been so cruelly pillaged of[3] the potatoes on board the Scotch Vessel should be sold — I am [&c.]

S.M.

[1] Washington Papers, LC. Moylan was Washington's secretary pro tem.

[2] The brig *Kingston Packet* had been carried into Winter Harbor, south of Falmouth, by Captains Broughton and Selman.

[3] For Broughton's and Selman's lists of the goods they took from Callbeck and others, see under dates November 13 and December 3, 1775, Volume 2, 1008, 1245.

STEPHEN MOYLAN TO JOHN PICKERING, JR.[1]

Gentlemen, What is abreach of the Association, or what is not, the General has not time nor indeed does he think himself a Competent judge, to decide upon, that surely comes under the Cognizance of Committees of Safety –

The General thinks the Officers on board the Armed Vessels, have deviated from the line of their Instructions, tho' perhaps not from the Spirit of them by taking this Brigt from this principle which his Excelly is of Opinion, is a just one, he delivers up to the Owner his Vessel & Cargo.[2] I have the honor to be [&c.]

S. M. – P.T.S

Cambridge 8th Decr 1775 –

[1] Washington Papers, LC.

[2] The brig *Kingston Packet.*

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO COMMODORE MARRIOT ARBUTHNOT, HALIFAX [1]

Sir *Preston* Boston Decr 8, 1775 [2]

By the *Fowey,* who arrived with the *Francis* Transport the 26 Ulto, I received your Letter Novr 8 with a Copy inclosed of a Minute of the House of Assembly in Nova Scotia, appointing an Address to be presented to Governr Legge, and a Memorial to you from the Merchants at Halifax concerned in Navigation; and desiring to know how far I would have the Craft and Vessels belonging to the Province favoured from an Impress. It is far from my intention to distress the Inhabitants of Nova Scotia, but it is my Duty and the Duty of every Officer under my Command to endeavour to man the Squadron on this Station, now upon a Service of the utmost consequence to the whole Empire, and which Service cannot be performed unless the low Complements allowed the Ships be kept compleat. The necessity to take only Britons if possible is obvious, and such I must and will have taken wherever they can be had, without totally Stopping the Trade of his Majs loyal Subjects. – The Province of Nova Scotia, I hope, contains Natives sufficient for its own Commerce, these I am content to exempt from being impressed, but I insist upon every old Countryman being taken under the above restrictions.

It may be necessary to inform you that with a view to man this Fleet the Clause of the Act of the 6th of Queen Anne which forbid the impressing Seamen in America was repealed in the last Session of Parliament, and that as their Lordships have been pleased to send out Press Warrants, the Captains of the Ships are to let no Opportunity slip of getting Seamen. I desire also to acquaint you that the whole Squadron are very short of their Comple[ment] Seamen must be procured at all Events, and that I expect you will encourage pressing such men for the Fleet as are not Inhabitants of Nova Scotia, and even these if there shall be a necessity for them; The fears of our Supplies being cut off is only a pretence; the Crews of Vessels so employed have been constantly protected.

The Transport with Volunteers is arrived; we have been obliged to make Match in Boston, otherwise some of the Ships must have been without it. I am sorry to find such a want of small Ordnance Stores at Halifax. I approve of the Directions given for the Security of the Yard, and of the Signals to prevent Surprize from the Enemy; And I am satisfied you will do every thing in your power for the general Good of his Majesty's Service. I am &c.

Sam^{l} Graves

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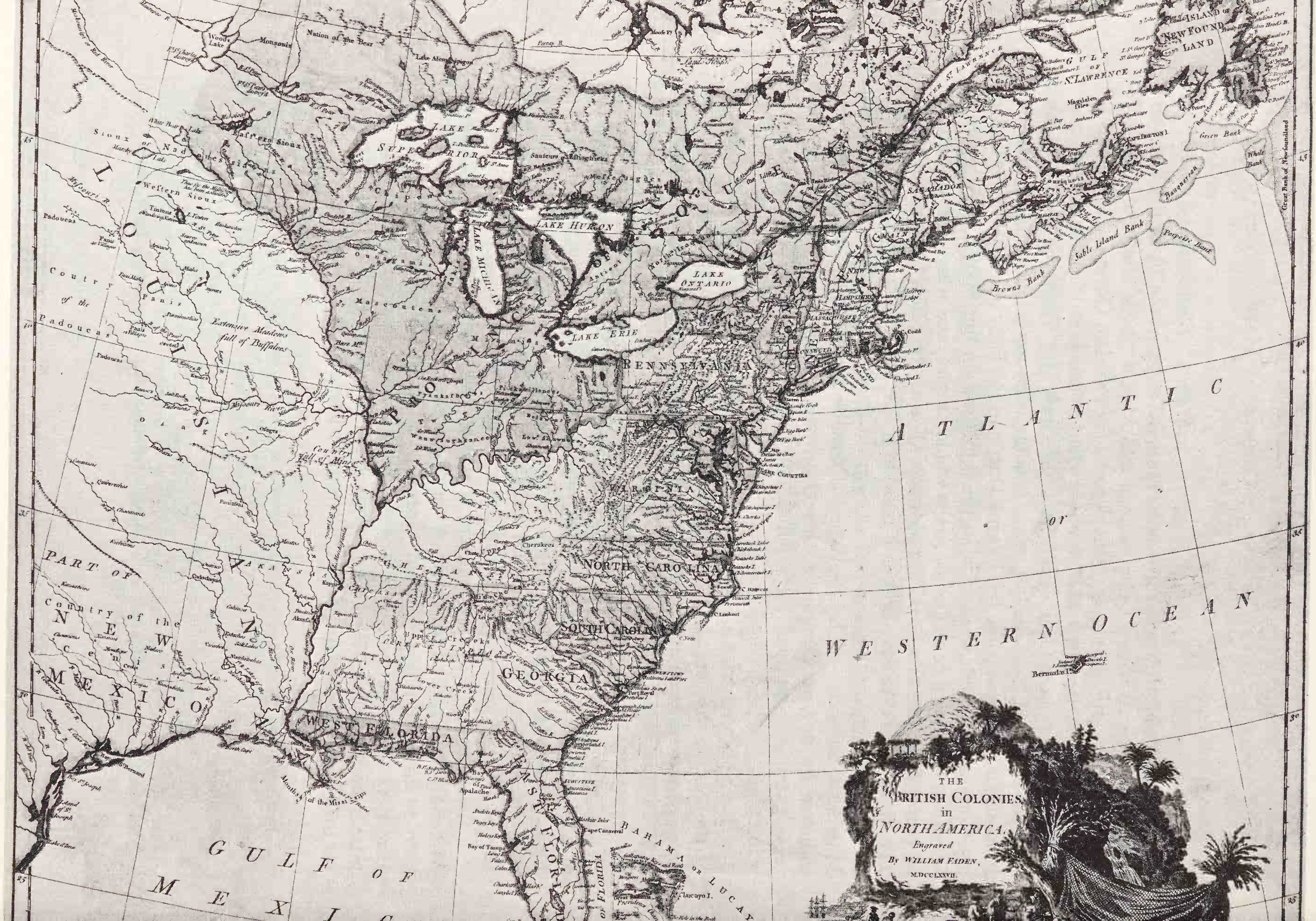
[1] The Conduct of Vice Admiral Samuel Graves in North America in 1774, 1775 and January 1776, British Museum, Mss. 14038 and 14039; Appendix, 108–09. Hereafter cited as Graves's Conduct, BM. An extract containing the first two paragraphs only is in PRO, Admiralty 1/485.

[2] The letter was sent to Arbuthnot the same day. The entry for December 8 in the Narrative of Admiral Graves reads: "The *Hinchinbrook* sailed on a Cruize. And the *Cerberus* was ordered to take the *Whitby* Transport under her Convoy to Halifax, by which Conveyance the Admiral wrote to Mr. Arbuthnot in Answer to his first Letters . . ." Graves's Conduct, II, 15, BM.


THE
BRITISH COLONIES
in
NORTH AMERICA.
Engraved
By WILLIAM FADEN,
M.DCCLXXVII.
ATLANTIC
or
WESTERN OCEAN
GULF OF MEXICO
LOUISIANA
PART OF NEW MEXICO
Country of the Padoucas
Extensive Meadows full of Buffaloes
LAKE SUPERIOR
LAKE MICHIGAN
LAKE HURON
LAKE ERIE
LAKE ONTARIO
PENNSYLVANIA
VIRGINIA
NORTH CAROLINA
SOUTH CAROLINA
GEORGIA
WEST FLORIDA
EAST FLORIDA
NEW HAMPSHIRE
MASSACHUSETS
NEW FOUND LAND
GULF OF ST. LAWRENCE
Sable Island Bank
Browns Bank
Porpoise Bank
Green Bank
Great Bank of Newfoundland
Bermudas I.
BAHAMA OR LUCAYO
Missouri R.
Western Sioux
Nation of the Bear
Cherakees
Mouths of the Missisippi

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Preston,* CAPTAIN JOHN ROBINSON [1]

December [1775] Remarks Boston Harbour.

Friday 8 Arrived here his Majs Ship *Fowey* with an armed Brig belonging to the Rebels which she took [2]

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1. PRO, Admiralty 51/720.
2. Washington's armed brig *Washington,* Captain Sion Martindale.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES'S ORDER FOR SURVEY OF THE ARMED BRIG *Washington* [1]

(Copy)

You are hereby required and directed to take your Carpenters with you and forthwith repair on board the *Washington* Brig and having carefully Examined into the Condition of her Hull, Masts, Yards and Stores, report to me under your hands the exact State the whole is now in, And as there is the greatest necessity for her proceeding to Sea immediately as an Armed Vessel,[2] You are to report if she is fit to go in her present Condition or what repairs and Stores she absolutely requires for that purpose.

Given under by hand on board His Majesty's Ship *Preston*
at Boston the 8th of Decembeer 1775.
Sam^{l} Graves

To Captains Symons, Robinson and Linzee
of His Majesty's Ships *Cerberus, Preston* and *Falcon*
By Command of the Admiral G. Gefferina

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1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485.
2. "The *Washington* Privateer being taken the Admiral thought that by putting a good Crew into her from the Kings Ships and sending her to Sea directly we should lay hold of her Comrade or some other of the Rebel Cruizers. Whereupon Lieut: [George] Dawson received Orders to command her, and 70 men were drafted, but upon Examination of the Vessel, she was found in want of so many Articles that Lieut. Dawson thought it highly dangerous to venture so many Lives in her. The Admiral vexed at this Disappointment, and almost Doubting the truth of the many verbal Reports made to him of her Disability, ordered three Captains to take their Carpenters with them and report her Condition under their Hands." Graves's Conduct, II,14, BM.

SURVEY OF THE ARMED BRIG *Washington* [1]

(Copy) *Cerberus,* Boston 8th Decr 1775

Sir, Inclosed is the Carpenters Report of the State of the Hull, Mast and Yards of the Brig *Washington.*

The Cannon and Carriages totally Unserviceable, The Small Arms many of them broke, and all out of repair

And we are of Opinion that she is unfit for War. Given under our hands on board the said Brig at Boston 8th Decr 1775

John Symons J. Robinson John Linzee [2]

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1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485.
2. Graves's Narrative under date December 6: "They [the captains] accordingly examined the Vessel and reported her absolutely unfit for Service. The Admiral was afterwards himself an Eye witness of her Defects." Graves's Conduct, II, 14, BM.

Carpenters' Survey of the Armed Brig *Washington* [1]

Pursuant to an Order from Samuel Graves Esqr Vice Admiral of the White &ca

We whose Names are hereunto Subscribed have been on board the *Washington* Brig and there taken a strict and careful Survey of her Hull, Masts and Yards and find as follows, Vizt
The whole of the Timbers under the Deck – Rotten and totally decayed.
The Main Beam and foremost Beam decayed.
The Ceiling forward very bad.
The Main Deck totally decayed.
The Bowsprit sprung in two places.
The Main Boom sprung in two places.
And we are of Opinion that the Hull in the present State is not fit for Sea.

Given under our hands on board the said Brig at Boston 8 Decr 1775

Robert Dick Robt Punton

The Carpenter of the *Preston* absent on Duty.

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 1/485.

Major General Philip Schuyler to John Hancock [1]

[Extract] Albany 8 Decr 1775

Sir In the last letter which I had the honor to Address You I took the liberty to recommend to Congress to send three thousand men to this [P]lace, that they might seize the first oppertunity of marching into Canada such a measure then appeared to me to be prudent, unfortunately for us it seems now to be indispensibly necessary as the inclosed letters from General Montgomery and Colo Arnold will Evince, For we ought not to depend too much on the Canadians, should [Cong]ress be in sentiment with me on this Matter I could wish for the most early advice whether I am to issue as many more warrants for raising men as to complete a Regiment [w]ith the four Companies now levying and which were intended for the Garrisons of Fort George and Tyonderoga; If so as Colo: [Goose] V[an] Schaick, Lt Colo [Peter] Yates and Major [Peter] Gansevoort wish to remain in the service whether I may give them Assurances that they will be continued

The Barracks in this place are out of repair I propose to employ Carpenters to mend them and have requested the opinion of the Gentlemen of the Committee on this intention which they approve of as they also do of appointing a Barrack Master and Conductor of the Artille[ry] both of which will save thrice their pay in Six months –

Lt [Jeremiah] Halsey of the troops raised in Connecticut and of whom General Montgomery complains has been excessively trouble some during the whole Campaign and deserved to have been dismissed the Service soon after my coming to the Command, the time for which he engag[ed] to serve is expired, he can therefore only be punished by Stoping h[is] pay unless he will Submit to be tryed by a Court Martial –

Of upwards of one hundred Batteaus which we built, I am Confident 25 or 30 will be lost, as they have been left by the Lake side altheway between Onion River and Skeensborough, by Soldiers that took that rout homewards –

Colo Knox is now at Tyonderoga, I have arranged Matters in such a manner as that I hope all the Artillery he wants will be at Fort George in a very few Days, from whence it will be carryed to Boston as soon as the roads will permit –

[1] Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, I, 358–60, NA.

Minutes of the Pennsylvania Committee of Safety [1]

[Philadelphia] December 8th

Capt. Thomas Proctor & Lieut. Francis Procter, this day attended the Board, and agreeable to a Resolve of the 6th ins't, were dismissed the Service of this Board.

By order of Congress, Robert Morris, Esq'r, made application to this Board to secure three Prisoners that are on Board Capt. Whipple, In consequence of which the following Commitment was Issued:

> Receive into your Custody the Bodys of William Stuart, William Kane and John Reynolds, & them safely keep 'til you have further orders of this Board.
>
> Sign'd Jno. Nixon, Chairman.

To Thomas Dewees, Gaoler of the City & County of Philad'a.

[1] *Pennsylvania Colonial Records* (Philadelphia and Harrisburg, 1851–52), X, 424. Hereafter cited as *Pennsylvania Colonial Records.*

John Hancock to George Washington [1]

[Extract] Philada Decr 8th 1775.

Sir, Your letter of the 28th of Novr by Capt: [Joseph] Blewer being received, was immediately laid before Congress.

By my Letter of the 2d Inst., which I hope you will, in due Time receive, you will perceive, the Congress have in a great Measure prevented [2] your Wishes having written to New York, and given Orders to Genl Schuyler to supply You with, and to forward with all possible Expedition what Cannon can be spared. They have also directed Genl Schuyler to make dilligent Search for Lead, and retaining so much as may be wanted there, to send the Remainder to your Camp. However, it is hoped, the Gentleman you have sent, will expedite that Business. By order of Congress, I forward a Come for Mr Knox, who is appointed Col: of the Regiment of Artillery. The Congress also have relieved your Difficulties with Respect to the two Battalions of Marines, having ordered that the raising them out of the Army be suspended. It is the Desire of Congress that such a Body of Forces may be raised; but their Meaning is, that it be in Addition to the Army voted: And they expect you will think of proper Persons to command that Corps, and give Orders for enlisting them wherever they may be found . . .[3]

By Letters recd yesterday we learn, that Col: Arnold after a fatiguing March had reached Canada, where he was well recd by the Inhabitants; that on the 14th of Novr he had reached Point Levy, and was preparing to pass the River that Night, that notwithstanding his being deserted by Col: [Roger] Enos, he had great Hopes of gaining Possession of Quebec, as both the English and Canadian Inhabitants were well affected to our Cause, that Carlton, with the Ships under his Command, was stopped in his Passage down the River by a Fort in our Possession at the Mouth of Sorel, and some Row-Gallies, and that Genl Montgomery was preparing to attack him from Montreal; but of these Matters you will doubtless be more fully informed by an Express, which we understand was dispatched to you from Ticonderoga. I have the Honr &c.

J H. Prest

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1. Papers CC (Letter Books of the President of Congress), No. 12A, IV, 23–24, NA.
2. An archaic use of the word "prevented," as meaning anticipated.
3. The Journals of Congress for December 6, 7 and 8, after receipt of Washington's letter on December 6, contain no such resolution or order.

GEORGE WOOLSEY TO GEORGE SALMON, DUBLIN [1]

[Baltimore] the 8th Decr 1775

I wrote you the 28 Octr Since then have recd your favrs of the 4th & 29th Augt and note the Contents. this I intend for a brig that is going from New York, if it gets there in time I still think your letters Will Come safe by Packett if you avoid Politicks therefore would Advise you to write by them if No other opportunity offers I have Long Since ordred Mr [Stephen] Skinner of Amboy to Send you the Disbursements with proper affadavits Concerning the Schooner & and shall write him this post to the Same purpose I am sorry you did not get my letters time enough to turn green out [2] I am well Satisfied with What you have done with her but had you Sent her out with women only. (if the[y] ware spinners) they Would have answerd however I would advise you if possible to Sell her, and if that cannot be done & She Shoul[d] be with you early in the Spring and if you Could get forty women that can Spin I think the[y] will answer well. I also wish to see your selfe here, and I am off opinion you cannot Come out While you have her on hands. Besides I think She would not be Stoped with women on bord as no Doubt you Would have her Registerd in Dublin as you can pass for a member of That City. I often think, if you was here & had all matters on your side Finished (as you must in the Spring) that we Could by some method or other do some thing here of Course you may see we are not so fearful as You are for us. if She Should Come out let the master have orders to Shew the men of war that Orders him to Sommerset County on the Eastern Shore Say to Skinner Ennels as that is a tory County, & at the Same Time his private orders to Come here and he must Carefully hide all his letters Save a few that you are sure Cannot hurt him after All I have said Should matters Seem probible to take another turn I Think it would be prudent to have her with you to have her one of the first out with Servants but all these affairs must rest in your own breast . . .

A good dale of the Schooners Servant money yet out, & that & other matters keep me low in cash & in Debt however I have opened a Retail Store on the County Wharfe for Wet goods by Which I hope to maintain The House the Business is Dull . . . We are in general in high Spirits here tho the ministry threatens us hard and are making Every Necessary preparation to Support our

Selves. there is & will be a good army in New England Superior to What governt will have there in the Spring, besides there is a small one in canada that has taken St Johns montreal & the places ajacent, into our posessn So that government has only Quebec in their posession of all that province and we have an army now before that place, and are in hopes it is in our posession yre this, & if not now have no Doubt of getting it this vinter as the[y] Can Send no Succors to it, and govenor Carleton has not 200 regulars to Defind it as he had 600 taken prisoners at St Johns & Chanbelee, beside the Congress are raising troops in Every province. one Batalion is going to be raised in this Immediately by orders of the Congress & its thought our Convention (that are now sitting) will raise three more in Pensylvania & the Jerseys the[y] are raising men and the[y] have about two or three Thousand in pay this same time in Virginia Where they are knocing away by this time with Lord Dunmore there Governor Who is become very troublesome upon the Whole if you Ware Clear of the Schooner (Even at a loss) and out here, I think we might yet do some Sorte of business to Advantage we are in hopes of having This Town Fortified this Winter So as to Defend it from any Ships that can Come up this river if that is Done I have not the least Doubt but we Shall still have some little trade here & perhaps a chance may happen to make something handsome — Wheat has been 3/ to 4/ at the latter price a large Quantity might be got flour has been 10/6 to 12/ not much has been purchaced Ex[change] 66 2/3 a 67½ up to 72/ in Philada Your Son is well as all the family All your old friends is well, and wish to see you (save the Meathodists) but none more so than

1. Mercantile Letter Book of Woolsey & Salmon, Baltimore merchants, LC. Hereafter cited as Woolsey & Salmon Letter Book, LC.
2. Schooner *Industry*, 35 tons, James Green, master, cleared from Baltimore, May 8, 1775, with 128 barrels of flour, 20,000 staves and headings, 20 half barrels of flour and 620 oak planks. See Woolsey & Salmon to Stephen Skinner, June 8, 1775, Volume 1, 634.

WOOLSEY & SALMON TO STEPHEN SKINNER, PERTH AMBOY [1]

Baltimore the 8th December 1775

We lately received a letter from our George Salmon Who is now in Dublin Requesting the Disbursements of the Schooner *Industry* Should be forwarded to him properly attested to Enable him to Recover of the Insurance We therefore request (if you have not allredy done it [)] to comply with his request Which Very much [appreciate?] Direct him at Mr Charles Jurgans North Strand Dublin

1. Woolsey & Salmon Letter Book, LC.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA CONVENTION [1]

[Richmond] Friday, December 8, 1775.

A proclamation issued by lord Dunmore the 7th of November last, declaring martial law to be enforced throughout this colony, and requiring every person capable of bearing arms to resort to his majesty's standard by him erected in the town of Norfolk, or be considered as traitors to his majesty's crown and government, and farther declaring all negroes and indented servants capable of bearing arms, and appertaining to rebels, free; also a certificate of an oath taken by several of the inhabitants of the counties of Norfolk and Princess Anne, in consequence thereof; were presented to the Convention, and read.

Ordered, That the said proclamation and certificate be referred to Mr. Treasurer, Mr.[Carter] Braxton, Mr.[Robert] Rutherford, Mr.[Walter] Jones, Mr.[John] Banister, Mr.[Josiah] Parker, Mr.[Archibald] Cary, Mr.[Meriwether] Smith, the Rev. Mr.[Peter] Muhlenburg, and Mr.[Mann] Page; and they are to draw up a declaration in answer thereto, and make report.

Ordered, That the said committee do also select for publication such of the letters laid before this Convention as they shall think proper.

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1. *The Proceedings of the Convention of Delegates Held At The Town Of Richmond, in the Colony of Virginia, on Friday, the 1st of December, 1775. And afterwards by adjournment in the City Of Williamsburg* (Richmond, 1816), 61. Hereafter cited as *Virginia Convention.*

South-Carolina and American General Gazette, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24 TO FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1775

Charlestown, December 8.

On Wednesday, last week, [November 29] arrived here from Cape Fear, his Majesty's Sloop *Scorpion,* commanded by the Hon. Capt. Tollemache, with a large Transport Ship. These Vessels have likewise been at Bermuda, and we hear, that at both Places, they dismantled some Forts. His Excellency Governour Martin, of North-Carolina, is on board the *Scorpion.*

On Wednesday last, the *Scorpion*s Long Boat took off this Bar, the sloop *Thomas and Stafford,* Solomon Gibbes, Master, the Property of Elias Young, of Bermuda, bound in here, in Ballast, from St. Christopher, and the Sloop *Hetty,* Jacob Milligan, Master, the Property of Messrs. Crouch and Gray, and James and Neilson, of this Town, bound in here from Jamaica, with about sixty Hogsheads of Rum. Both vessels were regularly cleared.

They are, at present, in the Road, the *Tamer,* Capt. Thornbrough, of 20 Guns, the *Scorpion,* Capt. Tollemache, of 14, the *Cherokee,* Capt. Ferguson, of 8, a transport ship, the two Sloops above mentioned, and two Schooners, one of which has some Swivels.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

In the Council of Safety, Charles-Town, Dec. 8th, 1775.

Mr. President acquainted the Council, that Mathew Floyd had last night been landed from the *Cherokee,* an armed ship; that he was immediately seized, and placed under the care of the militia guard; and that he had produced to him, a certificate of his detention on board said ship two days and two nights, signed by John Ferguson, commander of said ship, and dated on board, in Rebellion-Road, 7th December, 1775.

And the said certificate being read,

Ordered, That the said Floyd be brought before the Council immediately.

And being brought accordingly, he confirmed the report that had been made by Mr. [Benjamin L.] Marchant – then proceeded to relate what he called the conversation that had passed between him and Lord William Campbell. Among other things, he declared that Lord William had directed him to "tell people in the back country to do every thing they can for the best advantage; that he did not desire any effusion of blood; but whatever they should do would meet with his consent." Being asked, what upon the whole he understood his Lordship, he answered: "To say the truth, he believed Lord William meant, that if they (his party) could obtain a good and beneficial peace, they should do so; if not, that they should make war." He added, upon being questioned, that he saw and conversed with Governor Martin of North-Carolina twice, who, upon being informed by him, that the insurgents in this colony were apprehensive that the inhabitants of Rowan and Mecklenburg Counties would come against them, told him, the said Floyd, there was no reason to fear them, for that they would soon find employment enough at home.

Ordered, That the said Matthew Floyd be re-delivered to the guard, and continue in their custody until further orders; that Major [Andrew] Williamson be wrote to, and made acquainted with every circumstance relative to said Floyd; and that the said Floyd be permitted to write by the same conveyance, submitting what he should write to the inspection of Mr. President.

Mr. William Price, contractor for victualling the king's ships, represented the great inconveniences and expenses he should be subject to, by supplying them with provisions in the manner prescribed by the late general committee; and prayed, that he might be permitted to furnish such provisions weekly instead of daily.

But after due consideration, it was

Resolved, That no permits be granted for supplying the kings ships of war with provisions, otherwise than from day to day, and in quantities sufficient for daily consumption. And that the contractor or contractors be desired to acquaint the captains of such ships, that if they continue to receive and detain slaves, the property of the inhabitants of this colony, even the supplies now permitted to be sent would be ordered to be discontinued.

Ordered, That the Secretary do notify the above resolve to the contractors.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society,* III, 65–67.

GOVERNOR PATRICK TONYN TO LIEUTENANT JOHN GRAVES, R.N.[1]

Copy Cow-Ford St John River 8th Decembr 75

Sir The Accounts sent by Sir James Wright made us come to the immediate determination, that the *St Lawrence* should proceed without delay to St Augustine to refit, in order to repair with all speed to the Assistance of Lord William Campbell and His Majesty's Ships in the Harbour of Charlestown. In a few hours after the receipt of Sir James Wrights Accounts I had intelligence from St Mary that a rebel Cruiser was off this Bar, which was coroborated by several Circumstances from St Augustine, of a Vessel having appeared in sight from the Look Out, for sundry Days always making off from the Coast when the Pilot boat went out – These appearances have made it a General received Opinion that this rebel Vessel is cruizing to intercept His Majesty's Schooner *St Lawrence,* and other Vessels employed in the Service at this time for the purpose of meeting with the Creek Indians.

Upon the last Intelligence, it became requisite to detain His Majesty's Schooner to protect the meeting with the Creek Indians. Which must have been defeated, had any Rebel armed Vessel entered the River in her absence. It also became our duty to give you Sir in His Majesty's Schooner such Assistance as was in our power, and as you think it may be of real Benefit to His Majesty's Service to embark on board the *St Lawrence* under your Command a part of the Detachment of His Majesty's 14 Regiment on the Indian Service, and the remainder on board the Provincial Vessel in order to attend you and render such Service as may be within her power, I have therefore directed the Detachment to be embarked accordingly with which Assistance I flatter myself from your knowledge of His Majestys Navy, and your Experience in it that the best Effects may arise. I cannot put an end to this Letter without my Acknowledgements of Thanks for the great Service His Majesty's Schooner under your Command has been of to this Meeting with the Creek Indians[2] and shall be glad of an opportunity to testify that I am &ca

(Signed) Pat. Tonyn

[Endorsed] East Florida Copy To Captain Graves of His Majestys Schooner *Saint Lawrence* 8 Decr 75 In Govr Tonyn's (No 37) of 14 Jany 1776 (1)

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1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/556, 197–200, LC Photocopy. Tonyn was Governor of East Florida.
2. *Ibid.,* 141, Tonyn to Dartmouth, December 18, 1775, "The 8th we carried the Pomkin King and Long Warrior, the two Head and Leading Men present, on board His Majesty's Schooner the *Saint Lawrence* where I delivered a private Talk. To which they answered."

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9 Dec.

RETURN OF MEN ON BOARD BRIGANTINE *Dartmouth,* CAPTAIN SIMEON AKERMAN [1]

Names	*Time of Enlistment*	*Rate per Month*	*When Discharged*	*Time of Service* mo.	dys.	*Total*
Simeon Akerman	Oct. 26	60s.	Dec. 7	1	10	4. 0. 0
Saml Pendexter	Oct. 26	40s.	Nov. 26	1		2. 0. 0
Simeon Furnald	Oct. 26	40s.	Nov. 26	1		2. 0. 0
Wm Cambridge	Oct. 26	40s.	Dec. 7	1	10	2. 13. 4
John Griffin	Oct. 26	40s.	Dec. 7	1	10	2. 13. 4
						£13. 6. 8

Examined & passed

Portsmo Decr 9th 1775 Received of Samuel Cutts thirteen Pounds six shillings and Eight pence in full of the above Bill –

Simeon Akerman

1. Isaac W. Hammond, comp. and ed., *New Hampshire State Papers,* XVI, Appendix, 925.

WILLIAM BARTLETT TO GEORGE WASHINGTON[1]

Sir Beverly Decer [9] 1775

I have the Pleasure to acquaint your Excellency that Capt Manly has brought in here a Ship from London, and a Brig from St. Eustatia I Enclose your Excellency the Papers which I forward by Mr [Stephen] Cabot Shall Secure them Untill further Orders from your Excellency[2] The Brig is Safe Arrived from Cape Ann[3] I am with Respect your Excellencys [&c.]

William Bartlett

[N]B

The Capt of Ship has hove Overboard the Cheafest part of his papers & some arms &c I find by the Steward the Ships Cargo is Chiefly Coals, 100 Butts of Porter 40 Live Hogs

1. Washington Papers, LC. The date of the letter is established by Stephen Moylan's acknowledgment of December 10. Bartlett was Continental agent at Beverly.
2. The ship *Jenny,* William Foster, master, and the brig *Little Hannah* (from Antigua; not St. Eustatius), Robert Adams, master.
3. The brig *Nancy* which had been partially unloaded at Gloucester.

WILLIAM BARTLETT TO THE SALEM COMMITTEE OF SAFETY[1]

Gentlemen Beverly 9 Decr 1775

I would Desire by Order of his Excellency General Washington that you would Order a Proper Number of your Station'd men to Give those prisoners Belonging to the Ship & Brigt sent in here by Cap Manly Commandr of the *Lee* Privateer to Hd Qrs In Compliance you will Oblige Your [&c.]

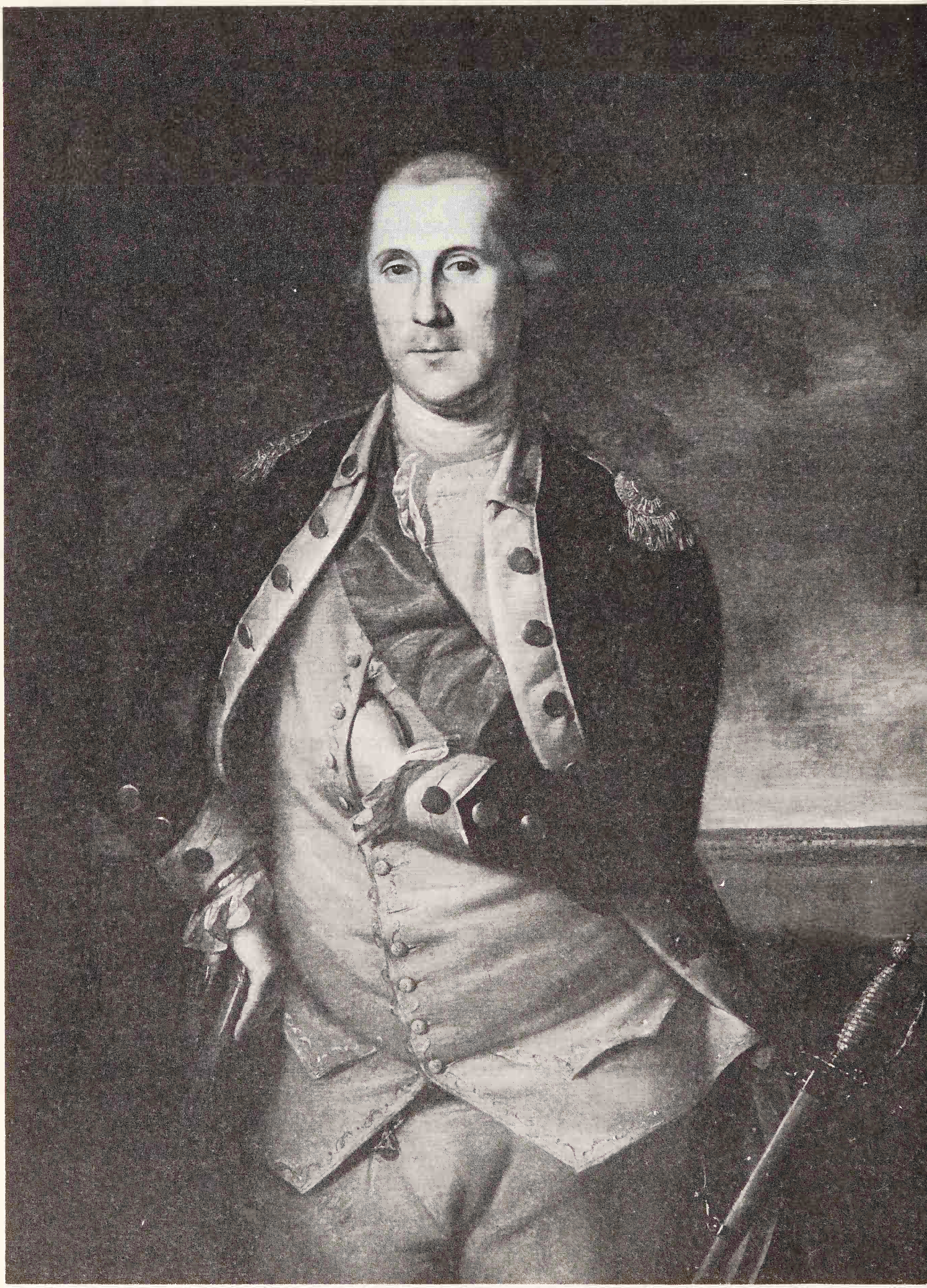
William Bartlett

1. Pickering Papers, 39, 128, MassHS.

RICHARD DERBY, JR. TO THE SALEM COMMITTEE OF SAFETY[1]

Gentlemen Salem 9th Decr 1775.

Finding that Capt [Samuel] Ingersoll's going from Jamaica to Nova-Scotia has Given Cause to some of my Townsmen to Censure my Conduct in that Respect; and as no one can be more Desireous of Living in peace with his Neighbours than I am; nor any one more unhappy than he who justly Exposeth himself to the Censure of the Publick: and tho I can say with the utmost sincerity, that, in this matter, I had not the most Distant thought of offending Yet as the matter seems to be view'd a Different light by some, I am voluntarily Induced to say, That if I have by my Conduct in this Voyage, Justly offended any, I am Heartily sorry for it. –



General George Washington.

General Washington has ordered the Brigg *Kingston Packet* & Cargo to be Restored to me, and as I am made to understand it will be a Satisfaction to some, I take this oppertunity to declare that I have not the most Distant Thought of the Brigg's Returning again to Nova-Scotia, nor is it my Intention to have any Dealing or Connection with any in that Province untill matters are settled, or Liberty is Granted for so Doing. I am Gentlemen [&c.]

Richard Derby Junr

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1. Pickering Papers, 39, 126, MassHS.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES [1]

[Watertown] Saturday, December 9, 1775.
Afternoon.

A Petition of Ebenezer Beal, setting forth that he received a Wound in assisting in the taking an armed Cutter in Machias River, and is thereby disabled from providing for himself, and praying for Support. Read and committed to the Committee for receiving Petitions of Wounded Men.

Mr. Gerry communicated an Extract of a Letter from one of the Delegates of this Colony at the Continental Congress, Inquiring what Number of Men in the Colony would engage as Marines, what Vessels may be hired upon Government Service, at what Place others may be Built, &c.[2]

Read, and Ordered, That Mr. Speaker, Mr. Gerry and Col. Orne, consider an Answer to said Letter and Report.

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1. Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch.
2. See John Adams to Elbridge Gerry, November 5, 1775, Volume 2, 896–97.

COMMITMENT OF GEORGE PRICE [1]

Colony of the Masss Bay } Council Chamber Decr 9th 1775 –

To The Keeper of his Majestys Goal at Plymouth in the County of Plymouth

You are hereby Ordered & directed, to receive into your Custody, George Price, lately taken in a fishing Schooner [2] from Boston & carried into Plymouth by Capt Coit, and him safely keep in Close Confinement, till the future order of the Major part of the Council –

In the Name & by Order of the Council

Perez Morton Dpy Secry

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1. Mass. Arch., vol. 164,213.
2. The schooner, captured on November 29, 1775, was nameless; her master, Jeremiah Downey, was one of four pilots on board waiting to guide the British transports into Boston harbor. Apparently Price was another.

Lieutenant Henry Mowat, R.N., to Vice Admiral Samuel Graves[1]

Sir Since I was with you last, I have been informed by Fluent the Mate of the *Newbury* Brig (who I mentioned on a former occasion) that he knows a vast number of Vessels belonging to New England now trading from different places particularly from the Dutch, and French West India Islands to a port in North Carolina, situated Nine or Ten Leagues to the Westward of Cape Hatteras, by name Beacon Island, which lies a little way in the inside of Ocricock Bar; he was there Seven Months ago, and he declares that there is no port on the continent so famous for smuggling; giving for reason, that no Kings vessels ever have been over this Bar, nor is there any Customhouse authority near it: he has been at this place eight voyages, and Says that the Pilots for the Bar have orders from all the Trading people near it, not to make known to any Kings Vessel the depth of Water on the Bar, and to persist should they fall in with any, that there is not water sufficient for them, at the same time, this man declares that there are at full Tides 15 or 16 feet, and that he has seen larger ships than the *Canceaux* Pass. I thought it incumbent on me to lay this information before you, and am [&c.]

H. Mowat

Canceaux Nantasket 9th December 1775

[1] Hamond Papers, Orders received 1775–1776, UVL.

Providence Gazette, Saturday, December 9, 1775

Providence, December 9.

Last Night a Gentleman arrived here, who has just made his Escape from Boston; he informs that the *Boyne* Man of War, of 70 guns, with General Burgoyne on board, sailed for England on Wednesday last [December 6]; she likewise carried, it is said, a Number of Masters and Mates of Vessels, that had been taken by the Enemy.

Diary of Dr. Ezra Stiles[1]

[Newport, December] 9.

About one o'Clock this Aft. a small open Boat was coming into this Harbor: the *Glasgow* 20 Gun ship Capt Howe fired several shot at her; but she refused to bring too. They manned out a Barge – the Men in the Boat had small arms & fired three Guns into her, & kept on their Way. Capt How thereupon fired several shot at her but in such a Range that they came into To & struck. I was standing on a Wharf, when a Nine pound shot came & struck the stores just North of me. As I turned about to come off the Wharf, there came two shot, one a Nine pounder within a few feet of me, & passed a few feet right over the heads of about 20 Men standg on the next Wharf, & struck & went thro' the adjoyng stores into the contiguous houses, & another lesser Ball struck & fell in the Dock next the Wharfe where I stood, & within a few feet of me. But thro' a merciful & gracious providence we all escaped untouched – nor was any killed or wounded.

[1] Manuscript diary of Dr. Ezra Stiles, The Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, YUL. Hereafter cited as Diary of Ezra Stiles, YUL.

COLONEL HENRY KNOX'S LIST OF CANNON AT TICONDEROGA [1]

[December 9]

42 Cannon of differ[ent] Sizes
16 Mortar Howitz[ers]
58

	Cohorns	
2	5⅒	Brass
4	4½	
Mortars		
1	8½	
1	7½	one Trunnion wanting
1	6½	Iron
3	13	do
1	10	do
1	10¼	
	Howitzers	
1	8	
1	8¼	

[1] Diary of Henry Knox, MassHS.

PARTIAL LIST OF CANNON AND AMMUNITION TRANSSHIPPED BY BOAT ON LAKE GEORGE [1]

[December 9, 1775] [3]

	On board the Scow [3]
6	18 pounders
3	13 Inch Mortars
1	Barrell flints
	Pettiauger
1	barrell flints
1	brass 24 pounder
2	do Mortars 8 or 9 Inch
1	Iron do 9 Inch
23	Boxes Lead
6	royall Cohorns
2	field peices 6 pound
6	do 4 do

[1] Diary of Henry Knox, MassHS.

[2] The date is approximated. It seems likely that Knox compiled the list before departing on December 9 for Fort George at the south end of the lake.

[3] These cannon and stores were an important part of those being transferred under Colonel Knox's supervision from Fort Ticonderoga to the Continental army outside Boston. The scow grounded on a submerged rock on December 9, shortly after leaving the North Landing of Lake George. Although she was refloated by the morning of the 10th, ". . . on the same Night the wind being exceedingly high the sea had beat in her in such a manner that she had sunk," *ibid.* Fortunately, the water was so shallow where the scow sank that her gunwale remained above water. Within two days the scow, having been bailed out, arrived at Fort George.

Journal of the New York Provincial Congress[1]

[New York] Die Sabbati, 10 HO.A.M. December 9th, 1775.

Resolved and ordered, That Messrs. Jacobus Van Zandt, John Van Derbilt and Comfort Sands, be a committee to plan a voyage, or voyages, for at least two or more vessels, to be laden and sent out on account of the Congress of this Colony, and for the benefit of this Colony, to procure ammunition, arms, and such other articles as will be necessary for the general defence of this Colony, and to procure proper vessels for that purpose; and that the said committee report such plan or plans as they shall think proper or propose, with all convenient speed.

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[1] *Journals of the Provincial Congress, Provincial Convention, Committee of Safety and Council of Safety of the State of New-York, 1775–1776–1777* (Albany, 1842), I, 211, 212. Hereafter cited as *New York Provincial Congress.*

Journal of the Continental Congress[1]

Saturday, December 9, 1775

On motion from the Committee appointed to fit out armed vessels,

Resolved, That the said Committee be empowered to employ the following officers, and that their pay be as follows, viz:

Midshipman,	12	dollars per	calendar month,
Armourer,	15	do.	do.
Sailmaker,	12	do.	do.
Yoeman,	9	do.	do.

Quartermaster,	9	dollars per	calendar month.
Quarter Gunner,	8	do.	do.
Cook,	12	do.	do.
Coxswain	9	do.	do.

Pilot according to the usual rates; when absolutely necessary, the commander to give such further gratuity as may be necessary for the good of the service.

Resolved, That Monday next be assigned for taking into consideration the instructions to the delegates of Rhode Island.

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[1] Worthington C. Ford, *et al.*, eds., *Journals of the Continental Congress, 1774–1789* (Washington, 1904–37), III, 417–19. Hereafter cited as Ford, ed., *JCC.*

Willing, Morris & Co. to Gregory & Guille[1]

Gentlemen [Philadelphia, December 9, 1775][2]

Its a long time since we have had the Pleasure of paying our respects to you, and you will not be at a loss to assign reasons for this Silence, Therefore we need not take up your or our own time, in Offering them – We have now before us your Sundry Letters Dated the 2nd 5th & 18th May 3d & 6th June 4 July & 2nd August, and make due note of all Articles of acct Mention'd therein. & Thank you for the Course of advice which however latterly have been render'd useless, by the unhappy State of publick affairs – Capt Nichs Maingy not having appear'd on this coast, he no doubt was timely inform'd, our ports would be shut, and we are glad he did not come – We should have been very apt to close with your proposal respecting a Ship for Capt Nichs Lamsurier, had things remain'd in their Former channel, but Ships are now a bad concern, & we unluckily have to ma[n]y of them, You wonder we dont consume your Wines, in Answer we can tell you, our people have been long used to Mada Lisbon Teneriffe & Fayall Wines, all which are white, they are not used to or fond of red wines, even the best red port does not Obtain good sale in this part of America, & it is not very easy to break th[r]o' old Customs & attachments. We find all the Cargoes were arrived at the date of your last Letter (Except the *Kitty* Capt Lott, which we wish much to hear of & are now) Expecting her back, but sorry we are to find, that something or other turn[ed] up, as they arrive[d] to prevent any profits being made on the Adventures, you complain of this Business of working for Nothing & we beleive with reason, for our parts we are quite tired of it, & had not the State of Publick affairs done it for us we had Determined to Lessen our Concern in this branch which to us [h]as proved a Losing Game for three Years past we have in that time purchased it freely, and done our Business on the best Terms it could be Done, so that we have Nothing to blame ourselves for altho we have had infinite Trouble & Anxiety about our Fortunes and if either Branches had not answered we better had done Nothing however there is no help, we must be more cautious in future, that is if any Opportunities occur wherein we can carry on our Business with Safety – We are Disgusted with the Delivery of Henderson's Cargo at Cartagena & beleive that both you and we have been imposed on in that Transaction when you send us the Settlement of that Voyage we shall try what can be done with Henderson & his Owners altho such things should ever be Settled at the Discharging port – We expect you would before this time begin to feel the want of Supplies, from this Country & Consequently, that you would have sold off all the Cargoes & Completed the Remittance, we shall therefore be expecting Final Accts from you & happy shall we be when publick affairs are so far Settled, as that we can with Safety renew our joint Concerns, but if we do renew them, we hope it will be on terms to pay us much Better, than they have hitherto Done –

You will Learn with Surprize that our American Army has shut up the Ministerialists in Boston & Still keep them there, & that in the Mean time we have wrested from them the Possession of Canada, the Only Success proposed by these or any other Su[cce]sses is Only to procure Reconcilation on Constitutional terms & this we Sincerely hope will be Obtain'd & soon, our Influence is always exerted in favor of such Measures, as tend to this point & happy shall we be, in being any ways instrumental in Obtaining it, but you may Depend on Hearing from us when anything Certain can be said on that Subject – We have not heard from Messrs Gregory & Woolsy Since the taking of Canada, but if their affairs require any assistance or Protection from the Authority of this Country we shall Serve them on application two of us being Members of Congress our Influence may be of some use to 'em if wanted We are Sir [&c.]

P.S. We had lik'd to have Omitted mentioning to you that on Settling the last a/C you rendered us, we find your Creditors [*sic* you Credit us] only for ⅓d nt Pr[o]cd of the Brigt *Connollys* Cargo of wheat whereas our concern was ⅔ds for altho it was first Intend'd that Cap Dickson should be ⅓d Interested in the

Cargo by the Ship *Matilda* yet after the Loss of that Ship his Friends fell short & we took the ⅔ds to our acct & paid Entire Cost thereof Consequently you have to remit, to Messrs Wm Baynes & Co on our Acct L. Cath[ala]n 3800.8 with Interest we Think, This Matter was Explain'd in former Letters, but have not time to Examine being hurried

P.S. We just hear that Captain Steel is in the River

Copy

[Endorsed] (A Copy) Thomas Rich[3]

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1. PRO, Admiralty 1/2389.
2. The date is established by a subsequent letter of March 1, 1776.
3. This is Captain Thomas Rich's copy of a copy which he found on board the ship *Aurora,* taken June 28, 1776, by H.M.S. *Enterprise.*

Stephen Hopkins to Nicholas and John Brown, Providence Merchants[1]

Gentlemen Philadelphia Decr 9th 1775

We have proposed that the small sloop *Fly* belonging to Clarke and Nightingale is now going immediately to Providence shall return hither again directly and bring as many able seamen as she can carry – If her owners shall agree to this plan to Whom we have wrote for this purpose we shall be greatly obliged to you to use your utmost influence for the procuring of such seamen, it being slowly that we raise seamen here has put us upon this project and we hope that the Rhode island seamen who come to Philadelphia for this purpose will very soon see their own homes again As this is an essential service to your Country, we have No doubt of your engaging zealously in it – If the small sloop we have Mentioned should not be able to bring all the Seamen who are willing to enter into this service, we should be glad that you would procure another Vessel that you may think suitable to the purpose to come with the utmost dispatch with such over plus seamen to Philadelphia and a reasonable allowance will be made to her for that service, and she will be permitted if she chooses it to take a load of flour or other Provisions back – for this purpose it will be best for her to bring Governor Cooks Certificate that such Provisions shall be for the use of the inhabitants there or otherwise for the use of the Continental Army – I am in behalf of the Committee for Naval Affairs [&c.]

Step Hopkins

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1. Nicholas Brown Papers, JCBL. Hopkins, a Rhode Island delegate in Congress, was a member of the Continental Naval Committee.

Minutes of the Pennsylvania Committee of Safety[1]

[Philadelphia] Dec'r 9.

Upon application to this Board, on behalf of Capt. Nicholas Biddle,[2] that he may have Liberty to resign his Commission, in order to enter into Continental Service,

Resolved, That he have liberty to resign his Commission.

Messrs. John Pringle, & Thomas Yorke, having permission from this Board to load on Board their Brigantine a certain quantity of goods, the produce of these Colonies, which being insufficient to compleat her loading,

Resolved, That they, the said Pringle and York, have permission to load on Board said Brig't as much produce of these Colonies as will compleat her Loading for the account of this Province, being agreeable to a Resolve of Congress of 26th October last.

[1] *Pennsylvania Colonial Records,* X, 425.

[2] Biddle had been commissioned to command the armed boat *Franklin* on August 1, 1775. As commander of the Continental brig *Andrew Doria,* he took part in the New Providence expedition of February-March 1776.

PINKNEY'S *Virginia Gazette,* SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1775

Williamsburg [December 9].

An express arrived last Thursday night [December 7], who informs, that we have taken a little fort belonging to Dunmore, with 40 stand of arms.

An honest negro (Caesar, the famous barber of York) being asked what he thought of lord Dunmore's setting negroes free, said, that he did not know any one foolish enough to believe him, for if he intended to do so, he ought first to set his own free.

J. H. NORTON, JR. TO J. H. NORTON, SR.[1]

[Extract] Williamsbg Decr 9. 1775

I have hitherto been silent about our Governor's Operations, but I cannot help saying something of them, as they are marked with almost every Species of Cruelty that a wicked Mind coud Suggest; After pillagg the Plantations on the Rivers for some Months past, taking Negroes, burning Houses, & the like Depredations he hoisted his Standard & issued a Damned, infernal, Diabolical proclamation declaring Freedom to all our Slaves who will join him, & obliged great Numbers to take an Oath that they will arm themselves & assist him with their Lives & Fortunes. Most of the Scotch have joined him & a great Number of Negroes: he is now entrenched with a Body of Men at the Great Bridge to prevent our Men from geting to Norfolk. he has tis said 500 Whites & as many Blacks. our Men in Number about 700 under Colo Woodford are entrenched within a few hundred Yards of his Party, & several Skirmishes have happened in which he lost 28 Men, our Loss is not more than 2 or 3. Colo [Robert] Howe from Carolina wth abt 600 Men & a good Train of Artillery are daily expected to join Woodford, when a general Engagement may probably happen.

[1] PRO, Colonial Office, 5/40, 282–83. An intercepted letter.

JOHN PAGE TO RICHARD HENRY LEE [1]

Dear Sir Wm'sburg Decr the 9th 1775

It was so late when I receivd your Letter, & I have been so engaged in Business & surrounded by Company that I am scarcely able to tell you that I received it,

& by no Means have Time to say how much I am obliged to you for writing it – But however much I am pressed for Time I can not conclude without lamenting the unhappy Situation of our Country – So defenceless is it that I am persuaded that a couple of Frigates with a few Tenders & only one Regiment might at this Time make as compleat a Conquest of all the lower Counties of Virginia as Ld D. [Dunmore] has made of Princess Ann & Norfolk. Col. Woodford with 600 Men has been hitherto prevented from passing the Great Bridge on his Way to Norfolk by a Body of Negroes headed by Scotch Men & a few Regulars – & I make no Doubt that before he can pass, Norfolk will be made impregnable by Land – it is capable of being strongly fortified on a small Neck of Land near the Church where it is said Ld D has for some Time past employd several hundred Negros – The only Way I conceive that Town can be taken without Cannon, must be, by taking Advantage of the Night & throwing into it by Water 3 or 400 resolute Fellows – & make a bold push at the Sloops of War at the same Time. I have mentioned this to several, but unhappily they call it a rash attempt & seem to be contented with the Expedition now carrying on under Col. Woodford – which if it should succeed can only force our Enemies on Board their Ships & oblige them to change the Scene of the War & spread their Depredations further. – I wish to God we had a few armed Vessels – to take the Tenders we might very much distress their Ships by it. I approve much of your Hint of procuring them from Bermuda or the Northern Colonies. But most of the Committee & Convention seem to think it in vain to attempt any Thing by Water – I think this may be attended with fatal Consequences – for if no Attempt of this Kind is made before Reinforcements of Ships & Tenders arrive, the People will be most wretchedly dispirited, & easily crushed – For my Part I think we should make a Point of keeping Possession of our Rivers, those excellent Chanels of Comerce, & should strain every Nerve in Struggles for the Dominion of the upper Part of the Rivers at least – It is certain that 5000 Men can not defend our Coast against the Depredations of the Men of War & Tenders already here – but it is certain 500 Men in some Vessels could easily take the whole Fleet –

I have scribbled on beyond what I expected & have encroached on your Time – I will therefore instantly conclude – but must first beg that when you write to General [Charles] Lee you will present to him my Thanks for his Services, my Compts & best Wishes – I am dear Sir [&c.]

John Page

1. Lee Papers, UVL. Lee was a Virginia delegate in the Continental Congress.

Thomas Ludwell Lee to Richard Henry Lee [1]

[Extract] Williamsburg, Decr. 9, 1775

I send you inclosed a printed account of intelligence recd at Headquarters from our camp at the [great] bridge about 20 miles from Norfolk, . . . Our Army has been for some time arrested in its march to Norfolk by a redoubt, or stockade, or hog pen, as they call it here, by way of derision, at the end of this bridge. Tho', by the way, this hog pen seems filled with a parcel of wild-boars, which we appear not overfond to meddle with. My apprehension is that we shall be amused at this outpost, until Dunmore gets the lines at Norfolk finished; where he is now entrenching, & mounting cannon, some hundreds of negro's being employ'd in the work. This consideration added to the advanced season of the year & the strong expectation, as we find by intercepted intelligence, of a reinforcement arriving every hour from St Augustine made a bold & sudden stroke necessary, whilst we walk too cautiously in the road of prudence. – There were other passes into the neighbourhood of Norfolk. We are now in convention & have already voted the raising six new battalions of the continental number the two old battalions to be recruited to the same standard — these eight are expected to be on the continental establishment. The express, which brings you this go's with an application to Congress for this purpose. It would seem indeed highly necessary, from the manner in which Dunmore has hitherto baffled all our endeavours, to put our military matters under some other direction.

If Philadelphia is in such a forward state of Naval preparation as report says, it would be in her power to render the most signal service to this colony, and thereby to the American cause. The naval force of the enemy in this country consists of two sloops of war, the *Otter,* & *Kingfisher,* of sixteen six & four pounders, with their compliment of men indeed, one hundred & ten, but these much dispersed in tenders, & all except ten in the *Kingfisher,* & a few in the *Otter,* pressed men, disaffected to the cause, & unwilling to fight. Six deserters from the *Kingfisher,* examined last night, confirm these circumstances, which we were informed of before from other hands. A frigate of thirty guns, with metal proportionable, by coming into Norfolk river would not only become master of these, but of Dunmores ship *Wm.* & a vast many other vessels loaded with the floating property of Tories, & seized cargoes, to the amount, as is said upon good grounds, of £14000. These gentry would, by such a stroke as this, be all taken up in a nett. Ld. Dunmore's preparations be all torn up by the roots, & the plan of hostility for this country to be begun anew. Ld Dunmore has issued his first *Virginia Gazette* printed I think on board the *William.* It contains his proclamation, the oath tendered to the people of Princess Anne & Norfolk, his conquest over the militia, & the letters of the Delegates intercepted by Capt Wallace.

1. Lee Papers, UVL.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Otter,* CAPTAIN MATTHEW SQUIRE [1]

Decemr 1775	Elizabeth River [abreast of Norfolk]
Wednesday 6	Carried the Troops & Volunteers with our Marines across the River Moderate Weather PM Exercised great Guns & small arms The Troops retd.
Thursday 7	Reced Water on board Employd occasionally
Friday 8	Fresh Gales & squally Weather at 6 PM employd carrying [the] Troops. Volunteers & Marines to Ferry Point.
Saturday 9	at 8 AM heard they had retreated & that several were killed & wounded – received fresh Beef on Board –. Fresh Breezes & cloudy. PM Employd taking our wounded Troops [&] Marines & Volunteers from Ferry Point.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

COLONEL WILLIAM WOODFORD TO EDMUND PENDLETON [1]

[Extract] Great Bridge, near Norfolk, Dec. 9.

The enemy were reinforced about 3 o'clock this morning with (as they tell me) every soldier of the 14th regiment at Norfolk, amounting to 200, commanded by Capt. Leslie; and this morning, after reveille beating, crossed the bridge, by laying down some plank, and made an attack to force our breast-work, (the prisoners say the whole number amounted to 500, with volunteers and blacks) with two pieces of cannon, but none marched up but his Majesty's soldiers, who behaved like Englishmen. We have found of their dead, Capt. Fordyce and 12 privates; and have Lieutenant Battit, who is wounded in the leg, and 17 privates prisoners, all wounded. They carried their cannon back under cover of the guns of the fort, and a number of their dead. I should suppose (to speak within compass) their loss must be upwards of 50. Some powder and cartridges were taken. I sent an officer to inform them if they would not fire upon our people they should collect the dead and wounded. This they agreed to, and there has been no firing since. We are now under arms, expecting another attack. There is but one man of ours hurt, and he is wounded in the hand. The prisoners inform that Lord Dunmore has got a reinforcement of highlanders; they, I except, will be up next.

[1] Dixon and Hunter's *Virginia Gazette,* December 16, 1775. Pendleton was chairman of the Virginia Committee of Safety.

EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN CAPTAIN MATTHEW SQUIRE, R.N., AND LORD DUNMORE [1]

Captain Squires Compliments to Lord Dunmore, would be much obliged to him for the reading of two Letters he sent him the other night, one directed to Robert Carter Nicholas, the other to Richard Henry Lee, which I will return to your Lordship again

Otter Sloop, Saturday Noon [December 9, 1775].[2]

[Dunmore's Reply]

Ld Dunmore Compts to Capt Squire, is sorry he can't send him the Letters he wants, having already inclosed them for the Secretary of State, but wishes Capt. Squire would send him some other letters that came by the same Vessel that he supposes Capt Squire had Mislaid when he sent the rest, which should also be sent home.

Saturday Noon [December 9, 1775].

[1] *Aspinwall Papers,* Part II, 750, 751. Dunmore was Royal Governor of Virginia.

[2] The date is established by Dunmore's letter to the Secretary of State, December 6, 1775, forwarding fifteen intercepted letters taken from a captured brig. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/1353, 321–34.

LETTER FROM A MIDSHIPMAN ON BOARD H.M. SLOOP *Otter*[1]

[Extract] Dec. 9

Our troops, with about sixty Townsmen from Norfolk, and a detachment of Sailors from the ships, among whom I had the honour to march, set out from Norfolk to attack once more the Rebels at the great bridge, who had been lodged there some time, and had erected a breast-work opposite to our fort on their side of the river. We arrived at the Fort half an hour after three in the morning, and, after refreshing ourselves, prepared to attack the Rebels in their intrenchments.

Captain Squires, ever ready, from his accomplishments as a Gentleman, and his personal bravery as an Officer, to assist my Lord in the public cause, had sent his Gunners and men to manage two pieces of cannon, who were put in the front, and ordered to begin the attack. But how can it be supposed, that with 200 men we could force a strong intrenchment, defended by at least 2000 ? yet this was attempted, and we marched up to their works with the intrepedity of lions. But, alas! we retreated with much fewer brave fellows then we took out. Their fire was so heavy, that, had we not retreated as we did, we should every one have been cut off. Figure to yourself a strong breast-work built across a causeway, on which six men only could advance a-breast; a large swamp almost surrounding them, at the back of which were two small breast-works to flank us in our attack on their intrenchments. Under these disadvantages it was impossible to succeed; yet our men were so enraged, that all the intreaties, and scarcely the threats of their Officers, could prevail on them to retreat; which at last they did. The cannon were secured within the fort. We had sixty killed, wounded, and taken prisoners; among whom were the gallant Captain Fordyce, of the Grenadiers of the 14th Brigade, Lieutenants Nappier and Leslie, and Lieutenant Batut wounded and taken prisoner; men all universally esteemed, and for whom all shed tears; but these are dried upon reflecting, that they fell fighting for their King and Country. Such was the fortune of this day, which throws the greatest honour on the men for their unparalleled courage; and I have the pleasure to assure you, I have had the approbation of all my Officers for my behaviour. We set out on our return to Norfolk about seven o'clock in the evening, at which place we arrived at twelve, and the Soldiers were immediately embarked on board vessels prepared for that purpose.

[1] *Lloyd's Evening Post and British Chronicle,* March 4 to March 6, 1776.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY[1]

In the Council of Safety [Charleston],
Tuesday [*sic* Saturday], Dec 9th, 1775.

Mr. William Parker applied for and obtained a permit in behalf of Mr. [John William Gerard] DeBrahm, for his (Mr. DeBrahm's) nephew, to pass to the *Cherokee* armed ship, which were produced and read in Council.

The Hon. William Henry Drayton reported that he with Capt. [Thomas] Savage had, according to order, inspected into the state of the naval armament of this colony, and delivered in a report; also a list of able seamen still remaining in the colony regiments of foot.

South-Carolina, Charles-Town, Dec. 9th, 1775.

By order of the Council of Safety for the colony aforesaid. To the Sheriff of Charles-Town District, or his Deputy, or the Keeper of the common Jail in Charles-Town:

You are hereby commanded and required to receive into your custody in the common jail, and there safely keep until further orders, the body of Matthew Floyd, otherwise Captain Matthew Floyd herewith sent to you, suspected of being a spy, and of other high crimes and misdemeanors against the liberties of the colony aforesaid. And for so doing this will be your warrant.

Given under my hand and seal, the day above written.

Henry Laurens, President. [L. S.]

Sir – You will here enclosed receive a warrant for committing to the common jail, the body of Matthew Floyd, now in custody of the main guard of the regiment under your command.

You will be pleased to give the necessary orders for carrying the said warrant into execution, so far as the safe delivery of the said Matthew Floyd to the sheriff or keeper of the common jail. I am, sir [&c.]

Henry Laurens,
President of the Council of Safety.

Charles-Town, 9th December, 1775.
Col [Charles Cotesworth] Pinckney.

In the Council of Safety,
Saturday evening, Dec 9th, 1775.

Col. [William] Moultrie having laid before the board a letter supposed of this date, from Major [Thomas] Pinckney, setting forth the disappointments he had met with going for Sullivan's Island – that he was now at Bolton's, and intended to effect his purpose this evening – but that as he would not be able to move before nine o'clock, further orders might be sent if needful.

Resolved, That Col. Moultrie be desired to order the detachment under Major Pinckney to return, without attempting Sullivan's Island.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society,* III, 67–73.

10 Dec. (Sunday)

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Hunter,* CAPTAIN THOMAS MACKENZIE [1]

Decembr 1775 Remarks [at Quebec] &c

Saturdy 2d AM unbent the Sails got down the top Gallt Masts and [unreevd] the Running Rigging at Noon veer'd away on the Best Bower and hauld along Side the Wharf Sailmaker employ'd as before — First and latter parts Modt & fair Mid fresh Breezes with Snow PM got on Shore the Guns Anchors best

Bower Cables and small Bower & Sh[ee]t Cables Sails and Booms Struck the Topmasts & unriggd them

Sunday 3d AM got the Tops off got them & the Topmasts [Pul] tack Shrouds Topsail and top Gallt yards on Shore Received 389 pounds of fresh Beef Sailmaker employd as before — First and Mid parts fresh Breezes and fair latter little Wind & fair

Mondy 4 at 11 hove off the Best Bower Weighd the Anchor and hauld the Ship a Ground into t[he] Cou de Sac along Side the *Fell* Snow — Calm with Frost PM hauld the Boats up at 11 began to get ready to haul off got the Cables & topmasts on Board

Tuesdy 5 at 4 AM hauld along side the Wharf rigg'd the topmasts got the Sails on Board at 11 cleard the Ship to haul on Shore again unrigg[e]d the topmasts and got them the Rigging and Lower Yards Ca[sk]s and Sails a Shore

Wednsdy 6 Sailmaker employ'd as before got the Powder out Calm with frost at 3 PM hauld into the Cou de Sack

Thursday 7 Moderate with hard frost and some Snow employ'd Securing the Ship and hove It higher up at high Water Sailmaker as before Do Weather PM the Captain a Midshipman and 22 Men went on Shore and Mounted the [Piquett] Guard in the upper Town

Friday 8th AM returned from the Guard received on Board fresh Beef Salmaker employ'd as before — Do Wear PM the Rebels opend a Cohorn Battery and fired Several Shells into Town

Saturdy 9th AM sent out a party and sett fire to some Houses at St Johns — Do Weather found the Rebels were Erecting a Battery on a Hill above St Johns fired several Shot at a Barn below it whence we seen [a] party of them

Sundy 10th our Ships Company all came Shore & Marchd up to the Dauphin Barracks for the Winter Open'd a Cask of Pork No 65 Contents 160 Pieces deliverd to Mr Geo Lawe Cheif Engineer of the Garrison of Quebec 27 Puncheons 32 Hhds forty light Barrels 32 half Hhds and 1112 Iron hoops — Fresh Gales with Snow PM the rebels fired several Shot into the Town we fired Shot at them and some Shells at their Battery

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1. PRO, Admiralty 51/466.

Diary of Simeon Perkins, Liverpool, Nova Scotia [1]

Sunday, Dec. 10th, — Capt. Benajah Collings arrived last evening from Cape Nichola Mole, he fell as far eastward as Isle Savel [Sable Island], and was in at Canso. He there heard that two armed schooners had been in there and taken several vessels that were New England property, and had been at Island St. John's and took Mr. Higgins in a schooner from England, and carried them off.

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1. Innis, ed., *Perkins' Diary,* 106.

Benjamin Hichborn to John Adams [1]

[Extract]

Lexington
Decr 10th 1775

Being interrupted by Company, on the Evengs I had devoted to this Letter, I rose early the next morning intending to fill this sheet, at least, & send it by Mr [Paul] Revere – I had wrote to the bottom of the preceding page, when a Gentleman called me aside & whispered – that he had the day before been in a large Company, among whom were Collo [James] Otis, Doct: [James] Winthrop & his Lady, that Mrs Winthrop censured my Conduct respecting the letters very highly; in which she was joined by her Husband and Colo Otis. one of the Company suggested that I had satisfied General Washington, but was answered by Colo Otis, with a good deal of warmth, that he knew neither the Genl nor any of the Officers about him, were in any degree satisfied with my Conduct. – this Story induced me to postpone writing till I shoud hear from you – Your most welcome Letter of the 6th ulto did not reach me till yesterday. this delay happen'd by my taking a different House in the Country, to what my Friend (who took it out of the Post office) expected – I assure you Sir, nothing cou'd have come mo[re] opportunely, no event cou'd have given me equal Satisfaction; it contained every thing I coud wish for, so far as respected myself & is full of Sentiments, that are certainly just, independent & liberal

one thing only I must dissent from you in, because I know you are mistaken. you suppose the accident that threw your Letters into their possession, has exposed you to the ridicul[e] of our common Enemies. – believe me Sir, it is directly the reverse – they all dread (& many of them were ingenuous enough to aknowledge that they respected) your firmness in a system of Politics that must prove fatal to their Schemes. the incidental Remarks upon private Characters & occurrences they found themselves so little interested in, & so much qualif[d] by other observations, that I scarcly heard them mentioned. even the humorous anec[dotes] of [H –] [2] (at which I believe the [G–E is so much] disgusted) they called a Boyish performance [& it hardly produced a smile. –]

[you] are a better judge [of the] Effect it may have upon private Friends, than I can pretend to be; but I am certain it will have but one bad tendency, among many good ones, with your adversaries – Till this Event, your political Character has been so blended with your Name-Sake's, in the Minds of those who had not a personal Acquaintance with you, that he has been saddled with a great share of your political Crimes; but since your treasonable designs have been convey'd to his Majesty under your own Hand, you may possibly, have the Honor of an Exception, in the next tender of a general Pardon. – you are pleased to say you shoud be glad to have my whole Story. – I woud with pleasure give it to you, but as it is very long, & I am yet weak & but poorly provided with every material for writing, I must beg leave for the present to omit it

from an expression in your Letter I imagine you presume I was discharged by Graves & Gage – the fact is this – my very ill State of Health preventing my Swiming away while the water was mild enough for such an enterprise, I had constructed a vehicle of two kegs & a strip of pine board, which I coud put together in two minutes, & was determind to set off on it the first favourable opportunity: but fortune made better provision for me than I was able to make for myself. – on a very stormy day a small Canoe belonging to the Capt: was fastened to the Stern of the Ship, an exceeding dark night Succeeding & the Storm continuing, afforded a Season exactly Suited to my purpose. from long confinement, miserable diet & a disorder which had not then entirely left me, I was quite feble: but anticipating the pleasures I have since realised with my Friends, [I felt superior to] every difficulty & hazzard. about Ten o'Clock that evenng I stole out of the Gun-room-port [&] by the rudder & let myself down (not without some danger as the Sea was running high) into the Can[oe] after being upon the water [about two hours] & a half [I reac]h'd Dorchester Neck, half drownd [but] completely happy. – as I find you are upon a Committee for collecting Evidence of the Hostilities committed by the British troops & Navy, I cannot omit the following anecdote as a remarkable Instance of their Savage barbarity – One Drew now a Lieutenant of the *Scorpion* or *Viper,*[3] I am uncertain which, & Bruce a private belonging to the *Preston,* landed on Bunkers Hill, soon after the battle of the 17th of June. Drew, after walking for some time over the bodies of the dead, with great fortitude, went up to one of our wounded Men, & very Deliberately Shot him through the Head. Bruce advanced further over the Hill, & meeting with a forlorn wretch, begging Mercy for Gods Sake! he advanced & with a "damn you, you Bugger you! are you not dead yet?" instantly demolished him – in a day or two after, Drew went upon the Hill again opened the dirt that was thrown over Doctr [Joseph] Warren, spit in his face, jumped on his Stomach & at last cut off his Head & committed every act of violence upon his Body. I had this story from two Gentlemen belonging to the *Preston* who were eye Witnesses of the facts. in justice to the Officers in general I must add that they despise Drew for his Conduct, the other was below their notice. – I am very happy to find that your Zealous Efforts in promoting so important a Matter as the better regulation of the Army have not been altogether without effect. Knox is in a station that I think he is fit for, & dare say, he will make a figure in – I am pleased to find Two or so agreeably circumstanced, but must own I shoud be much more happy to see him in a station that woud give him greater military Consequence, & more extensive advantages for improvement in the Art of War. for my own part, I can truly say, as I never had a view seperate from the interest of my Country, in wishing to be concerned in public affairs, I can be not overlly contented, but happy in a path of private life, among a few Friends, whose Confidence I am sure to possess without bounds & whose esteem it is my greatest ambition to merit. – however I have done, & ever shall do everything in power, consistent with the Character of a Man of honor, to alleviate the distresses & promote the happiness of my Country. – The Speculation you were so partial as to call ingenious, I must confess I was so much engaged in, that I felt no small disappointment in not finding it encouraged. I wou'd not propose a Plan, which I was afraid to execute, & there fore offered to rest my life upon it's success. it wou'd be illiberal in me, to suppose it was rejected mainly because it was a proposal of mine; I must, therefore presume there were some good reasons against it, tho I am not able to fathom them. – Many People have been much alarmed at the backwardness of the Soldiers to inlist for an other year, but this disposition I think, may be accounted for very easily, without attributing to them an indifference to the Cause; indeed I can say from my own knowledge, that the People are as warm & annimated to support the contest as ever they were; & the ready supply of 7,000 minute Men upon a late Demand of the General, appears to me full evidence of it. –

Our privateers have made so many Captures that, it is impossible for me to be particular, most of those from Europe I am informed have considerable quantities of Coal in them – Capt: Broaton [Nicholson Broughton] who in Company with another, (I think Capt Selman) were ordered to cruise in the Mouth of the River St Lawrence have [done] a feat which seems to meet with general disapprobation. [in their] way home, they called in at the Island of St Johns & by force brought off [Mr. Callbeck who married N. [Cof]fins Daughter & Capt. Higgins [who married a Daughter of Job Princes.] Higgins had just arrived from [Europe & I believe had not been on shore –] Higgens told me [he expected to be released, with his Vessel & Cargo] immediately – Capt: Broaton may perhaps deserve censure for going counter to his orders, but I think in justice to ourselves we ought to seize every officer in the Service of Government wherever they may be found. for the propriety of this observation, we need only observe the Effects of our politeness to Lord Dunmore, & I am much mistaken if we don't soon see a Tryon i[m]mitating that malevolent genius . . .

It is [not] easy to conceive the advantag that wou'd instantly arise, upon a Continental Declaration of Independence. Many thousands of our Merchants & Mechanics who are now idle in the Country woud repair to the Sea Coast and begain a Commerce that must be constantly encreasing, a very numerous Body who are now a burthen upon the Community, woud be thrown into employment, the laws woud be rendered respectable & every one woud wear a cheerful Countenance. – As we may expect our Coast to swarm with Transports & Men of War next spring, I hope the Congress will take the precaution of having some ships of considerable force prepared to receive them. –

two or three Frigates of two & thirty Guns, woud be of incredible Service with such a naval force, we might venture among a fleet of Transports & perhaps captivate the greatest part of their mighty armament – shoud any thing of this kind be in agitation, I woud beg leave to mention Mr Natl Tracy is a Person every way qualified to undertake the building & fitting such vessels for the Sea. and I think his Zeal of Service to the Publick in providing transports for Collo Arnold's Expedition, without the least Consideration (tho' he advanced large sums of Money, which he has not yet received) may entitle him to some notice. but I presume you are too well acquainted with his Character & disposition, to need any thing I can say by way of Recommendation. –

I am under a necessity of omitting [man]y Matters which I wish to mention, but you may expect to be trouble[d] with a series of Letters, unless you forbid it in Season – please to accept in Return for your kind [endeavours] to promote my happiness & success in every [laudable pursui]t, the warmest wishes of my heart for yours I am Sir [&c.]

Benj^{a} Hichborn

1. Adams Papers, MassHS. Continuation of a letter begun November 25, Volume 2, 1128. Materials drawn from the Adams Papers at the Massachusetts Historical Society are copyrighted and printed by special permission of the Society.
2. Quoting a facetious paragraph in a letter from Benjamin Harrison to Washington.
3. James Drew was the First Lieutenant of H.M. Sloop *Scorpion*.

Stephen Moylan to William Bartlett [1]

Sir Cambridge Decr 10. 1775

Your agreeable favour to his Excellency, came last night to hand; It was very unlucky that the Captn of the ship [2] threw his papers overboard, he deserves to be severely punished, if It is true, that this was done after he was made a prize of, in any other war than the present, he would suffer death for such an action; But we must show him & such as fall into our hands, that Americans are humane as well as brave, you will therefore Sir, treat the prisoners with all possible Tenderness: there are on board the Vessell from Antigua, Two Gentn, passengers, Mr John Burke & Mr Gregory, the former is strongly recommended to our good friends in Boston, tho not friendly to American Liberty; he still has the Character of a Gentleman, as such, it is the Generals orders that he be treated, the other was board a man of war, you will offer these Gentlemen a parole agreable to the Inclosed Sketch, which I suppose they will not object to – If they should you must send them to Head Qutrs – The Captns & Crews of both Vessels had best remain with you and if you see fit, they may remain on board their Vessels, untill further Orders, but dont run the least risque of their doing mischeif by so many being together – If any way – apprehensive of them, Let them be sent to some Inland Town in your neighbourhood, recommended to the care of the Comittee of Safety who must provide them with necessaries for which they will be paid – Should they be disposed of in this last way Get the Captains to sign paroles for themselves & their crews, a Copy of which you will Transmit to the Committee of Safety to whose care they are sent, & mention to the Committee that they be treated with Humanity, there are Limes, Lemons & Oranges on board, which being perishable, you must sell Immediately, the General will want some of each, as well as of the sweetmeats & pickles, that are on board; as his Lady will be here to day or to morrow you will please to pick up such things on board as you think will be acceptable to her & send them as soon as possible – he does not mean to receive any thing without payment, which you will please to attend to –

The General is informed that the prizes are crouded with people from shore as well as those belonging to the Armd Schooners – It is his positive command that no person be Suffered to go on board any of them, the Officers & Agents excepted; That Embezzlements be particularly guarded against – If any should happen the Agents will be blamed & held accountable, so that you see the necessity of being Strict in enforcing this order, pray when are you to send the Porter &c We want it much – I am &c

S. M.

[1] Washington Papers, LC.

[2] William Foster, master of the ship *Jenny*.

STEPHEN MOYLAN TO WILLIAM BARTLETT [1]

Sir

[Cambridge] 10th Decr 1775

I wrote you this day to wch refer – the Cargo by the two prizes to be Laid up in a Secure place if you think the vessells are not Sufficient for that purpose – Capt [Winborn] Adams [2] will deliver you this, he Says he will take a Cruize while the Sails which he thinks absolutely necessary, are making. You will please to Let Such Sails as he wants, be put in hands imediatly, as we Cannot have too many armed vessells out – Give him every assistance in your power, he wants to change his Swivels & some of his guns do sir indulge him & Let him proceed to Sea I am Sir. [&c.]

[S] M

[1] Washington Papers, LC.

[2] Commander of Washington's armed schooner *Warren*.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES [1]

[Boston] 10 [December]

Today the Admiral sent to Mr Arbuthnot a Copy of the Intelligence, which he had received from Captain Hamilton at Quebec, and acquainted him that as that Intelligence had come to Boston, before he had opportunity of sending Orders for the *Somerset*s sailing, he had determined upon keeping her somewhat longer: that he had ordered the naval Contractors Agent, at Halifax, to supply a Quantity of Provisions for the Militia intended to be embodied to throw up Redoubts, Intrenchments &c, although he feared the Winter was too far advanced for such work and that the Labour already bestowed would be useless. And he wrote also to commodore Le Cras on the necessity for detaining the *Somerset*.

[1] Graves's Conduct, II, 15, BM.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN EDWARD LE CRAS, R.N., HALIFAX [1]

Sir

Preston Boston 10 Decr 1775.

I have received your Letters dated Octr 15, 25 & 28 and November 6. 9, 15 with their Inclosures giving me full and satisfactory Accounts of your Proceedings with his Majesty's Ships at Halifax up to the time of Commodore Arbuthnot's Arrival, who acquaints me that on Account of the defenceless State of the Garrison he had kept the *Somerset* until he received my further Orders.

I am extremely sorry to acquaint you that by Accounts very lately received from Captain Hamilton of his Majesty's Ship *Lizard* at Quebec I find St Johns hath surrendered, that Montreal must likewise fall, that the Rebels had 1500 men at Point Levi, and that it was expected they would soon invest Quebec; so rapid a Progress could only be made with the assistance of the perfidious Canadians, who doubtless will be equally desirous to put the Rebels in possession of the Province of Nova Scotia: and it is more probable they will now endeavour to seize the Kings Arsenal there than wait till the Spring when a strong reinforcement may render such an Attempt impracticable.

The present unpromising State of the Kings Affairs in the Province of Canada, the notoriety of the Disaffection of a Number of the Inhabitants of Nova Scotia, and the Danger with which his Majs Yard and Stores are threatened, will therefore not allow me to let the *Somerset* proceed to England at present, but you may depend upon being relieved whenever it is in my power. I am &c

Sam^{l} Graves

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[1] Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 109–10, BM.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Glasgow,* CAPTAIN TYRINGHAM HOWE [1]

Decembr 1775 Moor'd at Rhode Island

Sunday 10 Modt with some Snow at 2 A M sent all the Marines & some Seamen on board our Tender ½ past the *Bolton* & Tenders weigh'd & went to Cananicut ferry at 5 observ'd several houses on fire on Cananicut –

Modt & hazey at 1 P M Anchord here the Tenders & *Bolton* brigg from Cananicut ferrey with a quantity of Cattle & other Stock, Rd [Toles] (Marine) wounded –

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 51/398.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Rose,* CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE [1]

December 1775 Moor'd In Rhode Island Harbour

Sunday 10 Fresh breezes and Cloudy, A M at 4 landed 78 Men Arm'd on the Island of Connanicot to get off Stock P M at 1 Return'd our Officers and Men, 4 Marines wounded brought on board 8 Rebel Prisoners.

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 51/804.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Swan,* CAPTAIN JAMES AYSCOUGH [1]

[December 1775] Moor'd between Long Wharfe and the [Town of Newport]

Sundy 10th Modt Breezes and hazey weather Sent the Lieutenant and 1 Petty Officer on Board the Tender the Tenders of the Fleet with Marines and 50 Seamen & *Bolton* Arm'd Brigg, landed at Cona[ni]cut about 3 in the Morning to get Cattle was attack'd by a par[ty of] Rebels behind Stone wals &c Employd till Day light Attacking [the] Rebbels and Burning the houses & Driving the Cattle Sett one Torven in Flames – Breezes and Cloudy Wr Took Several Prisoners at 11 A M Returnd with 30 or 40 head of Cattle.

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 51/960.

Journal of H.M. Sloop *Viper*, Captain Samuel Graves [1]

Decr 1775 Do [Sandy Hook] No 25″00 Wt 89 Leagues

Sunday 3d Hard Gales & Squally at 1 P M Handed fore & Mizn topsails in Setting the Jib it split & lost most part of it housed the Lee guns found the Jib boom Sprung at 4 brought too the Chase a Snow from Dominica bound to New York the Gale Increasing handed the Courses and lay too under Main staysail a great sea shipped a great quantity of water Rolled 5 Shot out of the guns

Monday 4th Do

at 6 A M Wore ship ballanced the Mizon in Setting it blew all to pieces and went over board. Lay too as before lost out of the Guns Round Shot 2 Grape 1 First & Middle parts Do Wr at 9 P M Lowerd down the Lower yards Shipped several heavy seas

Tuesday 5th Do No. 22:00 Wt 100 Leagues

at 7 A M Sailmaker Empd Making a new Mizon at 8 sent the boat on board the snow which proved to be the *Chetsworth* sent on board our pilot and Ordered her to Boston Swayd up the Lower yards & set the Courses Light breezes & fair at 1 P M Set the topsls

Wednesday 6 Do No. 22:00 Wt 84 Leagues

at 7 A M out all reefs Sailmaker and all hands that can work Empd Making a new Mizon Fresh gales & squally at 2 P M Saw a sail Gave Chase at 10 Calm

Thursday 7 Do [Sandy Hook] 24″00 West 73 Leags

A M Still in Chase Sailmakers Empd as before at 10 brought too the Sloop *Two Brothers* from New London for Jamacia sent her to Boston Strong gales & squally at P M handed the fore & Mizen topsls.

Friday 8 Do No 35″00 W. 65 Leagues

at 1 A M handed Main topsail and foresail and lay too under Main Staysails. at 4 Saw a sail in the S E Qr at 8 More Modt gave Chase set fore sail fore & Main Topsls & bent the new Mizon First part Fresh breezes & Cloudy Middle & latter hard gales with a dangerous sea from the Wesd Handed the topsls lost sights of the Chase

Saturday 9 Do No 35″00 W 93 Leagues

at 10 A M brought too double reef the fore sail and handed it in setting the mizon staysail it blew all to pieces & went over board lay too under Main staysail shiped several very heavy seas at noon saw a large ship laying too under bare poles Hard gales & squally thick hazy Wr with rain at 1 P M Saw the Ship under sail made sail & gave Chace More Modt out reef topsls at 4 Fired 3 Shot and brought too the ship *Peggy* from Philadelphia sent the boat on board and brought the Supercargo Master & ships papers on board of us[2] the sea running so high could not exchange the men found our bowsprit sprung got the sprit sail & Jib boom in and got down the foretop Gallt mast made sail Carpenters Empd fishing the bowsprit but could not fish it Sufficently to Proceed to America the bowsprit being sprung from the Outer part of the gammoning to the heel

Sunday 10 Do [Sandy Hook] No 43″00 Wt 112 Leagues

at 6 A M found the fore topmast sprung in the cap reeft it at 7 less sea hoisted out a boat and sent a Lieut & ten Men on board the ship *Peggy* and took the people out of her the ship being leaky and short of water bore up for Antigua Sailmakers Empd making a new mizon staysail close reeft the foretopsail in 1st reef Main topsail & Mizen topsail at noon Ship in Company Mod: & Cloudy at 5 P M handed Mizon topsail Sailmakers Empd as before

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1. PRO, Admiralty 51/1039.
2. Samuel Davison, supercargo, and Charles Kirby, master. See Mifflin to Davison, December 2, 1775, Volume 2, 1236.

THOMAS JEFFERSON TO JOHN PAGE[1]

[Extract] [Philadelphia, ca. 10 December 1775]

One of our armed vessels has taken an English storeship coming with all the implements of war (except powder) to Boston. She is worth about £30,000 sterling as General Washington informs us, and the stores are adapted to his wants as perfectly as if he had sent the invoice.[2] They have also taken two small provision vessels from Ireland to Boston; a forty gun ship blew up the other day by accident in the harbor of Boston.[3] Of a certainty the hand of god is upon them.

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1. Julian P. Boyd, *et al.*, eds., *The Papers of Thomas Jefferson* (Princeton, 1950), I, 270–71. Hereafter cited as Boyd, ed., *Jefferson Papers*.
2. The brig *Nancy*.
3. Rumor transformed a transport carrying hay into a "forty gun ship."

COLONEL WILLIAM WOODFORD TO EDMUND PENDLETON[1]

[Extract] [Great Bridge, December 10, 1775]

A servant belonging to major Marshal, who deserted the other night from col. [Charles] Scott's party, has completely taken his lordship in. Lieutenant Batut, who is wounded, and at present my prisoner, informs, that this fellow told them not more than 300 shirtmen were here; and that imprudent man catched at the bait, despatching capt. Leslie with all the regulars (about 200) who arrived at the bridge about 3 o'clock in the morning, joined about 300 black and white slaves, laid planks upon the bridge, and crossed just after our reveille had beat; a lucky time for us, and you'll say rather an improper season for them to make their push, when, of course, all our men must be under arms. The above lieutenant commanded the advanced party, and capt. Fordyce of the grenadiers led the van with his company, who, for coolness and bravery, deserved a better fate, as well as the brave fellows who fell with him, who behaved like heroes. They marched up to our breastwork with fixed bayonets, and perhaps a hotter fire never happened, or a greater carnage, for the number of troops. None of the blacks, &c. in the rear, with capt. Leslie, advanced farther than the bridge.

I have the pleasure to inform you, that the victory was complete; and that most of their dead and wounded, with two pieces of cannon, were carried off under cover of their guns from the fort. We buried 12, besides the captain (him with all the military honours due to his rank) and have prisoners lieutenant Batut, and 16 privates; all wounded; 35 stands of arms and accoutrements, 3 officers [fusils], powder, ball, and cartridges, with sundry other things, have likewise fallen into our hands. This was a second Bunker's Hill affair, in miniature; with this difference, that we kept our post, and had only one man wounded in the hand.

1. Purdie's *Virginia Gazette*, December 15, 1775.

Journal of H.M. Sloop *Kingsfisher*, Captain James Montagu [1]

Decr 1775	Moored in Elizabeth River Virginia Abreast the Town of Norfolk
Thursday 8	Modt & fair P M sent the Marines & A party of Seamen to join the 14 Regt to March up [to] the Great Bridge
Friday 9	At 4 P M Departed this life of 11: Wounds Jn McDonald Marines
Saturday 10	The Marines & Sailors retd

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/506.

Colonel William Woodford to Edmund Pendleton [1]

[Extract] Great Bridge, December 10, 1775.

I must apologize for the hurry in which I wrote you yesterday, since which nothing of moment has happened but the abandoning of the fort by the enemy. We have taken possession of it this morning, and found therein the stores mentioned in the enclosed list, to wit, 7 guns, 4 of them sorry, 1 bayonet, 29 spades, 2 shovels, 6 cannon, a few shot, some bedding, a part of a hogshead of rum, two or more barrels, the contents unknown, but supposed to be rum, 2 barrels of bread, about 20 quarters of beef, half a box of candles, 4 or 5 dozen of quart bottles, 4 or 5 iron pots, a few axes and old lumber; the spikes, I find, cannot be got out of the cannon without drilling.

From the vast effusion of blood on the bridge, and in the fort, from the accounts of the sentries, who saw many bodies carried out of the fort to be interred, and other circumstances, I conceive their loss to be much greater than I thought it yesterday, and the victory to be complete. I have received no late information from Norfolk or Princess Anne, nor yet fixed on a plan of improving this advantage. I have despatched scouting parties, and from their intelligence shall regulate my future operations.

Enclosed is an inventory of the arms, &c. taken yesterday, to wit, 2 silver mounted [fusils] with bayonets, 1 steel do. without bayonet, 24 well fixed muskets with bayonets, 6 muskets without bayonets, 28 cartouch Boxes and pouches; 3 silver mounted cartouch boxes, 2 cannon do. 26 bayonet belts, 27 caps, 2 hats, 1 barrel with powder and cartridges, 1 silk handkerchief with linen in it, 2 watches, cash 12s.6d. 1 pair of gloves, 4 stocks and buckles, 1 pair of silver shoebuckles, 3 pair of silver kneebuckles, 2 snuff boxes, 10 knives, 1 barrel with ball and oakum, 12 coats, 12 waistcoats, 11 pair of shoes, 12 pair of ga[i]ters, 1 pair of breeches, 1 shirt, 1 pair of stockings, a parcel of old knee buckles, a parcel of old buttons, and a black handerchief. The arms I shall retain for the use of the army; the other articles I shall dispose of at vendue, and apply the money arising from the sale in such manner as the Convention shall be pleased to direct.

Lieutenant Battit [Batut], having an inclination to inform the King's troops of the humane treatment he has met with here, I despatched Ensign [Benjamin] Hoomes with a flag of truce, who returned with the enclosed answer from the commander of the fort, viz: "Captain Leslie presents his compliments to Mr. Battit, and returns Colonel Woodford his sincere thanks for his kind treatment of the prisoners. He is happy Mr. Battit's wound is so slight, but is extremely sorry for the loss of poor [Charles] Fordyce."

The unfortunate Capt. Fordyce was a Captain of the grenadiers, of the 14th regiment; most of the soldiers were grenadiers of that regiment. As the Captain was a gallant and brave officer, I promised to inter him with all the military honours due to his great merit, which I hope will meet with the approbation of the Hon. Convention.

About 250 Carolina men are arrived under the command of Col. [*sic* Captain Edward] Vail; they are composed of regulars, minute-men, militia, and volunteers, and have brought with them 6 cannon. I have received no certain account of Col. [Robert] Howe, where he is, what number of force he commands, how armed and provided, or when or where he intends to join us.

I shall pay a due regard to the reinforcements you mention, and the establishment of the posts. I am just informed by Lieut. Battit that a servant of Major Marshall, who was in the party with Colonel [Charles] Scott, and deserted, informed Lord Dunmore that not more than 300 shirtmen were here: That imprudent man caught at the bait, and dispatched Capt. Leslie with all the regulars, who arrived at the fort about 4 in the morning.

I have enclosed the Honourable the Convention a general return of the forces under my command, also a list of sick and wounded. It is my wish to have orders for what is to be done with the wounded prisoners when able to travel. I recollect nothing more to add at present, than that I am, [&c.]

1. Dixon and Hunter's *Virginia Gazette,* December 16, 1775. A shortened version of Woodford letter is in VSL.

Minutes of the South Carolina Council of Safety [1]

In the Council of Safety [Charleston],
Sunday, Dec 10th, 1775.

Mr. President reported the very critical situation he observed the *Comet* armed brigantine to be in.

The Council having received information, that Messrs. Samuel and Benjamin Legare had last night, from the house of Lord William Campbell, seized and carried away a chariot and horses belonging to his lordship.

Ordered, That Messrs. Samuel and Benjamin Legare do attend the Council immediately.

Attended accordingly. They declared that they had made the seizure, in consequence of Lord William having unjustly detained a considerable sum of money, their property, taken by the officers of the king's ships in Rebellion Road, from on board the sloop *Thomas and Stafford,* Solomon Gibbs, master, bound to this port from St. Kitts, and signed [*sic* seized] by the said officers on the entrance of the said sloop into the road.

The impropriety of their conduct being represented to them, they were desired to withdraw.

The Council then came to the following resolution:

The Council having been informed, that a seizure was last night made upon a certain chariot and four horses, the property of Lord William Campbell, summoned the parties accused to appear before them, and having heard and considered the reasons offered in justification of the act, have

Resolved, That such seizure was unauthorized, illegal and irregular; and do therefore order that the said chariot and horses be immediately restored and replaced.

Ordered, That Mr. Winyard, one of the messengers of the Council, do see the above order carried into execution; and that a copy hereof be properly directed to the Right Hon. Lady Wm. Campbell, sealed up and delivered to her ladyship by Mr. Winyard.

Messrs. Legare being called in again, and acquainted with the foregoing resolve and order, they readily acquiesced with the order to restore the effects seized. They were then told, that for any such injury, as stated, having been received, application ought to have been made by memorial to this board, to the end that redress if to be had, should be obtained by public authority.

Ordered, That the powder-receiver do deliver two hundred pounds weight of gun powder out of the public magazine, to the order of Col. Moultrie, for the use of Fort Johnson.

Ordered, That Mr. Fenwick Bull be desired to attend this board immediately.

Mr. Bull attended accordingly, and gave a particular account of the conversation which he said had passed between him, (as a notary) Lord Wm. Campbell, and the captains of the three sloops of war in the road, relative to Messrs. Legare's money, and the sloops *Thomas and Stafford,* and *Hetty,* and the cargo of the latter, lately seized there. Among other things, he declared, that Capt. [John] Tollemache did not deny having some of our negroes on board, but said they came as freemen, and demanding protection; that he could have had near five hundred, who had offered; that we were all in actual rebellion, and he had orders to distress America by every means in his power; that had his advice been taken, Fort Johnson should have been attacked on the day of his arrival, if the attack had cost fifty men, and this town should have been laid in ashes; but that it would surely be destroyed; and that, upon his honor, he soon expected two frigates and a bomb to arrive here; that he avowed the seizure of Messrs. Legare's money, but said it had been delivered to Lord William Campbell, whose receipt he had for it, although Lord William had declared to him (F.Bull) that he had nothing to do with the money, or with other seizures, or in the affairs of the negroes.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society,* III, 73–76.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SCHOONER *St. Lawrence,* LIEUTENANT JOHN GRAVES [1]

Decbr 1775 in St Johns River East Florida

Sunday 10 Salluted Governor Tonyn with 13 guns on his leaving the Indien Congress Came on Board an officer and a party of the fourteenth Re[get] at 4 P M weigh'd and came to sail down the River at 9 came too off Reeddy point and at 10 weighd and came to sail.[2]

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4330.
2. *Ibid.,* the *St. Lawrence* put the troops ashore at St. Augustine on December 18, 1775, and remained in that port until the end of the year.

REAR ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON TO PHILIP STEPHENS [1]

[Extract] *Antelope,* Jamaica 10th December 1775

Sir/ I beg leave to acquaint you, that I have received, both their Lordships orders, respecting Stationing Cruizers, to intercept & Seize, such North American Vessells, as might be found, to have any Arms, Ammunition, or any Contraband Goods onboard, or belong[in]g to the twelve Rebellious Colonies, or Owned by the inhabitants thereof, under certain restrictions. The first bearing date, the 11th August, I received by [a] Merchant Ship, the 24th of November, the Latter, of the 2nd September, I received by the Pacquet, the [ ] of November, likewise a Letter, from you in Addition, [to] these Orders, respecting the Dissposal of the Men, belonging to such Ships & Vessells as might be Seized and Detained, under the abovementioned Circumstances.

I beg leave to inform their Lordships, that immediately upon the receipt of them, I order'd Captain Douglas of the *Squirrel,* & Captain Gardner, of the *Maidstone,* [to] compleat for Sea, and the 1st instant, they Sail'd, from thence, the *Squirrel* I have Station'd at the Little Caicos's, and the *Maidstone,* at Henneaga, or Inauga Island, and inclose their Lordships, a Copy of my Orders, to their Captains, which I hope, will meet, with their Approbation –

In my Letter, of the 7th Novr I mention'd to their Lordships, my Doubts, with respect to the *Ferret* Sloop, and am sorry to confirm them as the *Pensacola Pacquet* arrived here, the 12th Novr, left Pensacola, the beginning of September, & then nothing had been heard of the *Ferret,* since her Sailing in August – Had she been cast away, on [the] Coast of Carolina, & any of the People saved, I must have heard of it, long since, as we have had a Number of Vessells arrived, but no Account of her.

In my last Letter, I took the Liberty, of laying before their Lordships, the Utility, that a Couple of Arm'd Schooners, would be, on this Station and since I have received their Directions, respecting Seizing the North American Vessells, carrying on a Contraband Trade, I am convinced, they would still be of greater use, as I have Intelligence, which may be depended on, that a Number, of these

Vessels resort to the Island of Curasoa, where they take [in] large Quantitys of Arms, & Amunition, which [they] carry to America – Had, I any of these Vessells, under my Command, I could Station one of them, to Cruize this Island, to intercept them –

The *Antelope* remains at Port Roy[al.] I am, with respect Sir [&c.]

Clark Gayton

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240. Stephens was Secretary of the British Admiralty.

11 Dec.

WILLIAM BARTLETT TO GEORGE WASHINGTON [1]

Sir Beverly 11th Decer 1775

I beg Leave to inclose your Excellency the Petition of the Committe of Corrispondence of this Town where they set fourth the sutiation of it in a Very Clear Light & Pray Your Excellency would hear and Answer the same, if you in your Great Wisdom think it Necessary.

Those Valuable Prizes brought in here are much Exposed as we have nothing to Defend them with – Our Harbour is as safe as any can be, where there is water sufficient to bring in such Vessels.

Our Forts & Brest Works, built at the Towns Expence, would not Only Protect the Prizes but the Town if we had Guns and Amunition to put in them Therefore Pray your Excellency would hear the Petition not Only for the Releif of the Town but to Preserve that interest now belonging to the Continent.

And am with the Gratest Respect Your Excellencys [&c.]

William Bartlett

1. Washington Papers, LC.

BEVERLY COMMITTEE OF CORRESPONDENCE TO GEORGE WASHINGTON [1]

Beverly Decebr 11th 1775 –

May it Please Your Exelency. The Petition of us the Subscribers Humbly Sheweth That as the Highhand of minesterael Creuelty hath brought us in to a most unnatural War with our mother Country by which means the Town of Beverly is much Exsposed to their most unnatural Savage Like Creuelty – the Town Lying more then four miles on the Sea coast and a grate part of that way Conveiniant for Landing, the Inhabitents of this Town with the assistance of Some of the Neighbouring Towns have thrown up Brestworks in Several of the most advantagiouss places within the Same and have no Cannon or Ammunition Or next a kin to none to Support them with, and what renders us more obnoxtious to their unnatural Creualty and Vengence is that the Contenental Privaters and others make this Harbour their Place of randevoze and have of Late Brought into this Harbour a Number of very Valluable Prizes, which we think are very much Exsposed to the Enemy as also the Town in General Therefore your Petitioners Humbly Pray that Your Exelency whould be graciously Pleased to give us Sum releaf under our most Difucalt and Destressed Surcomstances and Let us have if you in your Wisdom think Best Two Nine pounder or one Twelve pounder with a Suitable quanety of Ammunition for the same and those Two Six pounder and ½ barrel of powder and about 20 balls on board of the Ship *Janne* [*Jenny*] and those Two Small peaces of Cannon brought in on board the Brig *Hannah* togather with ½ barrel of Powder Said to be on bord, which Vessels ware Brought into this Harbour by Capt Manly, and also for Sum Shot for the abovesaid Small Cannon which will we think Contrebute much to the Safty of the Interest of the united Colonies as also of this Town in Peticuler and will be Greatfully received by your Most Humbl & Obediant Servents

Caleb Dodge Nathan Leech
Joseph Rea Livermore Whittredge
Joseph Wood

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1. Washington Papers, LC.

William Bartlett to George Washington [1]

Sir Beverly 11th Decer 1775

I acknolidge the Favour of yours of this date concerning the Ship *Concords* Cargo and shall forward it to Head Quts as fast as possible but the Roads being Very bad the Teamers think the Price Stipulated by Our General Court not sufficient Desire your Excellency would inform me weather you will allow them any more or not The Porter togeather with the Other Articles mentioned by your Excellency I shall forward the first warm Day

One favour I would beg of your Excellency concerning Capt Lawry [James Lowrie] of the Ship *Concord* as his Circumstances is Low he Desires He may if your Excellency thinks Proper Tarry at Salem as his Expences will be Lessen'd by it I think him to be a man of Honour and Can be depended on in Hart

I am with the Greatest Esteem Your Excellencys [&c.]

William Bartlett

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1. Washington Papers, LC.

George Washington to John Hancock [1]

[Extract] Cambridge 11th of Decr 1775.

Sir Captain Manly of the *Lee* Armed Schooner has taken & sent into Beverly Two prizes since I wrote you last, which was the 7 Inst, one of them is the Ship *Jenny* Capt Forster who left London late in October, he has very unfortunately thrown all his papers overboard, is not yet arrived at Camp, If he does, before I close this, I will let you know what Information I get from him, his Vessell is loaded with Coal & porter, of the latter he has about 100 Butts – The Other is a Brigantine from Antigua, called the *Little Hannah,* Robert Adams Master, her Cargo consists of 139 Hogsheads of Rum 100 Cases of Geneva & some other trifling Articles, both Cargoes were for the Army & Navy at Boston – I have great pleasure in congratulating you on this Success [2] –

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1. Washington Papers, LC.
2. Extract of a letter from Cambridge, December 11, 1775: "Two more vessels taken; one with coals and 50 buts of porter, his Majesty's present to the soldiers; the other with rum, fruit, &c. a present from the Tories to General Gage," *Pennsylvania Packet,* December 25, 1775. A further account is to be found in another letter of this date from William Tudor to John Adams. Adams Papers, MassHS.

Pennsylvania Evening Post, Thursday, December 21, 1775

Advices from Cambridge of the 11th instant [December] are, That all the stores taken out of the ordnance ship had been brought safe to the Camp [1] . . . That Captain Coit, in an armed schooner of the United Colonies, lately chased a transport within a mile of the light-house, in Boston bay, when the crew cut all her rigging and took to their boat; upon which Coit boarded her, but finding he could not carry her off, he set her on fire and got on board his schooner; by this time a forty gun ship, which was stationed near the light-house, had got so near him as to make the grape shot whistle about his ears, but she stopping to extinguish the fire, Coit hoisted all sail and made off; she chased him about four hours, but finding it in vain, at length put about and stood back – [2]

[1] The brig *Nancy.*

[2] Coit's deed is related in numerous accounts. British admiration for the exploit is shown in the letter of General William Howe to Lord Dartmouth, November 27, Volume 2, 1155–56.

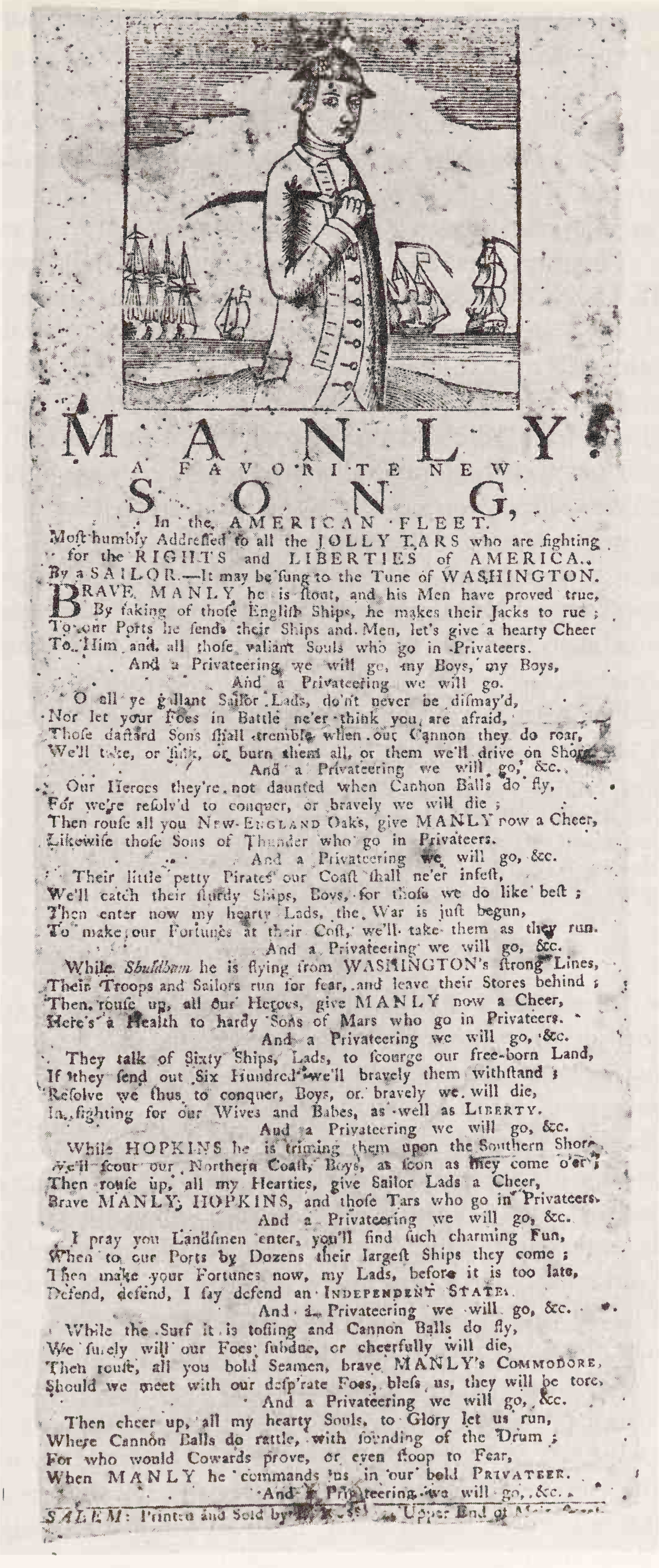
Boston Gazette, Monday, December 11, 1775

Watertown, Dec. 11.

It is reported that the Piratical Gentry and military Butchers in the Town of Boston, not relishing Salt Provisions, which are too good for them, are equipping Men of war Schooners with Hay, wood &c. on their Decks, to decoy our Privateers, but their little Arts, like themselves, are of no consequence; it is to be hoped we shall have opportunity to convince them that the Provision Vessels we have already Capt[e]d will be but the beginning of sorrow to them, in the comfortable Prospect of a long cold winter: – From such events, should they experience keen appetites, and have nothing to eat, we should acquiesce in Providence: for as they have proved themselves to have no souls, there is no need of concern for their worthless carcases. But we shall not be regardless of their arm'd schooners, and have no objection to the taking them, whenever they shall see fit to come in our way.

We have just received certain Intelligence, that on Saturday last [December 9] Capt. Manley of the *Lee* Privateer, took and carried into Beverly a large Ship of 300 Tons Burthen (mounted with two double fortified 6 Pounders, and 6 Blunderbusses with 18 Men before the Mast, bound from London for the Ministerial Army at Boston, laden with Coals, and provisions consisting chiefly of Porter, Cheese and 40 live Hogs, 30 more having died on the passage. Although Fuel and the above articles are no rarity to the Army of the United Colonies; yet so far as they are distressing to their Enemies, so far it must be acknowledged they are an Advantage to us – The above Ship had 7 Weeks Passage, and bro't Papers to 16th of October, which, together with the Letters, we are informed, the Captain hove over board after he was taken.[1]

The same Day Capt. Manley also took and carried in there, a Brig of about 150 Tons Burthen, bound from Antigua for Boston, (consign'd to one Brimer, for the Use of the Ministerial Navy) laden with about 130 Puncheons of Rum, besides 100 Cases of Gin, some Cocoa, Sugar, and a Case of Oranges, to please the delicate Appetite of my Lord HOW! – Which however may possibly be more



MANLY!

A FAVORITE NEW SONG,

In the AMERICAN FLEET.

Moſt humbly Addreſſed to all the JOLLY TARS who are fighting for the RIGHTS and LIBERTIES of AMERICA.

By a SAILOR.—It may be ſung to the Tune of WASHINGTON.

BRAVE MANLY he is ſtout, and his Men have proved true,
By taking of thoſe Engliſh Ships, he makes their Jacks to rue;
To our Ports he ſends their Ships and Men, let's give a hearty Cheer
To Him and all thoſe valiant Souls who go in Privateers.
And a Privateering we will go, my Boys, my Boys,
And a Privateering we will go.
O all ye gallant Sailor Lads, do'nt never be diſmay'd,
Nor let your Foes in Battle ne'er think you are afraid,
Thoſe daſtard Sons ſhall tremble when our Cannon they do roar,
We'll take, or ſink, or burn them all, or them we'll drive on Shore.
And a Privateering we will go, &c.
Our Heroes they're not daunted when Cannon Balls do fly,
For we're reſolv'd to conquer, or bravely we will die;
Then rouſe all you New-England Oaks, give MANLY now a Cheer,
Likewiſe thoſe Sons of Thunder who go in Privateers.
And a Privateering we will go, &c.
Their little petty Pirates our Coaſt ſhall ne'er infeſt,
We'll catch their ſturdy Ships, Boys, for thoſe we do like beſt;
Then enter now my hearty Lads, the War is juſt begun,
To make our Fortunes at their Coſt, we'll take them as they run.
And a Privateering we will go, &c.
While *Shuldham* he is flying from WASHINGTON's ſtrong Lines,
Their Troops and Sailors run for fear, and leave their Stores behind;
Then rouſe up, all our Heroes, give MANLY now a Cheer,
Here's a Health to hardy Sons of Mars who go in Privateers.
And a Privateering we will go, &c.
They talk of Sixty Ships, Lads, to ſcourge our free-born Land,
If they ſend out Six Hundred we'll bravely them withſtand;
Reſolve we thus to conquer, Boys, or bravely we will die,
In fighting for our Wives and Babes, as well as LIBERTY.
And a Privateering we will go, &c.
While HOPKINS he is triming them upon the Southern Shore,
We'll ſcour our Northern Coaſt, Boys, as ſoon as they come o'er;
Then rouſe up, all my Hearties, give Sailor Lads a Cheer,
Brave MANLY, HOPKINS, and thoſe Tars who go in Privateers.
And a Privateering we will go, &c.
I pray you Landſmen enter, you'll find ſuch charming Fun,
When to our Ports by Dozens their largeſt Ships they come;
Then make your Fortunes now, my Lads, before it is too late,
Defend, defend, I ſay defend an INDEPENDENT STATE.
And a Privateering we will go, &c.
While the Surf it is toſſing and Cannon Balls do fly,
We ſurely will our Foes ſubdue, or cheerfully will die,
Then rouſe, all you bold Seamen, brave MANLY's COMMODORE,
Should we meet with our deſp'rate Foes, bleſs us, they will be tore,
And a Privateering we will go, &c.
Then cheer up, all my hearty Souls, to Glory let us run,
Where Cannon Balls do rattle, with ſounding of the Drum;
For who would Cowards prove, or even ſtoop to Fear,
When MANLY he commands us in our bold PRIVATEER.
And a Privateering we will go, &c.

SALEM: Printed and Sold by [illegible] Upper End of [illegible]

Woodcut of Captain John Manley appears with the song, 1776.

acceptable to our Army than any other Provision, saving a further Mess or two for the Congress, – which has not a very craving Appetite.[2]

On Wednesday morning the 29th of November, Capt. Manley, in the *Lee* privateer, in the service of the United Colonies, carried into Cape Ann a large brig called the *Nancy,* which he took off that place, bound from London to Boston.

[Here is inserted a list of the ordnance stores captured.] [3]

The principal part of the above most valuable cargo is already brought to Cambridge. The mortar is fixed on its bed before the Continental Labatory. It is called THE CONGRESS: – and is pronounced to be the noblest piece of ordnance ever landed in America. Indeed the acquisition of it *at this juncture* renders the value of it almost inestimable.

Last Saturday sen'night [December 2] a ship from Scotland, bound to Boston, laden with about 350 chaldrons of coal, and a quantity of bale goods, taken by Capt. Manley, was carried into Salem. She is about two hundred tons burthen, and is almost a new ship.[4]

Several vessels, loaded with fuel, provisions of various kinds &c. bound to Boston, have been carried into Salem and Beverly, within a few days past. One of them was a sloop of about 60 tons, armed with 4 swivels, had seven men on board, and was taken by a two mast boat, with the like number of swivels, without making any resistance.

Last week a privateer from Plymouth, took several small craft bound to Boston, with provision and fuel.

1. The ship *Jenny,* William Foster, master.
2. The brig *Little Hannah,* Robert Adams, master.
3. For complete inventory submitted to the Continental Congress see the *Pennsylvania Evening Post,* December 12, 1775.
4. The ship *Concord,* James Lowrie, master.

An Opinion on the Burning of Falmouth [1]

1st. The inconsistency of fitting out privateers at a great expence to intercept ships laden with provisions for the enemy and at the same time recommending it to each particular sea port town to furnish, at least not to prevent them from furnishing the men of war with all provision and necessaries, is so manifest that it would be idle to dwell upon it.

2nd. If it be said that it is prudent by this act of compliance to save the towns from cannonade, it may be answered, the men of war will certainly make further demands, and on the same principles their demands must be complied with.

3d. Is it not reasonable to suppose when the ministerial instruments reap such fruits from their menaces that they will [point out to their masters the] weak parts of America, and consequently that they will be encouraged to persist in [their plan?]

4th. Is it not probable, or almost certain, [if one] town bids them defiance, that the rest would be ashamed not to follow the example! and *vice versa,* if the sanction of the congress is given to any degree of compliance and submission to their terms, is it not probable that some one town will avail its self of the sa[nc]tion, and extend their complacency in proportion to the magnitude of their threats?

that another and another will plead precedent, and thus ultimately the enemy will be enabled by our own assistance to continue the war to our destruction.

5th. Is it not certain that if once the spirit prevails of denying every kind of refreshment to the ships of war, they cannot possibly keep their station, that disease and desertions of the crews wou'd in a short time unman the fleet, and consequently the distresses of America be brought to a speedy issue? but if it becomes an established rule to furnish the ships with necessaries, may not the war and distresses of America be prolonged *ad infinitum*.

6th. Is it in fact a clear case that ships of war can, with so great facility, destroy sea port towns? if indeed they have force sufficient to land they may effect this destruction.* but those who suppose it can be done by dint of cannonade, must be very little acquainted with the effect of cannon.# Cannon make a formidable noise to ears unused to the sound, but towns will receive inconsiderable damage from the utmost fury of any ships of war which can come into our harbours.

But, in our present circumstances (taking it for granted that ships and cannon can work all this mischief) is it not necessary to inculcate the principle of making partial sacrifices for the general good? for if this principle is not established, could a poor defenceless town be censured for submission to any terms which their lords may chuse to dictate?

Would any circumstance so effectually reduce the ministry to despair, as shewing an indifference about the existence or destruction of our towns?

*They effected the burning of Falmouth, a wooden Town, partly by landing Marines.

#[This is d]emonstrated by the little damage ge[nerally sustai]ned by cities during a seige, and the [small] proportion of buildings burnt when the siege [is ov]er.

[1] *Boston Gazette,* Watertown, December 11, 1775.

JAMES WARREN TO JOHN ADAMS [1]

[Extract] Watertown, December 11th 177[5]

. . . Several Prizes have been taken in the week past, & among the rest a fine Ship from London, with coal, Porter Cheese Live Hoggs &c &c and a large Brigt from Antigua with Rum Sugar &c all the Country are now Engaged in prepareing to make salt Petre fixing Privateers, or Reinforceing the army. I suppose if the weather had been favourable 12 or 13 Privateers would have been at Sea this Day in quest of 7 sail of Ships which came out with this Prize & had similar Cargoes. Commissions are makeing out for 2 Privateers from Salem two from Newberry Port one of them to Mount 16 Guns.[2] I hear one is fixing at Plymo & one at Barnstable. it will be in the power of the Congress another Year to Command the American Sea. we have here great Numbers of fine Vessels & Seamen in Abundance . . .

it is reported from Boston that they have taken one of our Privateers I fear it is true—

it is [true they have] indeed got one of our [privateers, the] Brigt the Genl fixed from Plymo she [torn] double fortified six pounders, abt 20 swivels [torn] we dont know who took her, or any [more] abt it Tis supposed she made a stout [resistance as] much fireing was heard in the Bay.[3]

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1. Adams Papers, MassHS.
2. During December 1775, five privateers were commissioned by the Massachusetts General Court: the schooners *Boston Revenge* and *Dolphin* from Salem; *Washington* from Newburyport; *General Ward* from Gloucester; and the sloop *Gamecock* from Newburyport.
3. The armed brig *Washington* of Washington's fleet was captured by H.M.S. *Fowey,* December 4, 1775. See the journal of H.M.S. *Fowey,* December 4–5, Volume 2, 1288.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES [1]

[Watertown] Monday, December 11, 1775.

Resolved, That there be paid out of the Colony Treasury, unto Ebenezer Beal, of Machias, the Sum of Sixteen Pounds, in full for his Loss of Time six Months and his Boarding,[2]

The Committee on an Extract from a Letter from a Member of this Colony at the Continental Congress,[3] reported. Read and accepted.

Resolved, That it be, and it hereby is strongly recommended to the Committee of Correspondence and Safety of the Town of [blank], and in Case of a Deficiency of both said Committees, to the Selectmen of said Town, that they cause to be made to this Court a true Return of the Number of Men in said Town, who are desirous of inlisting, and fit for Marines, or Seamen on board of armed Vessels, either in the Pay of the Continent or of this Colony, or of private Adventurers, who shall fix out said Vessels; also the Names of such Persons as are desirous of entering the Service aforesaid, and are qualified for Commanders or other Officers: Likewise the Ships, Brigantines, Schooners or Sloops in said Town, suitable for armed Vessels, which are to be sold or hired out; to whom they respectively belong; what their Tonage; the Depth of Water they draw; their Breadth; their Decks; and what their Age. And that said Return be made, agreeable to the Schedule herewith sent them, and without Delay lodged in the Secretary's Office.

Resolved, That the foregoing Resolve be printed, and sent to the several Maritime Towns in this Colony, with a special Direction to each of the said Towns, by filling up the Blank in the same, with the Name of each Town, to which it shall be sent.

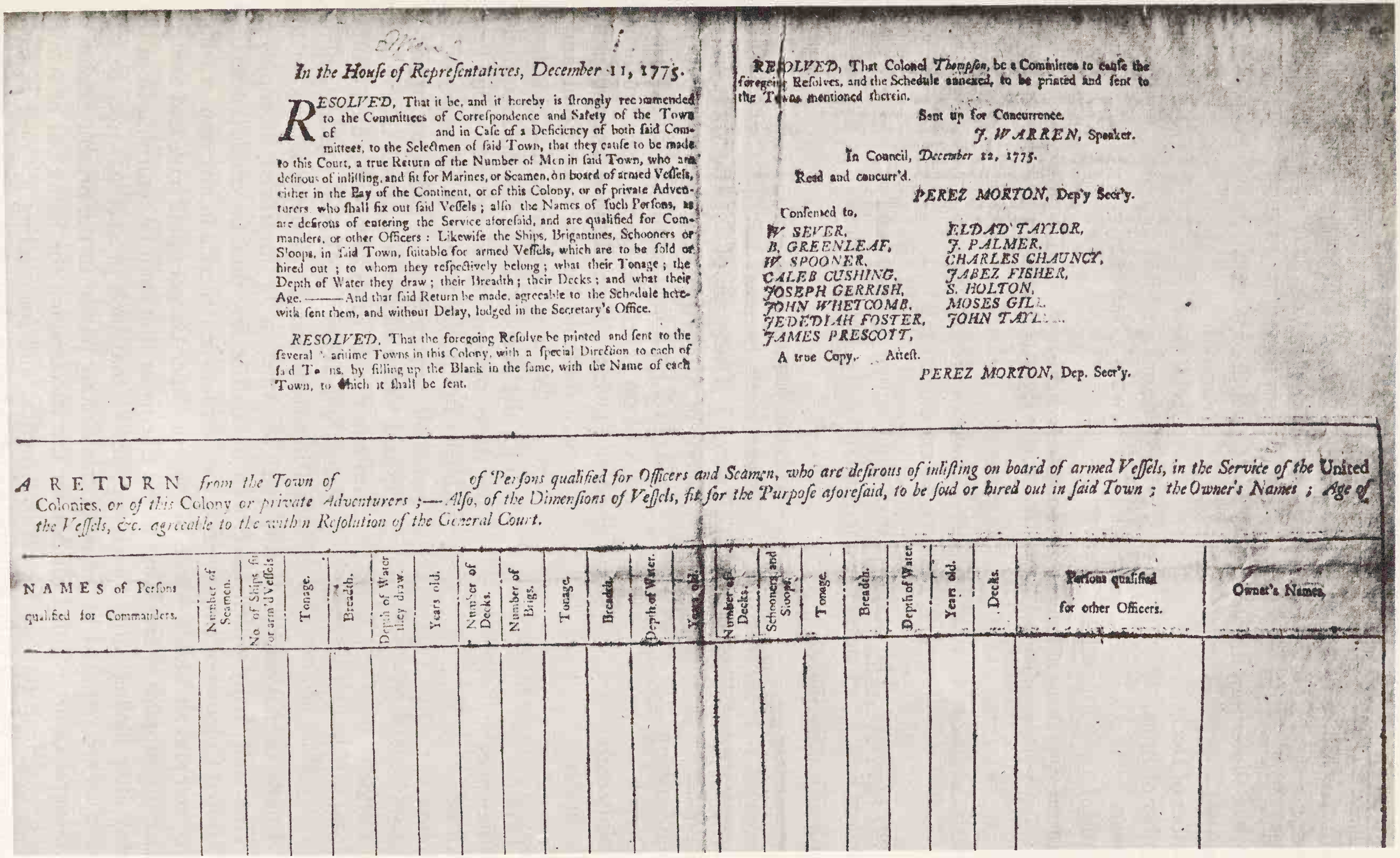
Resolved, That Colo [Samuel] Thompson, be a Committee to cause the foregoing Resolves, and the Schedule annexed, to be printed and sent to the Towns mentioned therein.

[Schedule annexed]

A Return from the Town of [blank] of Persons qualified for Officers and Seamen who are desirous of inlisting on board of armed Vessels in the service of the United Colonies, or of this Colony, or private Adventurers; – Also, of the Dimensions of Vessels fit for the Purpose aforesaid, to be sold or hired out of said Town; the Owner's Names; Age of the Vessel, &c. agreeable to the within Resolution of the General Court.

Names of Persons qualified for Commanders.
Number of seamen.

Depth of Water.
Years old.
Number of Decks.



In the Houſe of Repreſentatives, December 11, 1775.

RESOLVED, That it be, and it hereby is ſtrongly recommended to the Committees of Correſpondence and Safety of the Town of and in Caſe of a Deficiency of both ſaid Committees, to the Selectmen of ſaid Town, that they cauſe to be made to this Court, a true Return of the Number of Men in ſaid Town, who are deſirous of inliſting, and fit for Marines, or Seamen, on board of armed Veſſels, either in the Pay of the Continent, or of this Colony, or of private Adventurers who ſhall fix out ſaid Veſſels; alſo the Names of ſuch Perſons, as are deſirous of entering the Service aforeſaid, and are qualified for Commanders, or other Officers: Likewiſe the Ships, Brigantines, Schooners or Sloops, in ſaid Town, ſuitable for armed Veſſels, which are to be ſold or hired out; to whom they reſpectively belong; what their Tonage; the Depth of Water they draw; their Breadth; their Decks; and what their Age.——And that ſaid Return be made, agreeable to the Schedule herewith ſent them, and without Delay, lodged in the Secretary's Office.

RESOLVED, That the foregoing Reſolve be printed and ſent to the ſeveral Maritime Towns in this Colony, with a ſpecial Direction to each of ſaid Towns, by filling up the Blank in the ſame, with the Name of each Town, to which it ſhall be ſent.

RESOLVED, That Colonel *Thompſon*, be a Committee to cauſe the foregoing Reſolves, and the Schedule annexed, to be printed and ſent to the Towns mentioned therein.

Sent up for Concurrence.

J. WARREN, Speaker.

In Council, *December* 12, 1775.

Read and concurr'd.

PEREZ MORTON, Dep'y Secr'y.

Conſented to,

W. SEVER,	*ELDAD TAYLOR,*
B. GREENLEAF,	*J. PALMER,*
W. SPOONER,	*CHARLES CHAUNCY,*
CALEB CUSHING,	*JABEZ FISHER,*
JOSEPH GERRISH,	*S. HOLTON,*
JOHN WHETCOMB,	*MOSES GILL,*
JEDEDIAH FOSTER,	*JOHN TAYL*
JAMES PRESCOTT,	

A true Copy. Atteſt.

PEREZ MORTON, Dep. Secr'y.

A RETURN *from the Town of* *of Perſons qualified for Officers and Seamen, who are deſirous of inliſting on board of armed Veſſels, in the Service of the* United Colonies, *or of this* Colony *or private Adventurers;—Alſo, of the Dimenſions of Veſſels, fit for the Purpoſe aforeſaid, to be ſold or hired out in ſaid Town; the Owner's Names; Age of the Veſſels, &c. agreeable to the within Reſolution of the General Court.*

NAMES of Perſons qualified for Commanders.	Number of Seamen.	No. of Ships fit for arm'd Veſſels	Tonage.	Breadth.	Depth of Water they draw.	Years old.	Number of Decks.	Number of Brigs.	Tonage.	Breadth.	Depth of Water.	Years old.	Number of Decks.	Schooners and Sloops.	Tonage.	Breadth.	Depth of Water.	Years old.	Decks.	Perſons qualified for other Officers.	Owner's Names.

Form for towns to report on the availability of seamen and vessels suitable for arming, 1775.

Number of Ships fit for arm'd Vessels.
Tonage.
Breadth.
Depth of Water they draw.
Years old.
Number of Decks.
Number of Brigs.
Tonage.
Breadth.
Schooners and Sloops.
Tonage.
Breadth.
Depth of Water.
Years old.
Decks.
Persons qualified for other Officers.
Owner's Names.

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1. Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch.
2. For Beal petition see Journal of the Massachusetts House of Representatives, December 9, 1775.
3. See Journal of December 9, 1775.

COMMISSION OF CAPTAIN PETER ROBERTS TO COMMAND MASSACHUSETTS PRIVATE SLOOP *Gamecock* [1]

Colony of the Massatts Bay } The major part of the Council of the Massachusetts in New England – To Peter Roberts.

Gentlemen Greeting;

W.Sever
B.Greenleaf.
W.Spooner
Caleb.Cushing
Jh Gerrish
Jn Whitcomb
Jedh Foster
Js Prescott
Ed Taylor
Cs Chawncey
J.Palmer
S.Nolton
J.Fisher
Jno Taylor
B.White

Whereas Jonathan Titcomb, Tristram Dalton Mosses Little Stephen & Ralph Cross Jackson Tracy, J Tracy all of Newburyport in the Colony of Afores'd have at their own Expence fixed out & Equipped for the Defence of America a Sloop called the *Game Cock* burthened about Twenty Tone & have recommended you as a Suitable Person to be Commander thereof – We have thought fit to Commission you for the purpose afores'd & do accordingly by these presents give you the said Peter Roberts full power with such other persons as you shall engage to your assistance to sail in the said Vessel on the Seas attack take & bring into any Port in this Colony all armed & other Vessels which shall be found making unlawfull invasions attacks or depredations on the Sea Coasts or navigation of any part of America or improved in supplying the Fleet and Army which have been or shall at any time be employed against the United Colonies or employed by the Enemies of America in any respect whatsoever and also all Vessels whose Masters or Super-Cargoes shall have had Designs of carrying supplies of any Kind to the Enemy or that shall be returning from the Enemy after having carried such supplies — that such proceedings may be had thereon as are required by a law of this Colony passed in the present Session of the General Court entitled an Act for the encouraging the fixing out of Armed Vessels to defend the Sea Coasts of America, and for erecting a Court to try & condemn all Vessels that shall be found infesting the same, & you are hereby directed in all your proceedings to govern yourself by the said Act. – Given under our Hands & the Seal of the s'd Colony at Watertown the Eleventh Day of December 1775 In the fifteenth year of the Reign of his Majesty the Third By their Honors Command

Perez Morton, Dp Secy.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 5, 24.

RECEIPT OF SAMUEL BROWN AND OTHERS TO WILLIAM WATSON [1]

Plimouth Decr 11th 1775

Then we Recd of William Watson Esqr & Ephraim Spooner four days Provisions for Each of us we haveing been left Sick at this place P Capt. Sion Martindale When he went out of this harbour in the Brigga *Washington* last week we now are Going to Join our Respective Companys at head Quarters neere Cambridge — [2]

Samuel Brown
the
Mark of + Elisha
Franklin
Joel Searle
Amos Booth

his
Ebnzer X Tyler
mark
William Mar[chent]
the
Mark of X Micah
Stewart

1. Prizes and Captures, No. 411, LC.
2. Washington's armed brig *Washington* had been taken December 4, 1775, and these men avoided capture because of their illness. Watson was Continental agent at Plymouth.

SELECTMEN AND COMMITTEES OF FALMOUTH TO THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT [1]

To the Honble Council and house of Representatives in general Court assembled –

The petition of the select men, and committees of correspondence and inspection of the town of Falmouth, in the County of Barnstable, in behalf of the inhabitants of sd Town sheweth –

That in the Island called Nashon, one of the Elizabeths Islands is a very commodious harbour, known by the name of Tarpaulin Cove, much used by all vessels passing thro' the Vineyard sound, and where a small ship of war, and two or three tenders being placed might intercept and even destroy all the unarmed vessels passing thro' the sd sound, and all vessels in Buzzards Bay, which will include the coast from Cape Cod to Rhode Island; and may also from thence be able to make discents upon the coast and take off stock and provisions for the supply of our enemies; – For the preventing of which there has been hitherto a company of men, raised by the wisdom of our government and stationed there which has greatly molested the ministerial ships in harbouring in sd Tarpaulin Cove, and hindered their landing on sd Nashon Island; – And we humbly conceive that if a company of men be continued at sd Cove with a number of canon planted at sd harbour they would render it a very uncomfortable station for the ministerial ships, and keep them at a proper distance, and deter them from landing and taking off the stock which is very valuable on sd Island, and also be very beneficial to the trade of the country and a great security to us on this exposed sea coast –

Likewise that some suitable man in this town may be appointed to muster sd company –

Furthermore your petitioners shew, That in the west end of this sd Town of Falmouth there is a harbour called Woods Hole, very convenient for the Rendezvous of privateers or armed vessels, where they will be safe from the attacks of the enemies ships of war. And as they have taken our vessels and employed them in their service, for carrying stock and provisions, to our great grief and mortification, taken forceably from us and our neighbors, and transported it, before our eyes, for the supply of our enemies and oppressors in Boston; – And in your great wisdom, if you should see fit to allow us two privateers, or armed vessels to defend our sea coasts, and to take their ships and transports, and such of our own vessels, as they have wrested from us – Therefore Hoping the honble court will take these things into your consideration, and provide for the security of this much exposed town & sea coast, as your approved wisdom shall direct; And your petitioners shall ever pray &c –

Falmouth Decr 11th 1775

Jo^{s} Palmer
Samuel Fish
Daniel Batles } Committee of Inspection

Tim^{o} Crocker
Nath^{ll} Shiverick } Selectmen

Bart Bassett
Job Parker
Nath^{ll} Shiverick
Noah Davis } Committee of Correspond[ence]

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1. Mass. Arch., vol. 180, 246.

Nicholas Brown to John Brown [1]

Dear Brother Provid: Decemr 11. 1775 –

As the Plan for a Powder voyage in wch you was to be deeply Consern'd, faild – doubtless you would be glad to know the Reasons &C – Mr Forster return'd on Monday Evg [December 4] his Capt, Stevens, detain'd in Order to Make preperation & Expected the Next day, but did not Make his Appearance till Wednesday eveg when All those first Consern'd wth Capt Power in Lew of Jo. B. who was gone to Newport to Joyn'd Govr Bradford in there Appot for Fortifyg &c – We spent the evg wth Capt Stevens till 10, OC. but soon Discover'd he had but little faith In the Voyage hove Out Many Diffeculty, but after awhile got his T[e]rms wch we Comply'd with, but he Desird till Next Day at 3 OC. to give his Answer, at wch time those Consern'd was to be Together & Come to some Conclution – The Diffecultys he Started was that Just before he Came away som[e] Gentl Coll: Lees Sons &c had recd Letrs of a late Date giving Accot of two fr[y]gates Crewsg in the Bay of Bisca, that the English Crewsers Made Prizes of all english Vesseles they found Comg or gog to France or Spain – that they the Lees &c had a Vessel at Bilboa after Powder hall'd up & the hands Dischargd & Other Vessels in other of those foureen Ports was in the same Circumstances – That there was no Powder to be got at Bilbow, & that there was no Other way to get it but to Make the Vessel a Spanish Bottom & to go in to some ports of

France in the Bay, As he Seemd very doubtfull whether Powder would be suffer'd to be bro't from Spain, While they had So grait An Armant out, And that Makg Another Voyage with a Spanish Bottom from Bilbao would take so much Time, as would make him so late in the spring As to be too Resky – He din'd with me the next Day & went of[f] Home emediete after Dinner without givg us the least Notice only told his Horsekeeper he would not Stay least he should be Imp[o]rtuned to go in the Voyage – Many Other Exscuses as the Vessel being at a Distance & he must go home After his things &c – Thus Ended the Voyage, Messrs Forsters was hourly expecting Mr Lee in Town, when we Expected to hear more of the Contents of the Letrs aforsd – But have hear'd Nothing of them since – C Starbuck went from here Saturday for Swansey, wth Design to get to Nantucket With Barny who Cant have gone from thence yet as the Wheather has bin – He was to forwd Your Sloop to you at Pha with what Dispatch he Could make – A Gentl from the Eastwd here after Cannon for a B[r]ig to be fited a priveteer wch beleaves to be the Most Profitable Business, sees Capt Manly took on Saturday Afternoon 2 prizes wch he saw one a large [ ], Ship of 325 Tons, from London, saild Abot 20th Octr was Loaded with Cole Porter & some Port Wine—[2] The Capt as Soon as borded hove Overbord his Pocket book with his Dispaches to the Genl &c – he Came up to the Camp with the Express wch bro't from the Ship Large Bundls of Paprs & Letrs to the Officers &c in Boston Contents yet unknown – The Other a Vessel Fitted from Boston, from the Wt Ind bound into Boston 150 Tons with 130 hhd rum with Sugar Coffee & Coca &c—[3] Yesterday we had Acct of Another Specimen of Wallace A[n]imosity He landed, as sd 250 Men Abt 4 OC. Saturday morning on Conan[i]cutt burnt all the Houses between the two Ferrys Abot 14, fir'd upon the whomen & Childred as they run of[f], Killed One Whoman & shot Old Mr Martin thr'o the belly wch is Tho't Cant recover, took Some Men Next to there Wifes onbord the ships – and a Qty of Stock, we had but Abot 30 Men on the Isd – wch want Able to stand Agst such Numbers this is the Short, of the best Accot have bin Able yet to Collect, th'o Several Express have bin up this was perform'd by the Brig on the East side & Some Tenders Abot Other parts of the Island By this I think its Manafest, The Priveteer, Capt Whippele has prevented Much of this kind of Mischief, The Minute Men was Come off the Isl & naighther of the Galleys ready—for want of Some Navel Force to keep Wallace In Awe Proberbly he Will ravage the Whole Bay – The Commanders of his Crewzers are beCome good Pilots wch Make it high Time they where Destroy'd or Taken –

Capt Wm Rhodes Came up to Town with his Sloop last night he got in to the Eastwd Bro't sum thing Short of 15 C of Powder for the Colony & Abot 1½ Tons on fright for Connecticut, after a Voyage of near 6 mo – he Loadd his Vessel wth Coffe Brandy &C & the Led sent for & return'd Abt 2,000 Dolrs – He has br'ot two French Gentl with him on purpose to Contract for Powder [4] One is the Kings Armorer of the Cap the other from paris on purpose for to Contract, he seems Much of a Gent & Schollar as I am told by Prof Manning & Mr Howel, wth the latter I tho't proper to go & see the Gentn this eving, they talk no Inglish but French & Lattin by the One from Parris – they seem sensible, & Say they can supply the Whole thats wanted for the Cont[e]nent – They have a parris paper of 28th Augst wth Accot of Govr Pens Arrival in Engd, with the Petion Some the Resolves & Extracts of the Declaration of the Congress – They seem in a Hurry to see Genl Washington & Much Inclin[in]g to secrecy till they Can see the Genl they Inform'd me they had heard of Our House & had Communicated more, as Capt Rhodes sd than he had known of there Buisness in all the Passage &c they have Ingag'd Me One Interview &c when they return I have Inform'd them what we have to pay them wth Vizt Sperm Candles Oil, Tobacco & all Kinds of Provisns wch they say will Answer by our Carryg them & sellg for that produce for the French Isds & some to France wth the like produce, wch they say will ansr as well as Cash – The Gentl from France to Stay here in the Country while the Other goes to France with any English Capt that May be Trusted to go with him The Powder they say May Come direct here from France Or to Spain [as] afsd from thence in Such Bottoms as we please – Its not improb[ab]le, but Genl Washington may recomend them to the Congress, if that Nesry Article is Not sufficiently provided for Allready – They allso Say they Can pro[cure] All Kinds of arms & Clothing the same way – Altho its very proberble Supp[l]ys of Powder & Other Necsry[s] besides Clothg May be got thr'o such Contracts, Nevertheless Our Own Manufactuerg of Salt Peter & everything else Shod be properly Encouraged

As I Understand the Comte will report a Number of Heavy Cannon Wanted for the Defence of the Colony, I hope you'l Spair no pains to get a Suitable hand or two who understand all parts of Makg them as well as the price to the Westward As I much doubt whether Brother Jo[hn] will be At Liberty to give much attendance to the Makg the Cannon You Will doubtless Indeavor to find out all the S Peter made pr Week in all the Works now Erected & the Increases whthr there really be any Qys of Brimstone to be got in this Country & of the Lead Mines & the Most likely Place for Importg all sorts of Clothg from Other Powers In Europe Why can't Sperm Candles (as they are a Superfluety, & tend to Impoverish the Consumers) be Caryd to Any part of the English Isld to Raise Mony to be lay'd Out for Necesry foreign Manufacterys Among other Powers wch will help to save the Sterlg Money in the Country

[Endorsed] Rough Copy Letter to Brother John Brown at Phia
p Post Decemr 11, 1775

1. Nicholas Brown Papers, JCBL.
2. The ship *Jenny*.
3. The brig *Little Hannah*.
4. Messrs. Penet and Pliarne.

Governor Nicholas Cooke to George Washington [1]

Sir Providence Decemr 11th 1775

I do myself the Honour to address this Letter to you by Mr. Penet, and another French Gentleman [2] who arrived here last Night in Capt. [William] Rhodes from Cape Francois, who was despatched some Time since from this Place for Powder. Mr Penet comes extremely well recommended to our Committee for providing Powder from a Merchant of Character at the Cape. He hath Propossals to make for supplying the United Colonies with Arms and warlike Stores. I am informed that the other Gentleman is a Person of some Consequence. I beg Leave to introduce them to your Excellency, and to assure you that I am with great Respect, Sir [&c.]

Nich^{s} Cooke

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[1] Washington Papers, LC. Cooke was Governor of Rhode Island.
[2] M. Pliarne.

Diary of Dr. Ezra Stiles [1]

[Newport, December] 11.

Abot 1 o'Clock yesty morng a Bomb Brig, 1 schooner & 2 or 3 armed sloops went to Conanicott & landed upward of Two hundred Marines Sailors & Negroes at the E Ferry; and marched in 3 Divisions over to the W. Ferry, & set the several houses on fire there, then retreated back settg fire to almost every house on each side the road & several Houses & Barns some dista on the N & S side of the Rode, driving out Women & Children &c.

Houses Burnt & lost

Wido Hull	1 house		
Jos Clarke Esqr	2		& 1 Barn
Thos Fowler	1.	1.	1 Crib
Ben. Ellery	2.	1.	1 Store
Benj. Remington	2.	0	
Jno Gardner	1		& 1 Tanyard
Gov. Hutchinson	1		
Wo Franklin	2		
Abel Do	1		
Bendt Robinson	1		
	15 Dwellgs		

A compa of Minute Men had left Conant the Aft before so that there were but 40 or 50 soldiers on the Isld, of wc 22 were well equipped. At the Cross Rodes there was a Skirmish – our pple killed one Officer of Marines & wounded 7 or 8. not one Colonist was killed or hurt in the Skirmish. The King's forces fired on Mr Jno Martin aet 80 standg unarmed at his Door & wounded him badly. Mr Fowler had above 30 Head Cattle: these the Regulars carried off & perhaps a dozen Head more, about 30 Sheep & as many Turkeys, & some Hogs, Beds Furniture & other plunder. They returned on board at X & XI o'Clock & came to this Harbor about Noon.

The Alarm spread, & I am told there are this day Three hundred Men on Conanicott, & Eight Hundred upon this Island. The To in great Consternation.

[1] Diary of Ezra Stiles, YUL.

Newport Mercury, Monday, December 11, 1775

Newport, December 11.

About one o'clock yesterday morning, the bomb-brig, a schooner, and 2 or 3 armed sloops, left the harbour, went to Conanicut, and landed upwards of 200 marines, sailors and Negroes at the East ferry, marched in three divisions immediately over to the West ferry, and set the several houses on fire which were near the ferry place, then retreated back, setting fire to almost every house on [each side the road, from the west to the east Ferry,] and several houses and barns some distance on the N. and S. side of the road; driving out the women and children, swearing they should be burnt in the houses if they did not instantly turn out– [The houses] were plundered of beds, wearing apparel, and such household furniture as could be conveniently carried off, the rest were consumed. Some women, we are told, were stripped of some of their best clothes they had on. 'Tis said Capt [James] Wallace commanded on this *humane* expedition. A company of minute-men had left Conannicut the afternoon before, so that there were but about 40 or 50 soldiers on the island, most of whom had been inlisted but a few days, and arrived there but the evening before, in miserable condition for such a sudden attack; but notwithstanding, tis said there is certainly one officer of marines killed, and 7 or 8 badly wounded. There was not one Provincial either killed or wounded, except Mr. John Martin, who was shot in his belly standing unarmed in his door. – The above vessels brought off about 30 head of oxen and cows, a few sheep and hogs, most of which they killed before they took them on board. The left Conanicut yesterday, and came to this harbour again about noon.

The above houses were not all occupied by the owners, but each had at least one family in it, and some had two. We expect to give more particulars of this matter next week.

A vessel belonging to a rank *Tory* of this town, was lately seized at Cape Francois, 'tis said, because she belong'd to a villain who was an enemy to America; and we hear the people at the Cape intend to make the Congress a present in powder, equal to the value of the above vessel and cargo.

Edward Davis to the Maryland Council of Safety [1]

New York 11 Dcr [1775]

On Saturday Night arrivd here from O[u]r Army in Cannada Leutnt [Nathaniel] Norton from Colnle [James] Clintons Redgmt Mr Bain [Gunr] & Mr Phines Chapmman who Bring us the agreable News that all the Shipg that Lay at Monterale has fell into the Hands of Genr Montogomery, among them the *Gaspe[e]* Brgg of war with all the Crew Prisonrs, (Coln Allen Eccepted) lately taken near St John's – the Fleett whith Govr Carleton on Board had Saild for Quebeck But was intercepted By a gondola and a Battery Erected By Colnl Easton neare the Rivr Sor[re]ll and there Taken with about 150 Solders &c among them Coln Prescott & Co who wher arrived at Ticonder[o]g[a] on their way to Connetucut – that Carlton and Leuke De La Corne, and 2 others whent off in a Bo[a]t from the Flett before it Struck, but where Taken Prisoners By Coln Arnold near Quebeck –[2] that Genl Wo[os]ter was left to Command at Mntr[ea]l, and Genl Montegomry was gone to assist Coll Arnold to secure Quebeck –

[page missing]

There are fitting out [at] Philladehe and will Sail in a few days to meet Severall other Vessells fitting out in Maryland and elsewhere the *Black Prince* who is to Carrey upward of 30 guns and 2 other Vesls square Sail of 20 Guns each wth Many Tend[r]s a Better Sloop from Bardme [Baltimore] Cap Ston a fast Sr well Mand a New Schor Bu[l]d for Hudson and a New Brig for Commdre [James] Nicholson Middlton Shoor from Anapls Brass Guns Coln Loyd &c all which are Intended to take that [Dog] Dunmore it is supposd if the [Dog] Shoud find the Provos w[it]h the assistance of the Cands Nrwrd the strain of E Allen to strong for him he wil [Fly] up Potomack [indecipherable]

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1. Executive Papers, Box 1, Md. Arch.
2. Davis' information in this paragraph was taken from the *New York Gazette,* December 11, 1775. An erroneous report; Carleton had eluded Arnold's force and had entered Quebec where he was preparing the city's defenses.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS [1]

[Philadelphia] Monday, December 11, 1775

A letter from General Washington, dated 30th November, being received, was read, enclosing an Invoice of Stores on board the *Nancy* transport, taken by the schooner *Lee,* Captain Manly

Agreeable to the order of the day, the Congress took into consideration the instructions given to the delegates of Rhode Island, and after debate thereon, come to the following resolution:

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to devise ways and means for furnishing these colonies with a naval armament, and report with all convenient speed.

That the committee consist of a member from each Colony. The members are Mr. [Josiah] Bartlett, Mr. S[amuel] Adams, Mr. [Stephen] Hopkins, Mr. [Silas] Deane, Mr. [Francis] Lewis, Mr. [Stephen] Crane, Mr. R[obert] Morris, Mr. [George] Read, Mr. [William] Paca, Mr. R[ichard] H[enry] Lee, Mr. [Joseph] Hewes, and Mr. [Christopher] Gadsden.

The Committee to whom the petition of Jonathan Hudson was referred, reported their opinion in certain resolutions,[2] which being read, were agreed to as follows:

Resolved, That so much of the said petition as prays for permission to export said cargo to any place other than the islands of Great Britain, Ireland, Jersey, Guernsey, Sark, Aldernay, or Man, or the West India Islands, is reasonable.

Resolved, That so much of the said petition as prays for any further permission is unreasonable.

Resolved, That the said petitioner give bond, with sufficient security, to the chairman of the committee of the town of Baltimore, under a penalty of double the value of the said cargo, to export the said cargo to some place other than the islands of Great Britain, Ireland, Jersey, Guernsey, Sark, Alderney, Man, and the islands of the West Indies; and within six months after the said exportation, to produce to the said chairman a certificate of the port, to which the said cargo shall have been shipped, authenticated under the hands of two Merchants of known character and reputation, residing in the same port; and that on executing such bond, the said chairman sign a permit to the said petitioner, allowing him to export the said cargo.

A petition from D[avid] Beveridge, was laid before Congress and read,

Resolved, That the same be referred to a Committee of three.

The members chosen, Mr. [John] Jay. Mr. [George] Read, and Mr. [Thomas] Jefferson.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC,* III, 420–24.
2. The petition was received and the committee appointed on December 8, 1775.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

[Philadelphia] December 11th.

Resolved, That Capt. Nathaniel Boyce take the Command of the Armed Boat *Franklin,* Capt. [Nicholas] Biddle, the late Commander being promoted in the Continental Service.

Upon application to this Board, in behalf of Capt. James Josiah, that he may have leave to resign his commission to enter the Continental Service, liberty was granted him.[2]

Upon motion of Mr.Thomas Wharton, one of the Committee for importing and procuring Powder, Arms &ca., for the use of this Province,

Resolved, That they, the said Committee, direct Messrs. Willing & Morris & Co., to load the Ship *Neptune,* Robert Collins, M'r, with the produce of these Colonies, for the purpose of procuring said articles from Foreign parts; And that the following Certificate be Issued, viz't:

> This is to certify, the Messrs. Willing & Morris & Co. have permission to load the Ship *Neptune,* Robert Collins, M'r, with the produce of these Colonies, the same being for account of this Province, and the export agreeable to a resolve of Congress of 26th Oct'r last.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records,* X, 425, 426.
2. Josiah was appointed a lieutenant and served on board the Continental brig *Andrew Doria.*

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE [1]

At a Meeting of the Committee Monday 11 Decemr 1775

The following is a Copy of a Letter from the Masschusetts Bay Delegates in Congress to this Committee on the Subject of Shipping Flour to the New England Governments—

[Here is inserted the letter of 4 December, 1775]

Mr Mark Alexander having applied to the Committee for Liberty to load the Sloop *Grampus* (John Brackett Master) with Provision for the Use of the Colonies to Massachusetts Bay, the same was granted on his entering in a Bond with said Master in Double of the Value of the Cargo, that he will land the same, and produce a Certificate thereof, from a Committee of the Port, where it was landed, to this Committee, and that the usual Oath be taken by them –

Mr Mark Alexander, on behalf of George Welsh and Elisha Thatcher, made Application for Permission to load the Schooner *Peggy*, John Lathrop Master, for the same Parts as above, which was granted on the above Condition –

1. Baltimore Committee, LC.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA CONVENTION [1]

[Williamsburg] Monday, December 11, 1775.

Ordered, That Mr. [James] Mercer, Mr. [Richard] Bland, Mr. Henry Lee, Mr. [Thomas] Newton [Jr.], Mr. [William] Aylett, Mr. [James] Holt, and Mr. [George] Brooke, be a committee to inquire into the conduct of John Goodrich, William Goodrich, and John Goodrich, Jun. relating to the importation of gunpowder, and other articles, for the use of this colony.

[1] *Virginia Convention,* 62.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

In the Council of Safety [Charleston]
Monday, December 11, 1775.

Mr. President reported, that Mr. Winyard had yesterday, according to order, waited on Lady William Campbell, with a copy of the proceedings of the Council, relative to the seizure of Lord William's chariot and horses; that her ladyship said that seizure had been attended with such circumstances, that she could not, without her lord's orders, receive the said chariot and horses; that Mr. Winyard nevertheless carried them to the place of Lady William's residence, where he found every place for their reception barred, and that her ladyship persisted in the refusal to receive them; so that he was obliged to return them to whence they were brought.

Resolved, That a letter similar to that sent to the committee at Beaufort, be written to the committee at Georgetown, to prevent the loading of vessels contrary to the Resolutions of the Continental Congress.

And the following was accordingly written:

Charles-Town, Dec. 11th, 1775.

Gentlemen – You are desired to use every means in your power effectually to prevent the loading of vessels in your port and within your district, or in any of the creeks, inlets, or private landings, with rice, indigo, or other produce of this colony, intended for any port out of the limits thereof, without special permission in writing from the Council of Safety or the [Provincial] Congress. And particularly you are to see that no person, even with a permit, on any pretence whatever, clear out for any port of Great Britain, Ireland, or any of the British West-Indies, the contrary being expressly ordered by the Continental Congress at Philadelphia, who have refused to suffer even such vessels as they have permitted to load to clear out at any of the Custom Houses.

Your attention to this notice will be of great moment to the common cause, therefore it is particularly enjoined and required.

By order of the Council of Safety

Henry Laurens, President.

P.S.—The Council of Safety have permitted Daniel Sewell to depart the colony, for his health, provided you are satisfied he is otherwise entitled according to law.

We desire you to inform us what vessels are in your port.

Ordered, That the powder-receiver do deliver one quarter barrel of gunpowder to Capt. Simon Tafts [Tufts], for the use of the ship *Prosper.*

[1] *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society,* III, 76–79.

12 Dec.

MINUTES OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

[Portsmouth] 1775 Dec. 12.

ordered Receiver Genl to pay the Committee appointed to procure Powder abroad, Six hundred pounds, to be by them accounted for. – 600 –

[1] *Collections of the New Hampshire Historical Society,* VII, 29.

MEMORANDUM OF A LETTER FROM ROBERT HANSON HARRISON TO DR. ELEAZER WHEELOCK [1]

Cambridge 12th Decemr 1775

Acknowledged receipt of two Letters thankd him for information respecting Major [Robert] Rogers & inclosed a Letter for him, which was Saved with other papers thrown overboard by Capt: Forster [William Foster] – [2]

[1] Washington Papers, LC. Harrison was aide-de-camp to Washington.

[2] Foster was master of the ship *Jenny.*

TIMOTHY PICKERING TO THE MASSACHUSETTS BAY COUNCIL [1]

Tuesday Morning

May it please your Honours,

The Secretary has just now informed me that your Honours have thought fit to appoint me judge of a court to try the justice of the capture of vessels infesting the sea coast of America, which shall be brought into the counties of Suffolk, Middlesex or Essex; and that my answer is requested this morning:– Your Honours will please to accept my thanks for the appointment – with an assurance that I have no disposition to refuse an office however hazardous or difficult, that is judged necessary for the public good, & which the judiciary, in whose power it is to make or advise an appointment, & to whom I am personally well known, think me qualified to discharge. I am, may it please your Honours [&c.]

Tim. Pickering junr

[Endorsed] In Council Decr 12th 1775
Read & ordered to be entered in the file of Council

Perez Morton Dpy Secry

[1] Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 176–77.

EXECUTIVE RECORDS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL [1]

[Watertown] Tuesday December 12th 1775

Read & Ordered that the said Peter Roberts be Commissionated for the purposes aforesaid on his giving Bond with one sufficient Surety to the Colony Treasurer for the faithful performance of his Duty therein agreeable to the Act prescribing the same,

Read & Ordered that the said Offin [Boardman] be Commissioned for the purposes aforesaid on his giving Bond agreeable to the Act of this Colony prescribing the same, [2]

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1. Executive Records of the Council, Mass. Arch.
2. Roberts and Boardman were hereby commissioned to command the privateers *Gamecock* and *Washington*, respectively.

Vice Admiral Graves to Commodore Marriot Arbuthnot, Halifax [1]

Sir *Preston* Boston 12 December 1775

The *Amity*'s *Providence* Transport arrived the 28th of November with the Seamen raised in Newfoundland, and Lieut. Robertson delivered me your Letter of the 17th Ulto. I am much obliged to you for your particular Representation concerning the Want of Ordnance Stores at Halifax, which I shall not fail also to represent; but, excepting Match, I have had no Complaint of a deficiency of small Stores hitherto. In August last I acquainted the Lieut. General of the Ordnance, and my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, with the necessity for sending Ordnance Stores to Halifax for the use of the Fleet, leaving it to the Ordnance Board to proportion the Quantity to the number of Ships employed here; so that I am in Hopes a Supply of all kinds will soon arrive.

I have pleasure in confirming your Appointment of Mr Phillips, who I find is well qualified to be a Surgeon of the Hospital. I am told the Clergyman ought not to demand a Crown for burying a man, it is certainly an exorbitant Fee, and too much for the Surgeon to pay out of his allowance; I think half a Crown to be sufficient, and, considering Circumstances, as much as should be given, 'tis quite a novel Practice. The Clergyman formerly had a Chaplaincy in one of the King's Ships and desired no payment for burying the Seamen; And the present Gentleman is Chaplain of the *Chatham*. I desire you will continue your attention to the sick, and direct a Captain to visit and report to you weekly how the People are accomodated and treated, that should the present Establishment of the Commissioners of the sick and hurt be found inadequate to the present Season of Scarcity I may upon your representation procure it to be enlarged; and indeed I cannot help thinking that fifteen Pence a day at Halifax is too scanty an allowance for food, lodging, nursing, firing and other incidental Charges.

The *Cerberus* has been twice aground and part of her false keel is athwart. I have therefore ordered Captain Symons to proceed to Halifax to get his Ship careened and fit for sea again as soon as possible, but until I can send other Ships, or some arrive at Halifax, I mean the *Somerset, Cerberus* and *Savage* to stay with you for the Security of the Yard: however I think it not unlikely that some of the Ships from England may drop into Halifax, and that you will be able to send the *Somerset* to England in a very short time. Mr Le Cras will in the mean time strike his distinguishing Pendant. I am &c

Sam. Graves.

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1. Graves's Conduct, II, 16–17, BM.

INTELLIGENCE RECEIVED FROM SION MARTINDALE [1]

[H.M.S. *Fowey*, December 12, 1775][2]

That a Brig laden with Ordnance Stores for Boston was taken the 28th or 29th of November last, by a Schooner of Six 3 Pounders commanded by a Captain Manley, and carried into Cape Anne Harbor; – That part of her Cargo was Conveyed to the Head Quarters of the Rebel Army at Cambridge on the Saturday following: [3] – That an Express had Arrived at Cambridge from Montreal that Governor Carleton had destroyed the Ammunition and Provisions at that place, And retreated to Three Rivers, (a place so called) And that a Colonel (thought to be) Harris with One thousand Canadians were endeavouring to cut off his retreat to Quebec.

That there is a Schooner of four Carriage Guns and ten Swivels having 50 Men on board to sail from Plymouth the 5th or 6th instant on a Cruize for Ten days only, and that she has black Sides, Tallowed bottom, two Topsails and Oars on her Quarters, commanded by one Coit, that her Colours are a Green Pine Tree in a White Field, with the Motto, "Appeal to Heaven," [4] that the Signal to know each other was to hoist the Colours at the Fore topmast head, And lower the Main Sail half down. – Beverly has fitted out three Schooners two are of four Carriage Guns each Swivels and Men not known, the third is the Schooner above mentioned commanded by Manley.[5]

[1] PRO, Admiralty 1/485.

[2] The date is approximated, based upon the following extract from the journal of the *Fowey*: "Tuesday 12. [December] A M got Making Swabs Matts & sent the Prisoners on board the *Tartar* & Cleaned the Main hold." PRO, Admiralty 51/375.

[3] The brig *Nancy*.

[4] This description is of Washington's armed schooner *Harrison*.

[5] Captain Sion Martindale's knowledge of the vessels at Beverly was sketchy, probably made deliberately so.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES [1]

[Boston] 1775 Decr 12

By the same Conveyance [2] the Admiral acquainted Governor Legge that in consequence of a considerable Supply from England the Contractors Agent had Orders to furnish six Months Provisions to his Excellency's Militia, and that Mr Arbuthnot was directed to exempt the Natives of Nova Scotia from Impress, which was rather more than the weak State of the Squadron would justify, to convince the Province that their Trade should have every protection, but that all other Marine[r]s must be taken, there being no means beside of making good the Deficiencies continually happening by Sickness, Deaths, Desertions, and Prisoners, and if the Fleet could not be kept manned the Services expected from it must remain unexecuted.

The Admiral in a Letter to Commodore Le Cras (dated the 10th instant) apprized him of the Accounts from Quebec, where the rapid Progress of the Rebels made it more probable they would now endeavour to seize the Kings Arsenal at Halifax than wait till the Spring, when a strong Reinforcement might render such an Attempt impracticable; and that the present unpromising State of the Kings Affairs in Canada, the notoriety of the disaffection of a Number of the Inhabitants of Nova Scotia, and the danger with which his Majs Yard and Stores were threatened, would not allow of the *Somerset* proceeding to England at this time.

The Cruizers in the Bay having been driven into Nantasket by bad Weather, the Admiral on the 10th instant ordered Captain Bishop of the *Lively,* the senior Officer, to put to Sea with all the Kings Ships and Vessels there, except the *Mercury,* and cruize between the Capes Anne and Cod as usual, for the Security of the Supplies arriving for the Garrison, and in case of Gales of Wind to endeavour to get into Cape Cod Harbour, as a better Rendezvous for a part of them than Nantasket; to go into Marblehead and destroy a Vessel said to be carried in there, loaden with Coals and Bale Goods[3] the day the *Lively* came in last; The *Nautilus* or *Canceaux* to keep off Cape Ann, as nearly in the track for making that headland as possible; and upon taking any Vessels not to send them with a few hands to Boston, but one Ship of the Squadron to convoy them in, for that the Contrary practice had proved very detrimental*

Note * It may not be improper here to remark that the Vessel mentioned in the Admiral's Order to Capt. Bishop had not been carried in, but having made the land about Marblehead was under the necessity (as afterwards appeared) of pushing in to prevent being shipwrecked in the Gale

The General having again expressed by Letter of [illegible] his Apprehensions that the Rebel Cruizers might intercept the Supplies expected for the Garrison, which would subject the Kings Army to the greatest Distresses, the Admiral wrote the following answer[4]

1. Graves's Conduct, II, 17–18, BM.
2. The transport *Whitby.*
3. This was the ship *Concord,* James Lowrie, master, with dry goods and coal, from Greenock, carried into Marblehead on December 3, 1775 by John Manley in Washington's armed schooner *Lee.*
4. See Graves to Howe, December 13, 1775.

COLONEL NATHANIEL FREEMAN TO GEORGE WASHINGTON[1]

Sandwich, December 12, 1775. –

May it please your Excellency:

Colonel Otis, the younger, the author of the letter to your Excellency enclosed herewith, sent the same open to me, as we were together in ordering Mr. Lovell apprehended and sent a prisoner to your Excellency. Upon reading it, I thought it would not be improper to add, that the two Lovells mentioned in this delinquent's letter, owned that they told Shubael Lovell, the prisoner, they wished he had returned their names to the King's officers as friends to Government, and as having refused to take up arms, &c.

This Shubael, though he appears an ignorant fellow, hath considerable influence among the Barnstable Tories, hath practiced coasting to Nantucket the summer past, and I have no doubt hath communicated every thing of intelligence to the navy, if not frequently supplied them with provisions. Doctor Gelston, to whom he alludes in his letter, we have taken a number of depositions of his having supplied them considerably from Nantucket. He swears he will do it in defiance of the people, and threatens communicating the small-pox to any one who resists him. I wish he was taken, but cannot get any one, as yet, to join me in sending on for him. I hope your Excellency will take care that he is taken. The depositions concerning him are now in the hands of Joseph Nye, Esq., at the General Court. I shall be furnished with more, and be at Head-Quarters with Colonel Otis, this week, by Thursday, when shall take the Liberty to wait on your Excellency. In the mean time, I am [&c.]

N. Freeman.

[1] Force, comp., *American Archives,* 4th, IV, 1337.

COLONEL JOSEPH OTIS TO GEORGE WASHINGTON [1]

Barnstable, December 12, 1775.–

May it please your Excellency:

The enclosed letter was sent me by the Governour of Rhode-Island, on the receipt of which, with the advice of the Field Officers of this regiment, I took up the writer, and, with the advise of Colonel Otis, have sent the man to your Excellency, by Lieutenant Lothrop. The two men mentioned in the letter, we talked with, but have dismissed them till further orders, as there was no proof against them but their being mentioned in the letter sent Captain Ayscough.[2]

As to Mr. Lovell's character and situation, he is one that we have always looked upon as a Tory, and something busy in the Opposition. He has a large family of small children that want his assistance. I pity the man's folly. As I shall be at Head-Quarters this week, with the Militia ordered from this regiment, shall do myself the honour to wait on you further about the matter. Should be glad Lieut. Lothrop might have the care of him till I see your Excellency. I am [&c.]

Joseph Otis.

[1] Force, comp., *American Archives,* 4th, IV, 1337.
[2] See Shubael Lovell to Captain James Ayscough, November 16, 1775, Volume 2, 1043–44.

GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE TO THE RHODE ISLAND DELEGATES IN THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS [1]

Gentlemen, Providence Decemr 12th 1775

Last Sunday Morning [December 10] about 2 or 3 oClock Wallace landed upon Jamestown with about 200 Men. we had but a Handful of Men upon the Island who in general behaved with Bravery, but being so greatly overpowered were compelled to retreat with the Loss of 2 Men taken Prisoners. It is believed that an Officer of the Marines was killed, and 7 Men wounded on the Part of the Enemy; who burt 16 Houses, having First Plundered them, besides Barns and Cribs. They took off about 40 Head of Cattle, 40 or 50 Sheep & 40

Hogs. Mr John Martin coming out of his House unarmed to speak to the commanding Officer was shot into the Belly and it is very probable that his Wound will prove mortal. The Inhabitants were surprized in their Beds the Enemy having landed before they were discovered. They burnt almost all the Houses between the Two Ferries. Mr Clarke's Farm-House and another he owned near the Ferry Place with all his Outhouses were destroyed.

Mr [Henry] Ward informs his Brother that our Committee for settling the Colony Accounts tell him that they look upon Capt. Whipple's Sloop as a Continental Vessel. The Assembly and General Committee consider her at present as belonging to the Colony; although they expect Payment from the Continent for her Voyage to Bermuda and to Philadelphia and in Case an Expedition had been determined upon to the Eastward that she would during that Expedition have been upon the publick Risque and Expence. And it will be best to comply with Capt. Whipple's Instructions—The Regiment of Men raised for Defence of this Colony it is expected will be paid by the Continent; but the Emergency was so sudden that Application could not be made to the Congress.

The Inhabitants of the Massachusetts Bay have raised the Men requested of that Colony for Defence of the Lines with great Spirit, Many Towns having sent near double their Quota. I am with great Regard, Gentlemen, [&c.]

Nich^{s} Cooke

S. Hopkins & S. Ward Esqrs

1. MNHP.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA STILES [1]

[Newport] Decr 12.

People removg & filled with Expecta that the present Conflict will bring on the Burning of the Town of Newport also.

[1] Diary of Ezra Stiles, YUL.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS [1]

[New York] Die Martis, 10 HO.A.M. December 12th, 1775.

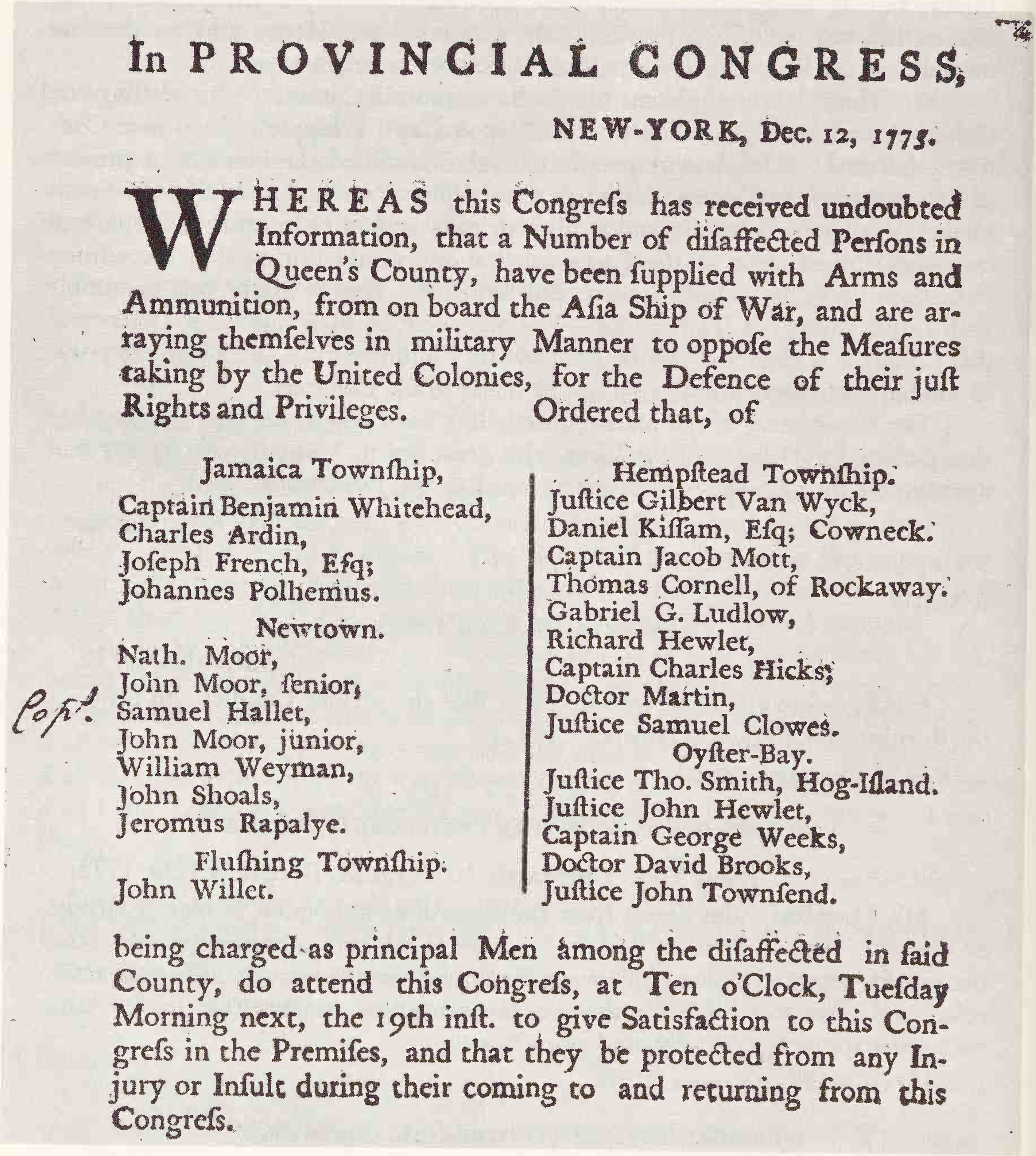
Mr. [Jacobus] Van Zandt from the committee appointed to plan a voyage, or voyages, for two or more vessels, in order to procure ammunition and other necessaries, reported a plan of a voyage for three vessels to Europe. The same was read, and after some debates thereon the same was recommitted to the same committee for reconsideration and amendments.

[1] *New York Provincial Congress,* I, 213.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS [1]

[Philadelphia] Tuesday, December 12, 1775

On motion, *Resolved,* That the intercepted letters of Brooke Watson, and the invoice of the Cargo of the brig *Nancy* transport, taken by the schooner *Lee,* Captain Manly, be published.[2]



In PROVINCIAL CONGRESS,

NEW-YORK, Dec. 12, 1775.

WHEREAS this Congreſs has received undoubted Information, that a Number of diſaffected Perſons in Queen's County, have been ſupplied with Arms and Ammunition, from on board the Aſia Ship of War, and are arraying themſelves in military Manner to oppoſe the Meaſures taking by the United Colonies, for the Defence of their juſt Rights and Privileges. Ordered that, of

Jamaica Townſhip,
Captain Benjamin Whitehead,
Charles Ardin,
Joſeph French, Eſq;
Johannes Polhemus.

Newtown.
Nath. Moor,
John Moor, ſenior,
Capt. Samuel Hallet,
John Moor, junior,
William Weyman,
John Shoals,
Jeromus Rapalye.

Fluſhing Townſhip.
John Willet.

Hempſtead Townſhip.
Juſtice Gilbert Van Wyck,
Daniel Kiſſam, Eſq; Cowneck.
Captain Jacob Mott,
Thomas Cornell, of Rockaway.
Gabriel G. Ludlow,
Richard Hewlet,
Captain Charles Hicks;
Doctor Martin,
Juſtice Samuel Clowes.

Oyſter-Bay.
Juſtice Tho. Smith, Hog-Iſland.
Juſtice John Hewlet,
Captain George Weeks,
Doctor David Brooks,
Juſtice John Townſend.

being charged as principal Men among the diſaffected in ſaid County, do attend this Congreſs, at Ten o'Clock, Tueſday Morning next, the 19th inſt. to give Satisfaction to this Congreſs in the Premiſes, and that they be protected from any Injury or Inſult during their coming to and returning from this Congreſs.

A letter from Christopher Leffingwell, with sundry enclosures respecting a cargo of molasses, taken out of the brig *Nancy,* was received and read;

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[1] Ford, ed., *JCC,* III, 424–25.

[2] The invoice was published in the *Pennsylvania Evening Post* that same evening. Similar listings, although less complete and unofficial, had already appeared in print. For example, the *New England Chronicle,* November 30 to December 7, 1775, and the *Boston Gazette,* December 11, 1775, contained such lists.

Pennsylvania Evening Post, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1775

Philadelphia, December 12.

INVOICE of STORES on board the *Nancy* store ship, Robert Hunter, master, taken by the schooner *Lee,* Captain Manly. Laden on board the *Nancy* store ship, Mr. John Wilkinson contractor, and Robert Hunter master, the undermentioned particulars, to be by them transported to Boston, in North-America (the danger of the seas excepted) and there delivered to John Grant, Esq; Commissary and Paymaster to the train of artillery in North-America, being in farther part of Colonel Cleveland's demand. By order of the Board, the 26th of July, 1775.

Muskets, with bayonets, scabbards and steel rammers, 2000.

Cartouch boxes, with belts and frogs, 2000.

Tanned leather slings, 2000. In eighty chests.

Flints. Wallpiece 250, in one keg. Musket 100,000, in fifty kegs. Carbine 5,000, in two kegs.

Forge bellows, one pair.

Hand bellows, double blasted, three pairs. Budge barrels, copper hooped, fifteen. Kit brushes, six. In four three quarters, one half, and one and a quarter ton vats. No. 114 to 119.

Fifty hand barrows, and wheel barrows, fifty.

Callipers, one pair of brass, one pair of iron ditto, and 100 yards of canvas, No. 144, to 119.

Chalk, four hundred weight, in two quarter ton vats.

Spare travelling carriages, twelve pounders, heavy, 11.

Empty paper cartridges, twelve pounders, 10,000 in ten three quarter ton vats, No. 99 to 108. Six ditto, 5,000 in three three quarter ton vats, No. 109 to 111. Four ditto, 2,500 in one three quarter ton vat, No. 112. Three ditto, 3,000 in one ditto, No. 113.

Flags. Union, small, one. Ordnance jack, two.

Pincers, for drawing fuzes, six pairs. Common ditto, 12.

Funnels of plate, ten. Ditto, for shells, copper of sorts, six.

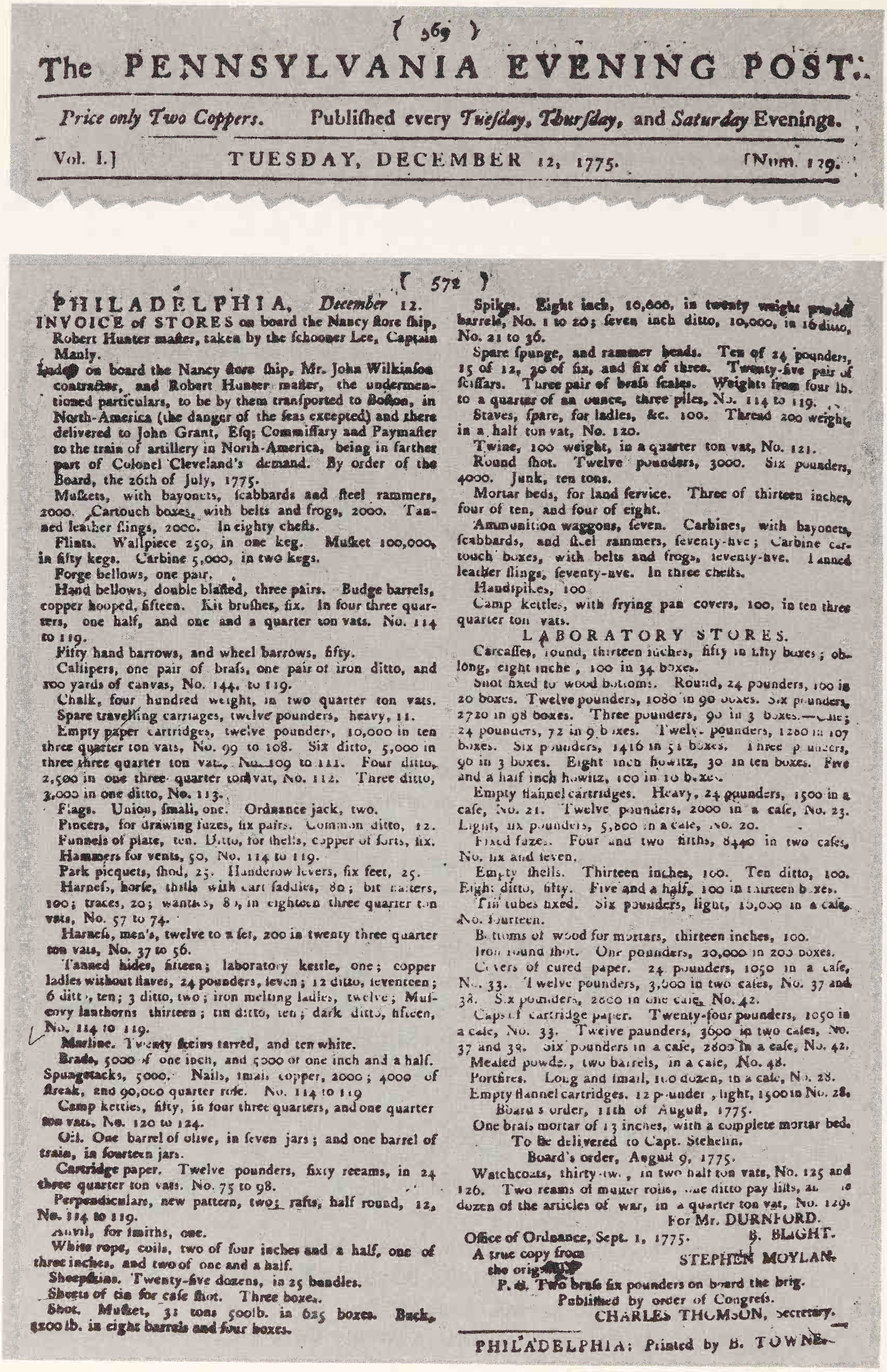
Hammers for vents, 50. No. 114 to 119.

Park picquets, shod, 25. Handerow levers, six feet, 25.

Harness, horse, thills with cart saddles, 80; bit halters, 100; traces, 20; wanties, 80, in eighteen three quarter ton vats, No. 57 to 74.

Harness, men's, twelve to a set, 200 in twenty three quarter ton vats, No. 37 to 56.

Tanned hides, fifteen; laboratory kettle, one; copper ladles without staves, 24 pounders, seven; 12 ditto, seventeen; 6 ditto, ten; 3 ditto, two; iron melting



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The PENNSYLVANIA EVENING POST.

Price only Two Coppers. Publiſhed every *Tueſday, Thurſday,* and *Saturday* Evenings.

Vol. I.] TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1775. [Num. 129.

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[572]

PHILADELPHIA, *December* 12.

INVOICE of STORES on board the Nancy ſtore ſhip, Robert Hunter maſter, taken by the ſchooner Lee, Captain Manly.

Laden on board the Nancy ſtore ſhip, Mr. John Wilkinſon contractor, and Robert Hunter maſter, the undermentioned particulars, to be by them tranſported to Boſton, in North-America (the danger of the ſeas excepted) and there delivered to John Grant, Eſq; Commiſſary and Paymaſter to the train of artillery in North-America, being in farther part of Colonel Cleveland's demand. By order of the Board, the 26th of July, 1775.

Muſkets, with bayonets, ſcabbards and ſteel rammers, 2000. Cartouch boxes, with belts and frogs, 2000. Tanned leather ſlings, 2000. In eighty cheſts.

Flints. Wallpiece 250, in one keg. Muſket 100,000, in fifty kegs. Carbine 5,000, in two kegs.

Forge bellows, one pair.

Hand bellows, double blaſted, three pairs. Budge barrels, copper hooped, fifteen. Kit bruſhes, ſix. In four three quarters, one half, and one and a quarter ton vats. No. 114 to 119.

Fifty hand barrows, and wheel barrows, fifty.

Callipers, one pair of braſs, one pair of iron ditto, and 200 yards of canvas, No. 144. to 119.

Chalk, four hundred weight, in two quarter ton vats.

Spare travelling carriages, twelve pounders, heavy, 11.

Empty paper cartridges, twelve pounders, 10,000 in ten three quarter ton vats, No. 99 to 108. Six ditto, 5,000 in three three quarter ton vats, No. 109 to 111. Four ditto, 2,500 in one three quarter ton vat, No. 112. Three ditto, 3,000 in one ditto, No. 113.

Flags. Union, ſmall, one. Ordnance jack, two.

Pincers, for drawing fuzes, ſix pairs. Common ditto, 12.

Funnels of plate, ten. Ditto, for ſhells, copper of ſorts, ſix.

Hammers for vents, 50, No. 114 to 119.

Park picquets, ſhod, 25. Handcrow levers, ſix feet, 25.

Harneſs, horſe, thills with cart ſaddles, 80; bit halters, 100; traces, 20; wantas, 80, in eighteen three quarter ton vats, No. 57 to 74.

Harneſs, men's, twelve to a ſet, 200 in twenty three quarter ton vats, No. 37 to 56.

Tanned hides, fifteen; laboratory kettle, one; copper ladles without ſtaves, 24 pounders, ſeven; 12 ditto, ſeventeen; 6 ditto, ten; 3 ditto, two; iron melting ladles, twelve; Muſcovy lanthorns thirteen; tin ditto, ten; dark ditto, fifteen, No. 114 to 119.

Marline. Twenty ſkeins tarred, and ten white.

Brads, 5000 of one inch, and 5000 of one inch and a half. Spungetacks, 5000. Nails, ſmall copper, 2000; 4000 of ſtreak, and 90,000 quarter roſe. No. 114 to 119

Camp kettles, fifty, in four three quarters, and one quarter ton vats, No. 120 to 124.

Oil. One barrel of olive, in ſeven jars; and one barrel of train, in fourteen jars.

Cartridge paper. Twelve pounders, ſixty reeams, in 24 three quarter ton vats. No. 75 to 98.

Perpendiculars, new pattern, two; raſts, half round, 12, No. 114 to 119.

Anvil, for ſmiths, one.

White rope, coils, two of four inches and a half, one of three inches, and two of one and a half.

Sheepſkins. Twenty-five dozens, in 25 bundles.

Sheets of tin for caſe ſhot. Three boxes.

Shot. Muſket, 31 tons 500lb. in 625 boxes. Buck, 3200 lb. in eight barrels and four boxes.

Spikes. Eight inch, 10,000, in twenty weight powder barrels, No. 1 to 20; ſeven inch ditto, 10,000, in 16 ditto, No. 21 to 36.

Spare ſpunge, and rammer heads. Ten of 24 pounders, 15 of 12, 30 of ſix, and ſix of three. Twenty-five pair of ſciſſars. Three pair of braſs ſcales. Weights from four lb. to a quarter of an ounce, three piles, No. 114 to 119.

Staves, ſpare, for ladles, &c. 100. Thread 200 weight, in a half ton vat, No. 120.

Twine, 100 weight, in a quarter ton vat, No. 121.

Round ſhot. Twelve pounders, 3000. Six pounders, 4000. Junk, ten tons.

Mortar beds, for land ſervice. Three of thirteen inches, four of ten, and four of eight.

Ammunition waggons, ſeven. Carbines, with bayonets, ſcabbards, and ſteel rammers, ſeventy-five; Carbine cartouch boxes, with belts and frogs, ſeventy-five. Tanned leather ſlings, ſeventy-five. In three cheſts.

Handſpikes, 100

Camp kettles, with frying pan covers, 100, in ten three quarter ton vats.

LABORATORY STORES.

Carcaſſes, round, thirteen inches, fifty in fifty boxes; oblong, eight inches, 100 in 34 boxes.

Shot fixed to wood bottoms. Round, 24 pounders, 100 in 20 boxes. Twelve pounders, 1080 in 90 boxes. Six pounders, 2720 in 98 boxes. Three pounders, 90 in 3 boxes.—Caſe; 24 pounders, 72 in 9 boxes. Twelve pounders, 1260 in 107 boxes. Six pounders, 1416 in 51 boxes. Three pounders, 90 in 3 boxes. Eight inch howitz, 30 in ten boxes. Five and a half inch howitz, 100 in 10 boxes.

Empty flannel cartridges. Heavy, 24 pounders, 1500 in a caſe, No. 21. Twelve pounders, 2000 in a caſe, No. 23. Light, ſix pounders, 5,800 in a caſe, No. 20.

Fixed fuzes. Four and two fifths, 8440 in two caſes, No. ſix and ſeven.

Empty ſhells. Thirteen inches, 100. Ten ditto, 100. Eight ditto, fifty. Five and a half, 100 in thirteen boxes.

Tin tubes fixed. Six pounders, light, 15,000 in a caſe, No. fourteen.

Bottoms of wood for mortars, thirteen inches, 100.

Iron round ſhot. One pounders, 20,000 in 200 boxes.

Covers of cured paper. 24 pounders, 1050 in a caſe, No. 33. Twelve pounders, 3,000 in two caſes, No. 37 and 38. Six pounders, 2600 in one caſe, No. 42.

Caps of cartridge paper. Twenty-four pounders, 1050 in a caſe, No. 33. Twelve paunders, 3600 in two caſes, No. 37 and 38. Six pounders in a caſe, 2800 in a caſe, No. 42.

Mealed powder, two barrels, in a caſe, No. 48.

Portfires. Long and ſmall, 100 dozen, in a caſe, No. 28.

Empty flannel cartridges. 12 pounders, light, 1500 in No. 28.

Board's order, 11th of Auguſt, 1775.

One braſs mortar of 13 inches, with a complete mortar bed.

To be delivered to Capt. Stehelin.

Board's order, Auguſt 9, 1775.

Watchcoats, thirty-two, in two half ton vats, No. 125 and 126. Two reams of muſter rolls, one ditto pay liſts, and 10 dozen of the articles of war, in a quarter ton vat, No. 129.

For Mr. DURNFORD.

Office of Ordnance, Sept. 1, 1775. B. BLIGHT.

A true copy from the original. STEPHEN MOYLAN.

P. S. Two braſs ſix pounders on board the brig.

Publiſhed by order of Congreſs.

CHARLES THOMSON, Secretary.

PHILADELPHIA: Printed by B. TOWNE.

Inventory of stores captured on board the Nancy.

ladles, twelve; Muscovy lanthorns thirteen; tin ditto, ten; dark ditto, fifteen, No. 114 to 119.

Marline. Twenty skeins tarred, and ten white.

Brads, 5000 of one inch, and 5000 of one inch and a half. Spungetacks, 5000. Nails, small copper, 2000; 4000 of streak, and 90,000 quarter rose. No. 114 to 119

Camp kettles, fifty, in four three quarters, and one quarter ton vats, No. 120 to 124.

Oil. One barrel of olive, in seven jars; and one barrel of train, in fourteen jars.

Cartridge paper. Twelve pounders, sixty reeams, in 24 three quarter ton vats. No. 75 to 98.

Perpendiculars, new pattern, two; rafts, half round, 12, No. 114 to 119.

Anvil, for smiths, one.

White rope, coils, two of four inches and a half, one of three inches, and two of one and a half.

Sheepskins. Twenty-five dozens, in 25 bundles.

Sheets of tin for case shot. Three boxes.

Shot. Musket, 31 tons 500 lb. in 625 boxes. Buck, 1200 lb. in eight barrels and four boxes.

Spikes. Eight inch, 10,000, in twenty weight powder barrels, No. 1 to 20; seven inch ditto, 10,000, in 16 ditto, No. 21 to 36.

Spare spunge, and rammer heads. Ten of 24 pounders, 15 of 12, 30 of six, and six of three. Twenty-five pair of scissars. Three pair of brass scales. Weights from four lb. to a quarter of an ounce, three piles, No. 114 to 119.

Staves, spare, for ladles, &c. 100. Thread 200 weight, in a half ton vat, No. 120.

Twine, 100 weight, in a quarter ton vat, No. 121.

Round shot. Twelve pounders, 3000. Six pounders, 4000. Junk, ten tons.

Mortar beds, for land service. Three of thirteen inches, four of ten, and four of eight.

Ammunition waggons, seven. Carbines, with bayonets, scabbards, and steel rammers, seventy-five; Carbine cartouch boxes, with belts and frogs, seventy-five. Tanned leather slings, seventy-five. In three chests.

Handspikes, 100

Camp kettles, with frying pan covers, 100, in ten three quarter ton vats.

LABORATORY STORES.

Carcasses, round, thirteen inches, fifty in fifty boxes; oblong, eight inches, 100 in 34 boxes.

Shot fixed to wood bottoms. Round, 24 pounders, 160 in 20 boxes. Twelve pounders, 1080 in 90 boxes. Six pounders, 2720 in 98 boxes. Three pounders, 90 in 3 boxes. – Case; 24 pounders, 72 in 9 boxes. Twelve pounders, 1280 in 107 boxes. Six pounders, 1416 in 51 boxes. Three pounders, 96 in 3 boxes. Eight inch howitz, 30 in ten boxes. Five and a half inch howitz, 100 in 10 boxes.

Empty flannel cartridges. Heavy, 24 pounders, 1500 in a case, No. 21. Twelve pounders, 2000 in a case, No. 23. Light, six pounders, 5,800 in a case, No. 20.

Fixed fuzes. Four and two fifths, 8440 in two cases, No. six and seven.

Empty shells. Thirteen inches, 100. Ten ditto, 100. Eight ditto, fifty. Five and a half, 100 in thirteen boxes.

Tin tubes fixed. Six pounders, light, 16,000 in a case, No. fourteen.

Bottoms of wood for mortars, thirteen inches, 100.

Iron round shot. One pounders, 20,000 in 200 boxes.

Covers of cured paper. 24 pounders, 1050 in a case, No. 33. Twelve pounders, 3,600 in two cases, No. 37 and 38. Six pounders, 2800 in one case, No. 42.

Caps of cartridge paper. Twenty-four pounders, 1050 in a case, No. 33. Twelve paunders, 3600 in two cases, No. 37 and 38. Six pounders in a case, No. 42.

Mealed powder, two barrels, in a case, No. 48.

Portfires. Long and small, 100 dozen, in a case, No. 28.

Empty flannel cartridges. 12 pounders, light, 1500 in No. 28.

Board's order, 11th of August, 1775.

One brass mortar of 13 inches, with a complete mortar bed. To be delivered to Capt. Stehelin.

Board's order, August 9, 1775.

Watchcoats, thirty-two, in two half ton vats, No. 125 and 126. Two reams of muster rolls, one ditto pay lists, and one dozen of the articles of war, in a quarter ton vat, No. 129.

For Mr. Durnford. B. Blight.
Office of Ordnance, Sept. 1, 1775. Stephen Moylan.
A true copy from the original.
P.S. Two brass six pounders on board the brig.

Published by order of Congress. Charles Thomson, Secretary.

Benjamin Franklin to Charles William Frederick Dumas [1]

[Extract] Philad. Dec. 12, 1775.

We are threatned from E. [England] with a very powerful Force to come next Year against us. We are making all the provision in our power here to oppose that force, and we hope we shall be able to defend ourselves. But as the Events of War are always uncertain, possibly after another Campaign we may find it necessary to ask aid of some foreign Power. It gives us great Pleasure to learn from you, that toute l'Europe nous souhaite le plus heurent succès pour le maintien de nos libertés. But we wish to know whether any one of them, from principles of humanity, is disposd magnanimously to step in for the relief of an oppress'd People; or whether, if, as it seems likely to happen, we Should be oblig'd to break off all connection with Britain, & declare ourselves an independent People, there is any State or Power in Europe, who would be willing to enter into an Alliance with us for the Benefit of our Commerce, which amounted before the war to near seven Millions Sterling per annum, and must continually increase, as our People increase most rapidly.

Confiding, my dear Friend, in your good will to us & our Cause, and in your Sagacity and Abilities for Business, the Committee of Congress, appointed for the Purpose of establishing & conducting a correspondence with our Friends in Europe, of which Committee I have the honour to be a Member., have directed me to request of you, that as you are situated at the Hague, where Embassadors from all the Courts reside, you would make use of the Oportunity that situation affords you, of discovering, if possible, the disposition of the several Courts with respect to such Assistance or Alliance, if we Should apply for the one or propose the other. As it may possibly be necessary, in particular instances, that you Should, for this purpose, confer directly with some great Ministers, & show them this Letter as your Credentials, we only recommend it to your discretion, that you proceed therein with Such Caution, as to Keep the same from the knowledge of the E. [English] Ambassador, and prevent any public Appearance at present of your being employ'd in any such Business, as thereby we imagine many Inconveniencies may be avoided, and your means of rendering us service increased.

That you may be better able to answer some Questions, which will probably be put to you concerning our present Situation, we inform you:

That the whole Continent is very firmly united; the Party for the Measures of the British Ministry being very Small and much dispersed.

That we have had on foot the last Campaign, an Army of near 25000 Men, wherewith we have been able not only to block up the Kings Army in Boston, but to spare considerable Detachments for the Invasion of Canada, where we have met with great success, as the printed papers sent herewith will inform you, and have now reason to expect, that whole Province may be soon in our possession.

That we purpose greatly to increase our Force for the ensuing Year, and thereby we hope, with the Assistance of a well-disciplined Militia, to be able to defend our Coast notwithstanding its great extent.

That we have already a Small Squadron of armed Vessels to protect our Coasting Trade, who have had some success in taking several of the Enemy's Cruisers, and some of their Transport-Vessels and Store-Ships. This little naval force we are about to augment, and expect it may be more considerable in the next Summer.

We have hitherto apply'd to no foreign Power.

We are using the utmost Industry in endeavoring to make Saltpetre, & with daily increasing success. Our Artificers are also every where busy in fabricating Small Arms, casting Cannon, &c. Yet both Arms and ammunition are much wanted. Any Merchants who would venture to send Ships laden with those Articles might make great profit, such is the Demand in every Colony, and such generous Prices are and will be given, of which, and of the manner of conducting such a Voyage, the Bearer ———— [Mr. Story] can more fully inform you. And whoever brings in those articles, is allowed to carry off the value in Provisions to our West-Indies, where they will probably fetch a very high Price, the general Exportation from North America being stopt. This you will see more particularly in a printed Resolution of the Congress.

We are in great Want of good Engineers, and wish you could engage and send us two able ones in time for the next Campaign; one acquainted with Field Service, Sieges, &c. the other with fortifying of Sea-Ports. They will, if well recommended, be made very welcome and have honourable Appointments, besides the Expenses of their Voyage hither, in which ——— [Mr. Story] can also advise them.

As what we now request of you, besides taking your time, may put you to some Expences, we send you for the present enclos'd a Bill for One Hundred Pounds Sterling to defray such Expences, and desire you to be assured, that your services will be considered and honourably rewarded by the Congress.

We desire also that you would take the trouble of receiving from ——— [Arthur Lee] Such Letters as may be sent by him to your care, and of forwarding them to us with your Dispatches. When you have Occasion to write to him, to inform him of any thing which it may be of importance that our Friends there Should be acquainted with, please to send your Letter to him under cover ——— [William Lee] and do not send it by ——— [post] but ——— [by some trusty shipper, or other prudent person who will deliver it with his own hand] &c. &c. And when you send to us; if you have not a direct safe Oportunity, we recommend sending by way of ——— [St. Eustatia, to the care of Messrs Robert and Cornelius Stevens, merchants there, who will forward your dispatches to me.] [2] &c.

B. Franklin

[Endorsed] Philad. Dec. 12, 1775.

We the underwritten appointed by the American Congress a Committee of Foreign Correspondence &c.[3] having perused the above Letter, written at our Request, do approve and confirm the same.

John Dickinson John Jay.

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1. C. W. F. Dumas Collection, The Hague, LC Transcript.
2. Francis Wharton, ed., *The Revolutionary Diplomatic Correspondence of the United States* (Washington, 1889), II, 64–67. Hereafter cited as Wharton, ed., *Revolutionary Diplomatic Correspondence.* Wharton prints the letter with the blanks filled in, but dates it December 19, whereas from the endorsement by Dickinson and Jay, dated December 12, it is evident that Franklin wrote it on the earlier date.
3. The committee was appointed November 29, 1775, and consisted of five members: Benjamin Harrison of Virginia, Thomas Johnson of Maryland, John Jay of New York, and both Franklin and Dickinson, of Pennsylvania.

Francis Lightfoot Lee to Landon Carter [1]

my dear Colonel, Philadelphia Decr 12th 1775

Before you receive this, Mr Colston will have given you all the news of this place when he left it. since which one of our little men of war, called the *Lee,* capt Manly, has taken a Store ship, loaded with 2000 stand of arms, a great deal of artillery, 30 tons of shot. a quantity of shells & shott for the bombs & Cannon; and a very great quantity of all kinds of Artillery stores; to the amount of 20,000 £ Str, as tis tho't We make no doubt but Quebec & Carlton with his powder are in our possession by this time. If we are supply'd with powder from that or any other quarter this winter we shall certainly make Boston too hot for Howe; as the Ministry has kindly supplied us plentifully with Artillery. these successes to the Northward, and the former reputation of Virga make the present proceedings with you, appear in a very odd light. The real friends of liberty are under great concern, & your delegates are mortified with the sneers & reflections of the lukewarm. but that is trifling to the uneasiness we suffer, from the apprehension of the consequences, that may follow, from Ld Dunmore's being allow'd to get to such a head. It does not appear to me, that Woodford's force is sufficient to effect any thing decisive. In my opinion, our safety depends upon an immediate, & effectual stop being put to that infernal Demon, & his tory associates at Norfolk. The Congress are giving the greatest attention to a Navy, & I hope we shall have ships enough by the spring to oblige the Ministerial fleet to consult their safety by keeping close together, & of course will not be able to do us much injury. I am surprised at not receiving Letters from my friends in Richmond by the Contl post. The Postmaster assures me there is a post established from Fredericksburg to Port royal, Hobb's hole, & Urbanna; And the County Comtees were to direct where the offices shou'd be kept. I wish it was enquired into & the obstructions mentioned; that they may be removed, if in the Postmaste[rs] power. I hope the County chose a Comtee to your liking, & that every thing is quiet. – Is it not necessary that the Convention shoud establish some kind of Government? as Ld D — [Dunmore] by his proclamation, has utterly demolished the whole civil Government. I believe the Congress will adjourn before Christmas, but whether long enough to allow me to see Virga is uncertain. In the mean time my best wishes attend my friends in Richmond I am Dear Col. [&c.]

Francis Lightfoot Lee

To Colo Landon Carter/Richmond County/Virginia

[1] Francis Lightfoot Lee Folder (Misc.), VHS. Lee was a Virginia delegate in the Continental Congress.

Francis Lightfoot Lee to a Friend in England [1]

[Philadelphia, December 12] [2]

The Gentleman who brings this, will have all our public papers; by which you will see our great success this year, against your infamous Ministry. The Associations & Committees of correspondence, gives us some hopes, that your Hill will soon be graced with their heads. It is my opinion that if the war continues another year, G. Britain & the Colonies are disunited for ever. Our troops now in pay & order'd to be raised amount to 35,000 & will be 8 or 10,000 more in the spring. We have now 10 Ships of war from 10 to 30 Guns in Continental pay; & are determined to exert the whole force of the Continent this winter to fit out as many large Ships as possible against next summer. There are many small Ships belonging to the different Colonies, & private persons to cruise upon the Ministerial transports; & many others getting ready. Ld [John Stuart] Bute [3] will soon make America a great Naval power. The *Lee* capt Manly, took the other day a store Ship called the *Nancy,* loaded with Musketts artillery & other stores to a great amount. We thank the Ministry [for] the supply. all Canada is ours.

1. Francis Lightfoot Lee Folder (Misc.), VHS. Only a fragment of this letter is extant.
2. The date is approximated, based on the account of Manley's capture of the *Nancy*. This was first printed in Philadelphia in the *Pennsylvania Packet* of December 11, 1775, without naming the *Nancy*. The *Pennsylvania Evening Post* on December 12, 1775, published the invoice and identified the store ship as the *Nancy*.
3. The peer used by George III to break the power of the Whigs.

JOSEPH HEWES TO CAPTAIN EMPEROR MOSELY [1]

Sir Philadelphia 12th decem – 1775

Mr [Robert] Smith has wrote me he has given you orders to take in Wine at Spain and then proceed to [Saltitudas] for a load of Salt, I fear this will not do as you will run a great risk of being seized by English Men of War among the Salt Islands, I cannot think the profits on the Wine will be equal to the risk, I should rather you should take a load of Salt and instead of Wine get as much Powder and good Muskets as possible and proceed directly home, endeavour to make the land to the Northward of Cape Hatteras get a pilot of[f,] and if any Kings Ship or Cutter should be at Occacork you must land your Powder & Muskets on the Banks and get them sent up to Edenton by small Craft, or you may probably be able to get the Brig in at New Inlet between Hatteras & Roanoke Inlet, if so you may also send the salt up in small Craft advising Mr Smith of your arrival by a boat sent on purpose, or if you cannot do this, nor get into Ococork for Kings Cutters I would have you proceed directly for this place, there is not one Kings Vessel on this River nor has there been one for some time past nor any expected till April or May next, if then and you have nothing to fear from the Custom House officers, they dare not look out, if you can get any kind of freight for this place take it, if you cannot get Powder and Muskets you may take Wine and proceed to St. Eustatia or any dutch or Foreign Port and endeavour to sell the Wine and buy Powder & Muskets this you may do either with a load of Salt or without, if you go without Salt reserve as much Money as will purchase a Load but be very carefull not to go to any place to purchase Salt where you will be likely to fall in with any of the Kings Ships, if you do not return directly from Spain to Carolina you must be very carefull to write to Mr. Baillie to get proper Insurance be particular in informing him where you intend to go that he may make Insurance accordingly, I think this will be the Safest Port on the Continent to come too, after you arrive in Spain write by every opportunity you can possibly get to my Brother Josiah Hewes of this City Merchant, inform him of every step you intend to take, advise with Messrs. Duff & Welch on all these matters and do the best you can for our Interest, if the Brig can be sold for a good price let her go, if not do the best you can, if you take in both Salt & Wine and cannot do better, that is cannot get into Carolina with Safety, I think you may get in here without much risque, pray dont fail to write by every opportunity, Powder, Salt Petre, Muskets, good Cannon say nine & Six Pounders, I believe will answer if well bought, at any rate Powder & Muskets cannot fail, I am Sir [&c.]

Joseph Hewes

1. Samuel Johnston Papers, Hayes Manuscripts, NCDAH. Hewes was a North Carolina delegate in the Continental Congress.

GOVERNOR WILLIAM TRYON'S INTELLIGENCE FROM PHILADELPHIA [1]

Intelligence received from Philadelphia
the 12th December 1775.

Lord Dunmore is entrenched at Suffolk with 2000 Men certain, I have heard from two Gentlemen that he has 5000, and that five Counties have joined him to a Man; there are great preparations making at Philadelphia to attack Lord Dunmore; Five Vessels getting ready with the greatest dispatch, one of them carries 20 Nine pounders, and 12 Sixes, One of Twenty Nine Pounders, Two of Fourteen Guns and one of 16, besides a New England Sloop of 14 Guns, lying before the Town, and had brought Officers for the other Vessels; the Commodore who commands this Fleet is from Rhode Island, his Name is [Esek] Hopkins. – There are now Orders for three Regiments, Viz: two from Pensylvania, and one from Jersey to March towards Suffolk by way Chisepeak to attack Lord Dunmore. [Endorsed] (Copy) Governor Tryon's Intelligence from Philadelphia 12th Decemr 1775. Rd in V. A. Shuldhams Letter 19 Janry

[1] PRO, Admiralty 1/484. The intelligence was furnished by James Brattle, valet of James Duane; see footnote to "Intelligence Received from William Tryon," November 16, 1775, Volume 2, 1051. Tryon was Royal Governor of New York.

HENRY DOUGHERTY AND OTHERS TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

Gentlemen: – Liberty Island, December 12th, 1775.

We, the Commanders of the Pennsylvania Armed Boats, Beg leave to represent to you, that Sundry of us having examin'd our Magazines, and find that our powder is suffering much from the natural dampness of all the Boats, and the long time it has been on board. We likewise have to observe, that the Inclemency of the weather is so severe on our men, occasions general dissatisfaction among them, and makes desertion very frequent, which is impossible for us, totally to prevent. We thought it our duty to give you this Intimation, and submit the measures to your Wisdom.

We would not have it conceiv'd that this proceeds from any desire we have of being (in consequence of it) order'd to town, But purely that the service we are engaged in may not suffer; The good of which, we do assure you, no sett of men has more sincerely at heart than, Gentlemen, [&c.]

H. Dougherty,
Charles Alexander,
Jno. Hamilton,
James Montgomery,
Thos. Moore,
Alex'r Henderson,
Benj. Thompson,
Allen Moore,
Rich'd Eyers,
James Blair,
John Rice.

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[1] Samuel Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives* (Philadelphia, 1852–56 and Harrisburg, 1874–), 2nd series, I, 379. Hereafter cited as Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives.*

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND CONVENTION [1]

[Annapolis Tuesday, December 12, 1775.]

On motion, Resolved, That no boat or other vessel belonging to this province, go out of this province, without a licence in writing from this Convention, the Council of Safety hereafter to be appointed, or from some committee of observation, and that the particular place such boat or vessel shall be designed to go to, shall be expressed in all licences granted by the committees of Observation. And if any such [boat or vessel shall be] navigated beyond the Limits of this P[rovin]ce without such Licence, or if after having obtained such Licence, the Skipper thereof shall, without absolute and inevitable Necessity go to, or touch at, any Place out of this Province, other than that mentioned in such Licence or shall carry any Person or Letter, of which he shall not give previous Notice to such Committee, or shall bring back any person or Letter of which he shall not give Notice to some Committee of Observa[tion,] as soon as may be after his return, such Skipper and all other Persons accessory to such Misbehaviour, may be punished by Imprisonment; but it is understood that this resolution is not to prohibit the crossing Patowmack, although the Boats or Vessals employed or used therefor should go up the Creeks or arms of Patowmack river making into Virginia, or to proh[ibit] passing or repassing at the Ferry on Pocomoke River.

[1] Proceedings December Convention Dec. 7, 1775–Jan. 18, 1776, Md. Arch.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA CONVENTION [1]

[Williamsburg] Tuesday, December 12, 1775.

The President laid before the Convention a letter received from Col. Woodford, which, being read,[2]

Resolved unanimously, That this Convention do highly approve of Colonel Woodford's conduct, manifested as well in the success of the troops under his command, as in the humane treatment of, and kind attention to, the unfortunate, though brave officers and soldiers, who were made prisoners in the late action near the Great Bridge, and that the President communicate to Col. Woodford the sense of his country on this occasion.

[1] *Virginia Convention,* 63.
[2] See Woodford to Pendleton, December 9, 1775.

COLONEL WILLIAM WOODFORD TO EDMUND PENDLETON [1]

[Extract]

Great Bridge, December 12.

L. Col. Stephen [Edward Stevens] arrived at Kemp's Landing last night, and agreeable to my orders, sent a party to secure every person in that neighbourhood that had left Norfolk since the battle of the Great Bridge . . . I have had a number of people from thence today, whose stories disagree. They bring two petitions, one from the poor inhabitants of Norfolk, the other from the distressed Highlanders, which I likewise send enclosed; and, having given no answers to them yet, have detained the bearers for farther consideration. . . . Major [Francis] Eppes arrived here this evening with his party, and col. [Robert] Howe with 340 of the [North] Carolina regulars. . . . I shall march to-morrow with a number of the troops. I am just informed, that several sail of vessels were arrived today, thought to have troops on board; but col. Howe supposes them to be the tenders returning from North Carolina.

1. Purdie's *Virginia Gazette,* December 15, 1775.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

In the Council of Safety [Charleston],
Dec. 12th, 1775.

Messrs. Samuel and Benjamin Legare presented a memorial dated 11th December, 1775, and also an affidavit by Fenwick Bull, dated 10th December, 1775, referred to.

Tuesday Evening, Dec. 12th, 1775.

A motion was made, that the memorial this day presented by Messrs. Samuel and Benj. Legare, be referred to the general committee. A debate ensued, and the question being put, it passed in the negative.

Ordered, That the said memorial be taken into immediate consideration.

Resolved, That it is the opinion of this Council, that Messrs. Samuel and Benjamin Legare may justly seize and take into their possession, and cause to be sold at public auction, after ten days notice, any effects of Lord William Campbell in Charles-Town, and out of the said sale to reimburse themselves to the amount of one hundred and sixty half-johannes, set forth in their memorial to be unjustly detained, and also a sufficient sum to defray the expences attending the said sale and incidental charges, returning the overplus, if any there shall be, to the said Lord William Campbell, or to his representative in Charles-Town. And that the said Samuel and Benjamin Legare should, previous to the sale, give to Lord William Campbell due notice of this resolution, to the end that his lordship may, by a restitution of their property, prevent the said sale, if he shall think proper.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society,* III, 79–81.

13 Dec.

MINUTES OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

[Portsmouth] 13 [December].

ordered Receiver Genl to pay the Committee for procuring Powder abroad, the Light Gold in the Treasury, according to an amount thereof by him exhibited to this Committee.

1. *Collections of the New Hampshire Historical Society,* VII, 30.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SCHOONER *Hinchinbrook*, LIEUTENANT ALEXANDER ELLIS [1]

Decr 75		Cape Ann N E.B N Distance 6 Leagues –
Wednesdy	13	at 5 A M Got under way in Company with His Majs Ships *Lively Nautilus* & *Canceaux* at 6 Past by the Lighthouse at 8 Went in between Cat Island and marble head at ½ past

Saw sevl Sail of schooner[s]. Gave Chase to One Down between baker Island & the main Fired Sundry Shot at Do She Runng into the upper Harbour under the Cover of the fort the fort Fired Sevl shot at us to no affect Haul'd our Wind to the Wtward at 11 Struck on a Ridge of Rocks Half way Rock bearing SWBW Distance 2 Miles and the Et End of Bakers Island NW. at 12 Got off with the Loss of our False Keel Lost a Studdg sail boom Iron of[f] the Yard

Mod and fine Wr at 1 P M Spoke His Majestys ship *Lively* the Captn thought it Proper for us to make the Best of our way to Boston at 8 P M Came to an Anchor in 10 fm Water with our best br & Gave her ½ a Cable boston Lighthouse N W Distance 1 Mile

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 51/4219.

PHILLIP CALLBECK TO THE SALEM COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

Gentlemen, Salem 13th December 1775.

The distressed situation that I left my Family in has determined me at the hazard of my life immediately to proceed to the Island of Saint John – preparatory thereto I am obliged to goe to Beverly where I shall be detained the whole day which debars me from waiting on you in order to request your indulgence to be permitted to Ship on Board a Vessel which I have hired to goe from Beverly to Winter harbor – six barrells of Flour – three barrlls of Bread – three barrlls of Pork and one barrll of W: I: Rum – the reasons that I have to offer for this request are – that most part of my winter supply have been destroyed at the Island – by which I am reduced to a sole dependance on your determination – I have to add that His Excellency Genl Washington has granted me an order to be assisted in my intended Voyage – I shall further give you every security that the supply of provisions that I ask the liberty of shipping are entirely for my own consumption and for no other use – Mr Pitman who is so kind to take charge of this will inform you of many particular circumstances which I hope will induce you to shew me a lenity that shall ever be acknowledged by him who is Gentn [&c.]

Philp Callbeck

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[1] Pickering Papers, 39, 129, MassHS.

MEMOIRS OF MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH [1]

[Cambridge] 13th [December] An express arrived from Marblehead, with advice that three British men-of-war were standing for that harbour. Col. [John] Glover's regiment,[2] with Capt. [Thomas Waite] Foster's company of artillery, and a company of riflemen, were ordered to march to Marblehead with all expedition.[3]

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[1] William Abbatt, ed., *Memoirs of Major-General William Heath By Himself* (New York, 1901), 25.

[2] "Revolutionary War Journal of Phineas Ingalls," *Essex Institute Historical Collections*, LIII, 88, reads: "Dec. 13. Marblehead sent for and marched for home, but returned having heard of a French ship."

3. Extract of a letter from Cambridge, December 13: "Our privateers meet with success in bringing in vessels that were going to the relief of Boston, which town is in great distress . . . The three men of war which appeared off Marblehead, are since gone off without doing any damage," *Pennsylvania Journal,* December 27, 1775.

STEPHEN MOYLAN TO WILLIAM WATSON [1]

Sir Cambridge 13 Decembr 1775

Your favour of the 4th inst is come to hand Your attention and activity in fitting out the two armd Vessells is pleasing to his Excellency, I wish they may Carry in some prizes that may pay you for all your trouble Captain Manlys good fortune seemes to Stick to him. he has taken three valuable Prizes since my last this shews of what vast advantage to the Cause, these Vessels would be, if the Commanders were all as attentive to their duty and interest as Manly is – there runs a report, about Camp that one of our little fleet is taken and carried into Boston we shall be uneasy until we hear from Martindale as he is the one suspected, if Capt Coit. and he are Safe, let us know it as soon as possible – Your[s] of the 11 is come to hand, I fear there is no doubt that the *Washington* is taken. –

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[1] Washington Papers, LC.

EBENEZER HALL TO MARK ALEXANDER [1]

Sir Medford Decembr 13 1775

I should Be Glad if you Could ship me as much flour as the Twenty bb of Rum Came to that I Last shiped to you By Captn Thatcher as I under stand he is a comin this way with [h]is vessel and flour is very hard to Be Got at this Time of pubelick Disstres I should Be abloydg to you if you would Right me so that I may make insurence Because of the Enemy I should not send it this Time But People think ther will not Be so much Danger this winter from the Enemey as ther ships must keep in the harbors I would have it shiped where you or Captn thatcher shall think Best for I would Cart it fifty miles Rather than the Enemy should have a Chance to take it I am in Grate want as Bisness is stoped in a Grate meashur and I am not able to Lye Ought of the mony I should Wrote to you Before this Time had it not Bin for sickness and the Trobles of [income] so ny me as I am in three miles of the Enemys inc[ampment] But we Dont feare them at Present as we have got good Generels and souldjers in high spirrits But I hop that this unhap[py] Diffirence wont Last Long But that the ministre and king will Be Convinced of there Rong meashure theay are persuing so that our Trade may Be as in Times past I Remane [&c.]

Eben^{r} Hall

Postscrip I should Be Glad if you would Send me my accompt

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[1] Jenifer Papers, MdHS.

MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HOWE TO LORD DARTMOUTH [1]

[Extract] Boston 13th December 1775

His Majesty's Ship *Tartar* being ordered to England by Admiral Graves, I am to confirm to your Lordship the intilligence before communicated of the Capture of the Ordnance Brig *Nancy* by the Rebels, and that there is a Certainty of another Vessel, the Property of a Merchant, loaded with woolen Goods, and every Article necessary for Cloathing, having lately fallen into their Hands, which must afford great Relief to their most essential Wants.[2]

I am also concerned to observe that the Uncertainty of defenceless Vessels getting into this Harbour is rendered more precarious by the Rebel Privateers infesting the Bay, who can take the Advantage of many Inlets on the Coast, where His Majesty's Ships cannot pursue them, and from whence they can safely avail themselves of any favorable Opportunities that offer. The Admiral being of Opinion that the Ships cannot block up the several Ports of Cape Ann, Marblehead, Beverly and Plymouth which afford Protection to these Pirates without the Assistance of a Land force that cannot at present be spared, has placed his Ships in Nantasket Road, with Orders to cruise from thence in the Bay, which not proving effectual I would humbly propose, that the Provisions, and other valuable Stores, be sent out for the future in Ships of War, without their lower Deck Guns or in Vessels of sufficient Force to defend themselves against these Pirates. One of them a Brigantine with Seventy three Men has been brought in by His Majesty's Ship *Fowey*,[3] and I enclose to your Lordship a Copy of the Captains Instructions from Mr Washington, commanding the Rebel Army: The Prisoners are sent to England in the *Tartar*.

[1] PRO, Colonial Office, 5/93.

[2] The ship *Concord*.

[3] The armed brig *Washington* of Washington's fleet.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HOWE [1]

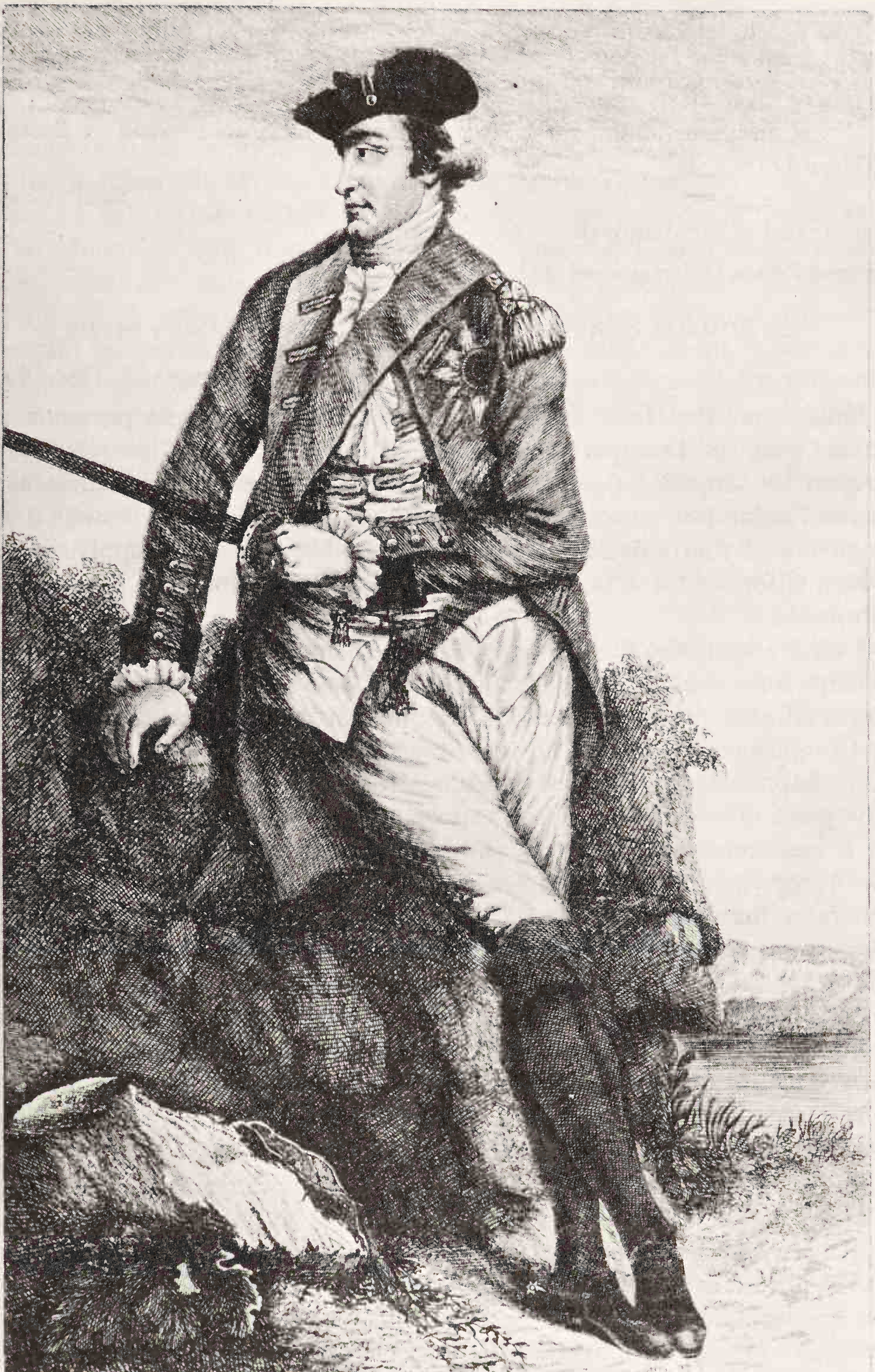
Sir *Preston* Boston 13 Decr 1775

I wish it was in my power to give your Excellency more Satisfaction on the Subject of your Letter, which I had the Honour to receive Yesterday, but altho' fully sensible of the Distresses this Garrison will be subjected to by the Rebels taking its Supplies; Yet it is impossible entirely to prevent it with the Men of War alone at this Season. All that I can do is to place the Kings Ships in the most likely Situations to fall in with Vessels expected to arrive, and these are, I think, off Cape Anne, within Salem Bay, off Marblehead, and thence to Cape Cod. The Cruizers are now under Orders to spread themselves on these Stations, and to rendezvous in Cape Cod Harbour in Gales of Wind Easterly. But, without our having Possession of Marblehead and Cape Anne Harbour also, it is impossible for the Ships to keep on their Stations or prevent the Rebels from making further Captures. If your Excellency thinks it adviseable to attempt seizing the Peninsula of Cape Anne, every assistance the Fleet can afford shall be chearfully given. I am &c [2]

Sam^l^ Graves

[1] Graves's Conduct, II, 18, BM.

[2] *Ibid.*, Graves added in his narrative, as a footnote to the above letter: "But to this proposition, thus repeted the general made no reply."



The Hon.ble Sir Will.m Howe K.t of the
BATH.
Commander in Chief of all his Majeſty's Forces in America

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, H.M.S. *Roebuck* [1]

You are hereby required and directed to put yourself under my command and follow all such Orders and directions as you shall from time to time receive from me for his Majesty's Service.

Given under my hand on board His Majesty's Ship *Preston* at Boston the 13th Decr 1775

Sam^l Graves

By Command of the Admiral G. Gefferina

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[1] Hamond Papers, Orders received 1775–1776, UVL.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO GOVERNOR FRANCIS LEGGE [1]

Sir *Preston* Boston 13 Decr 1775

Since I had the Honor to acquaint your Excellency that no provisions could be spared from the Transport at Halifax Harbour, I find Mr [Alexander] Brymer, the Agent for supplying the Kings Ships there, has received a considerable Supply from England on Account of the Contract; and at General Howe's desire in consequence of your Requisition I have ordered Mr Brymer to supply six months provision[s] for 500 Men for the use of that number of Militia to be embodied in the Province.

I have acquainted Commodore Arbuthnot that I will for the present consent to exempt from being impressed such Seamen as are Inhabitants of Nova Scotia, but that all others must be taken. The Ships of the Squadron are very short of their Complements; we have no other means of supplying the Deficiencies, continually happening by Sickness, Deaths, Desertions and being made prisoners, but by pressing. If the Squadron cannot be kept manned the Services expected from it must remain unexecuted, and the consequences are too obvious to mention. I beg your Excellency to believe that the Exemption I have now made is rather more than the present weak state of the Squadron will justify, but I hope thereby to convince your Excellency and the Province in general, that the Trade of Nova Scotia shall have every protection in my power to give. By examining all Letters at Boston I hope we shall discover the traiterous Correspondence you suspect. I have therefore given Orders to open all Letters, except such as are addressed to Officers on the King's Service. I am &c

Sam^l Graves

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[1] Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 110, BM.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM BOSTON, DEC. 13, 1775" [1]

We are now almost as much blocked up by the sea as we have been for these eight months by land. By this opportunity you will receive a confirmation of the rebels having taken the Ordnance brig. This is a great loss to us and a great acquisition to them. The rebels have also just taken another vessel from Britain, valued at 10,000 l. loaded with necessaries for the army.[2] These vessels have been carried into Cape Aren [*sic* Ann], which is only seven leagues from the mouth of this harbour, and they were taken almost within sight of our Admiral's ship. Yet there is nothing to prevent the rebels taking every vessel bound for this port; for though there are near twenty pendants flying in this harbour, I cannot find that there is one vessel cruising in the bay. Surely our Admiral cannot be allowed to remain here much longer a curse upon the garrison. We used to say here that the suite of our former General were intent on nothing but profit; but we have more reason to complain of our sea commander. All the summer while the sick and wounded were dying daily for want of fresh provisions, not a boat was permitted to fish in the harbour till Mr. ———,[3] the Admiral's secretary, was softened down with a dollar from each boat. You may be sure we were not silent at this exaction, which was both impudent and barbarous, and after a long time got it abolished. But after this we found ourselves in a worse situation. As no dollars were paid, fishing passports were with difficulty procured; the Admiral was never to be seen, and his secretary was always busy; so that it often cost many days attendance before a single boat could have leave to fish, You may guess what execrations were poured forth against them by all sorts of people, the sick, the wounded, and the well, the army, and the inhabitants. If a vessel was fitted out by the army for to sail in quest of fresh provisions, General Gage's desiring a pass was sufficient reason for a refusal; for the Admiral and his 'spouse entertained a mortal antipathy against the General and his Lady. On a second application the reply was, that such a pass was against the Port Bill. To this it was answered that the Port Bill was not passed to starve his Majesty's troops. In such messages as these, eight, ten days, or a fort'night, were lost, and a pass was at last granted on the General's absolutely demanding it for the sake of supplying the sick and wounded who were languishing in the hospitals. A vessel detained in this manner was taken by the rebels on her return from the Bay of Fundy, fully laden with live stock. She was taken by the first vessel fitted out by the rebels and must have came saf[e] had she not been detained as above. The disagreement between the General and Admiral first originated with their wives; both of whom led their husbands. Every plan of the Generals that miscarried afforded matter of laughter to the Admiral's family, who sneer'd and cried out, "Well! this is Mr. General's fine plan!" The General soon had his revenge, for Mr. Admiral undertook himself to defend Noodles's [Noddle's] Island; but the rebels soon made him retreat, defeated his marines, burnt all the hay and barns, and carried off the live stock. Then he undertook to defend Long Island; there again he was defeated, and the women and children who resided there for their health carried off before his face: Then he undertook to defend the light house; there he suffered more disgrace than ever; it was burnt while he and his ships lay in full view: When the rebels had done their business they retired; upon which Mr. Admiral ventured to land a party of marines and a number of workmen to rebuild it; they were no sooner ashore than the rebels in their whale boats landed again on the island, and his marines and his carpenters were killed or taken prisoners under his own guns.[4] During all this Mr. and Mrs. General had their revenge, and they enjoyed it: all their cry was "Well! these are Mr. Admiral's fine plans!" In a few words our navy never made so disgraceful a figure. If our sea commander is not speedily recalled no service can be expected from our fleet. He has quarrelled with the General, the army, with all his own officers except his own hangers-on, with the Commissioners, and with all who had any business with him. After all I believe the man de[s]igns well; but his own wife says that a fit which he had on his arrival here has rendered him good for nothing.

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1. *Morning Post and Daily Advertiser,* London, January 17, 1776.
2. The ship *Concord.*
3. George Gefferina.
4. The Noddle's Island, Long Island and lighthouse incidents are described in Volume 1.

RECEIPT FOR REPAIRS TO WASHINGTON'S ARMED SCHOONER *Harrison* [1]

Plimouth Decr 13th 1775

Then I Recd of Watson & Spooner twenty four Shillings & 8d for My Self & four Men More Going from the wharf to the Garret to Carry down brick & Morter & building up the Chimney in Schooner *Harrison* that was broken Down

Recd p Solomon Atwood Junr

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1. Prizes and Captures, No. 129, LC.

GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE TO THE SHERIFF OF HAMPSHIRE COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS [1]

Sir

Providence Decem 13th 1775

I send you by the Advice of his Excellency General Washington Mr [Henry Edwin] Stanhope late a Lieutenant on board the *Glasgow,*[2] and Mr. Robinson late a Midshipman on board the *Asia* who are not to leave North Hampton until they are properly discharged They go under the Care of Capt. Dunn and of my Son Nicholas Cooke jun. I inclose you a Promise signed by each of them. Mr Stanhope is a Gentleman of Rank being Nephew to Lord Stanhope and to the Duke of Chandois. The other I am informed is a Person of a pretty good Family in England. I am, Sir [&c.]

Nich. Cooke

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1. Letters from the Governor, 1768–1777, vol. 2, R.I. Arch.
2. Stanhope, an acting lieutenant, was seized on a wharf in Newport on the night of November 30, 1775; see journal of the *Glasgow,* that date, Volume 2, 1205.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA STILES [1]

[Newport, December] 13.

Town-Meeting to see if we shall supply Wallace. The Town generally for supplying him notwithstg his Barbarity in Burning Conanicott. Wallace told one of his Prisoners, that he should soon serve Newpt as he had done Conanicott – and that he had assurance that upon his Landg 200 he should be joyned by 250 of the Inhab of Newport, which would instantly joyn him upon his Landing.

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1. Diary of Ezra Stiles, YUL.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. TO THOMAS & ISAAC WHARTON, PHILADELPHIA [1]

Gentlemen

New London Decr 13 1775

Since I wrote you last by Capt [Jonathan] Leeds in the Sloop *Polly* and Capt [Edward] Chappell in the Sloop *Betsey* are both sail'd for Phila and my Friend

Peter Vandervoort writes me that they arived in N York and would Sail from last Monday, so that I flatter myself they will arive by the time this comes to hand and make no Doubt but you will despatch them with their Cargoes soon as possible the method of Clearing out must leave to you. Inclosed is two Letters for them which deliver, am Glad to hear West India Goods are on the Rise, as I have had them so long on hand immagine they will pay the extra. I have not heard from W[illiam] Leeds in the Schooner *Pompy* [*Pompey*] Since I left Phila am much concern'd about him if any Vessell should arive from Guadalupe should be glad you would inquire of him – If you have any late News from Grat Britian be so kind as to let me know, as I imagine the first we hear will be of great importance to this contry I am Gent [&c.]

N Shaw Jun^{r}

1. YUL.

HENRY BABCOCK TO GURDON SALTONSTALL [1]

[Extract] Stonington, 13th Decr 1775.

On my return from Camp, lodged last Saturday night [December 9] at Tower Hill. On Sunday morning, at break of day, we were alarmed with the cry of Fire, upon which we found that five houses were in flames upon the Island of Conanicutt. The country was alarmed as soon as possible. Fifty Provincials were upon the Island. I immediately repaired to Narragansett Ferry, where I found a number of people collected. Out of a hundred, thirty-six volunteered, who put themselves under my command, embarked on board of a Sloop. Capt. Wallace, just as we embarked, set fire to two houses. We imagined he designed to burn every house on the Island.

I appointed Mr. Jonathan Hazard and Capt. Tew, to act as officers. We were told that the enemy had landed a number of field pieces. I observed to the people at the Ferry, that even if they had, they were not so terrible as some people imagined; that it was a shame to afford no relief to the distressed inhabitants, and that the party on the Island might be entirely cut to pieces, for the want of our assistance; and that it would be a noble prize to take Capt. Wallace prisoner. The Colo of the Militia and several other officers I urged hard to step on board the Sloop, but they tho't the attempt too hazardous, and chose to keep themselves out of danger. We arrived time enough to save one house.

Capt. Wallace landed with 75 marines, 125 seamen and 20 women. They plundered and burnt 15 houses; took off 50 head of cattle, 30 sheep and 40 hogs. Besides, a number of barns full of hay, and several cribs full of corn were likewise committed to the flames. He landed at three o'clock in the morning, with five tenders; surprized the guard; took two of them prisoners, and several women and children and sundry of the inhabitants. Eight Indians, that were under the command of Lt. Smith, made themselves a raft of rails and pushed off for the Main, but were taken up by Major Dyer, who arrived with a number of men from North Kingstown, about an hour after we landed. Capt. Wallace, seeing a collection of people at Narragansett, and a number embarking on board the Sloop, tho't it most prudent to take himself off, and not to wait our arrival. . . .

I most heartily congratulate you upon Capt. Saltonstall's being appointed second in command in the American Navy. I dare say he will do honor to his Country. . . .

N.B. The women and children and inhabitants were set at liberty the next day by Capt. Wallace. No person wounded, except Martin on the Island. Four marines wounded by the Provincials.

1. *Collections of the Connecticut Historical Society,* II, 337–39. Saltonstall was a colonel in the Connecticut militia.

CAPTAIN GILES HALL TO GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL [1]

Agreeable To your Honors Directions Dated 4th Inst I Improved the First Oppertunity that Wind & Weather Permitted and Proceeded to Cruize in the Sound with Intention to proceed as far up the Sound as White Ston or Hunts point But on Saturday Last [December 9] Being a Little Eastward of Newhaven Speak with Capt Niles in the Schooner *Spey* [*Spy*] Who Confirmed the Report of that armd Sloop that your Honor Ordered me after was actually Returned back and Pased by New york in Confirmation of which I thought Proper To put Into this Harbour & on Hereing yr Honors appointment of the Generel assembly meting on the 15th Instant Decemr Thought Proper to Tary here for your Honors farther orders From [&c.]

Giles Hall [2]

New Haven, 13 Dec. 1775

1. Trumbull Papers, vol. 1, 372, ConnSL. Trumbull was governor of Connecticut.
2. Captain of the Connecticut armed brig *Minerva.*

LOSS SUSTAINED IN CAPTURE OF SLOOP *Neptune* [1]

The Following is An Acct of the Loss Sustained By two Ministeriel Cruisers On the 6th Day of Sept 1775 The One Belonging to the *Rose,* James Wallace Commander, the other to the *Glasgow,* Howe Commander. By Lemuel Brooks Sloop *Neptune* Laden with Shugar & Salt Bound to New york Belonging to John Brooks of Stradford In Connecticut. One Eaighth Part Josiah Hubble, One ⅛ part Jonathan Boothe One ⅛ part; Benjamin Brooks, One ¼ part Lemuel Brooks ⅜ As the Honourable Continental Congress have Advertised for Said Losses To Be Brot In to the Comtee Appointed for that Purpose the following is A True Acct Attested By the Master, Mate and one [of] the Mariners –

Sloop *Neptune* Burden 95 Tons 44 foot Two Years and 6 Months Old Full Rigged	600	0	0
1641 Bushels Sault, a 2/6	205	2	6
43182 lbs Shugar, as pr Invoice 45/	971	11	9
14 Barrels Limes 20/	14	0	0
3 Chests of Close, Bedding, Quaddrants, Books, and Cabbin Furniture Estimated	60	0	0
	£1850	14	3

Lemuel Brooks, Eleazer Scott George Raymond

Fairfield County ss. Norwalk
13th December Ano Dom. 1775

Then personally appeared Lemuel Brooks Master[2] Eleazer Scott Mate & George Raymond Mariner they & each of them made Solemn Oath to the Truth of the foregoing Account.

Sworn before me Joseph Platt Justice of peace

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1. Papers CC (Connecticut State Papers), 66, I, 149, NA.
2. See Protest of Lemuel Brooks, Halifax, September 20, 1775, Volume 2, 158–59.

PETER VANDERVOORT TO NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.[1]

[Extract] New York Decemr 13th 1775

Capts Chappell & Leeds be still here & are now gone to Obtain a Clearance from our Custom house for Jamaco, the easyer to pass on for Phila, this is in Consiquence of a Brigg Capt Thompson belonging to me sailing yesterday with a Load of Wheat & was Stopt at the hook & Sent back again to the Wharf, in consiquence of wich the Capt went on board the *asia* & Capt Vandeput behaved very kind & genteel to him & told him he Recd orders last Sunday from England to Stop all Vessells going from one Colony to another & Suffer none to go with Cargo[es] but to England Ireland & the English Islands in the West Indies, in Consiquence of this Information have made enquiry & am advised both Leeds & Chappell better Clear from this to Jamaico, they are gone to the Customs house, but not yet Retd. to Inform the Result, I am [&c.]

P Vandervoort

P S. Since Writing the Within Chapple is Returnd to my house & Informs me booth him & Leeds have obtained Clearances for Jamaico & mean to sail first Wind & hope they may go off Saif & git saif to Phila, but fear the Season is too far advanced –[2]

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1. Shaw Papers, NLCHS.
2. Chappell and Leeds were still waiting for a fair wind on December 15. See Vandervoort to Shaw of that date.

GOVERNOR WILLIAM TRYON TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES[1]

Copy On board the Ship *Dutchess of Gordon*
New York Harbour 13 Decr 1775

Sir As I do not at present see any flattering Prospect of my being able to go on Shore in my Government, with Security to my Person, or benefit to His Majesty's Service, I expect the Severity of the Winter will soon render it impracticable, for either the *Asia* or the Merchant Ship I am on Board to remain with Safety, in either the North or East River, or even in this Harbour, In that Emergency I will submit it to your Excellency whether it would not be highly necessary for the *Asia* to repair to Virginia to aid Lord Dunmore's Operations, especially as he is threat'ned with a Visit from the Enemy's Squadron equipping at Philadelphia with all Dispatch, as You will be informed by the inclosed intelligence received this Morning from the best Authority;[2] I could in that case take the benefit of the

Asia's Escort clear off the Coast, in my way to England, or proceed with her to Virginia. I am with Esteem and Respect [&c.]

W^m^ Tryon

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1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485.
2. See Governor Tryon's information from Philadelphia, December 12, 1775.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS [1]

[Philadelphia] Wednesday, December 13, 1775

A letter from General Washington dated 4 December, with sundry enclosures, being received, were read.

The Committee appointed to devise ways and means for fitting out a naval armament, brought in their report, which being taken into consideration, was agreed to as follows:

That five ships of thirty-two guns, five of twenty-eight guns, three of twenty-four guns, making in the whole thirteen, can be fitted for the sea probably by the last of March next, viz. in New Hampshire one, in Massachusetts Bay two, in Rhode Island two, in Connecticut one, in New York two, in Pensylvania four, and in Maryland one.[2]

That the cost of these ships so fitted, will not be more than 66,666 2/3 dollars each, on an average, allowing two complete suits of sails for each ship, equal in the whole to 866,666 2/3 dollars.

That the materials for fitting them may be all furnished in these colonies, except the articles of canvas and gun powder; and that therefore it will be proper the Congress direct the most speedy and effectual means of importing the said articles of canvas and powder; that of the former, 7,500 pieces will be wanted, and of the latter, one hundred tons.

Resolved, That a committee be appointed with full powers to carry the above report into execution, with all possible expedition, (except what relates to canvas and powder) at the expence of the United Colonies.

Resolved, That the appointment of the committee be deferred till to Morrow.

Resolved, That it be an instruction to the Secret Committee to embrace the best and earliest opportunities to procure the quantity of duck and powder in the above report.

Mr. [Thomas] Willing, a member of the Secret Committee, desiring to be excused on account of his living out of town, which rendered it impracticable for him to attend the committee, that usually met in the Evening:

Resolved, That he be excused, and that another be elected in his room.

The member chosen, Mr. R[obert] Morris.

Resolved, That the Committee appointed to fit out armed vessels, be authorised to give able-bodied seamen that may be willing to enter on board the ships of war of the United Colonies, eight dollars per calendar month.

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1. Ford, ed., *JCC,* III, 425–27.
2. New Hampshire, *Raleigh,* 32; Massachusetts Bay, *Hancock,* 32, and *Boston,* 24; Rhode Island, *Warren,* 32, and *Providence,* 28; Connecticut, *Trumbull,* 28; New York, *Montgomery,* 28, and *Congress,* 24; Pennsylvania, *Randolph,* 32, *Washington,* 32, *Effingham,* 28, and *Delaware,* 24; Maryland, *Virginia,* 28.

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH [1]

[Philadelphia] Wednesday 13 [December]. I was at Congress The Delegates of Maryland & Georgia all absent – A report from a Comee was agreed to for equipping Thirteen Ships of War in several Colonies of 32 Guns 28 and 24 Guns each & the Expence of each at an Average estimated at 66,666 ⅔ Dollars – There is a secret Comee whereof Govr [Samuel] Ward is Chairman and Thos McKean Clerk, Mr [Thomas] Willing resigned his Seat in it & Rob. Morris was chosen in his Room by Ballot . . . Debates Whether a Comee of One out of each Colony shall be appointed to take care of Naval Affairs in the Nature of a Board of Admiralty. postponed – Col. [Richard Henry] Lee moved to raise the Wages of able Seamen in the Armament now fitting out, from 50/ Penna Cury which had been before fixed by Congress, to £3 p Month and this was carried by Vote – ablebodied Landmen remain as before at 50/ p Month –

[1] Diary of Hon. Richard Smith, Delegate from New Jersey to the Continental Congress, 1774–1776, LC. Hereafter cited as Richard Smith's Diary, LC.

SAMUEL WARD TO NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.[1]

Sir Philadelphia 13th Decr 1775

I was astonished to find by a Letter from Mr [Thomas] Mumford that You was shipping live Cattle on Acct of the united Colonies, there is an express Resolve of Congress that no horned Cattle, Sheep Hogs or Poultry should be exported and it must be owing to the great Haste in which your Permit was made out that it may not [have been] expressly inserted you was informed however of the Purport of it by Mr [Silas] Deane as he recollects & (I think by Me Mr Shaw[)] You will therefore if the Vessels have not sailed instantly stop the Exportation of any live Stock mentioned above: The Necessity of the Strictest Compliance with every Resolve of Congress you are well sensible of I doubt not therefore your immediate Compliance as you value the Interest of your Country am Sir [&c.]

Sam Ward

P. S. Be good enough to send Me by next Post a Copy of the Permit

[1] Shaw Papers, NLCHS. Ward was a Rhode Island delegate in the Continental Congress.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

[Philadelphia], December 13th 1775

Resolved, That three of our Armed Boats, with their Officers and Crews, be constantly at Liberty Island, and that there be a relief of that Number of Boats every three days; and that this duty begin with the Eldest in command, & the rotation be continued according to Seniority, & by equal duty through the Fleet.

Resolved, That Capt. Dougherty be ordered up immediately from Liberty Island with his Boat, and that Capt. [James] Hamilton & Capt. [Charles] Alexander, inform him of this Resolve.

Resolved, That Robert Towers, Commissary, examine the Powder on Board the Armed Boats in Town, & Report the State of it to this Board to-Morrow.

Resolved, That Mr. Clement Biddle be requested to see that the Barracks are in proper order for the reception of the People on Board the Armed Boats, and that the Necessaries requisite for their accomodation are procured, & make report of his proceedings to this Board.

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1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records,* X, 426, 427.

Pennsylvania Journal, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1775

Philadelphia [December 13].

By the most authentic advices from the Camp at Cambridge, we are informed, that about the 27th ult. Capt. Adams, in the armed schooner *Warren,* belonging to the United Colonies, took a large schooner laden with fruit and vegetables of various kinds bound for Boston.[1] That on the 27th of the same month Capt. Manly, of the armed schooner *Lee,* belonging to the United Colonies, observing a fleet of vessels bound into Boston, found means to separate a large brigantine mounting two fine brass six pounders, and a sloop which served as a tender from their convoy, took them both and carried them into Cape Ann,[2] where the brigantine, when these advices came away, was discharging as fine a collection of military stores (powder excepted) as ever was sent to this country, the value estimated at £20,000 currency – but to our army inestimable. As this capture was made in sight of the other vessels, and at no great distance from Boston, there was reason to apprehend a violent effort would be made to recover it, to prevent which, General Washington ordered four companies to march immediately to cover the unlading the vessel. Teams were impressed from all quarters to bring away the stores, and Col. Glover, in the mean time, to raise the Minute Men in the neighbourhood of Cape Ann, for their immediate security.

That Capt. Manly narrowly missed taking the vessel containing their whole ordnance store, she being just a head; but the present capture is the most seasonable and providential supply that any army ever met with, containing (except powder) the very kind of military stores that was wanting for immediate service.

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1. The schooner *Rainbow,* John McMonagle, master, from Nova Scotia.
2. The references are to the brig *Nancy* and the sloop *Polly,* although the former was not cut out of a convoy, and the latter was not a tender but rather a vessel bringing supplies from Nova Scotia to Boston.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA CONVENTION [1]

[Williamsburg] Wednesday, December 13, 1775.

Resolved, That the Committee of Safety do write to Col. Woodford, desiring that he will endeavour to effect an exchange of the prisoners in his possession for our worthy countrymen now confined by Lord Dunmore; and, if he should not be able to effect such exchange, that he send his prisoners to the city of Williamsburg, as soon as it can be conveniently done, and that he also send the slaves taken to the said city.

Ordered, That the slaves taken and confined at the town of Hampton be sent to the publick jail in the city of Williamsburg.

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1. *Virginia Convention,* 63, 64.

PINKNEY'S *Virginia Gazette,* WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1775

Williamsburg [December 13].

A few days ago 6 of lord Dunmore's men deserted from the *Otter.* They met some of our men, on their way to this city, by whom they were treated with the utmost hospitality; in return, they assisted us, with the highest pleasure, in stowing away our baggage, and in expediting our troops to their destined place. When they were asked what induced them to leave Dunmore, they answered, "Hungry bellies, naked backs, and no fuel; besides, in other respects, the most cruel and inhuman treatment."

COLONEL ROBERT HOWE TO THE VIRGINIA CONVENTION [1]

[Great Bridge] December 13, 1775

We have scouting parties down the Bay, to give intelligence of the arrival of any vessels, or any other event, either to our advantage or otherwise. From the officers commanding those parties, we have received certain intelligence that a man of war, either of thirty-six or forty guns, is within the Bay, and on her way to this place, with a large brig, supposed to be a store ship, both full of men.[2] This may probably give us something to do, and I hope we may execute it properly.

[1] Force Transcripts, LC.

[2] H.M.S. *Liverpool,* a 28-gun frigate, convoying a brig loaded with ordnance stores, anchored off Norfolk on December 21, 1775. See the journal of H.M. Sloop *Otter* of that date.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

In the Council of Safety [Charleston],
Wednesday, Dec. 13th, 1775.

Ordered, That Captain Tufts, commander of the colony ship *Prosper,* do forthwith remove the ship *Betsy,* lying near Mr. Gibbes' wharf, up Ashley river, near the *Prosper,* there to remain until further orders; that he be very attentive to prevent negroes going on board the said ship, and every irregular correspondence with the shore; and that he do report to this board as occasions may require.

[1] *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society,* III, 81–82.

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14 Dec.

WILLIAM BARTLETT TO GEORGE WASHINGTON [1]

Sir Beverly 14 Decer 1775

I now forward to Your Excellency by the Bearer Three Casks of Porter purchased of Capt [Robert] Hunter one Bll of Lemons of what was Remaining Sound out of the ship *Concord* one Box of Pickels one Keg of Sweetmeats one Box of wine Two Cases of wine one Bll of Tea & Loaf Sugar one Bll of Oranges being all the sound ones on board the Brign [*Little*] *Hannah* the Oranges being Directed to his Excellency Generall Gage hope they will be the more Acceptable to His Excellency Generall Washington the Box of sweet meats being all I can find at Preasant on board when she is on Loaded if there should be any more found Shall forward them to your Excellency There is on board the Briga [*Little*] *Han-*

nah a Number of Cask of Lemmons & Limes being almost all Perish'd therefore Shall Sell them Next Monday at Publick Auction if no Counter Orders from your Excellency four Loafs of Sugar out of Ship *Jenney* being all there was Onboard hope These will Arrive Safe & Clear from Frost and am with the Gratesst Respect Your Excellencys [&c.]

William Bartlett

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1. Washington Papers, LC.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO JOHN HANCOCK [1]

Sir Cambridge, Decr 14 1775

The Two french Gentlemen, who will appear before you with this, brought recommendations to me from Governor Cooke of Providence, their names are, Messieurs Pennet & Depliarne.

They propose a plan for supplying this Continent with Arms & Ammunition, which appears to me very eligible, as I am not acquainted with the extent of Schemes already formed by Congress for the attainment of these necessary Articles, I have declined entering into any engagements with them, but have prevailed with them to proceed at the publick expence to Philadelphia & there thro you to lay their proposals before Congress or a Committee of Congress, to whose attention I beg leave to recommend them & the Important business they come upon. I am &c

[George Washington]

P.S: I have given these Gentl[emen] reason to expect that they can get back to the Cape as commodiously & speedily from Philadelphia as they could from Providence, in which I should be very sorry they were disappointed.

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1. Washington Papers, LC.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO JOHN HANCOCK [1]

[Extract] Cambridge 14 Decr 1775

Sir I received your favour of the 2 Instant with the several Resolves of Congress therein Inclosed – The Resolves relative to Captures made by Continental armed vessells only want a Court Established for Trial to make them complete – This I hope will be soon done, as I have taken the Liberty to urge it often to Congress.

I am somewhat at a Loss to know whether I am to raise the Two Battallions of Marines here or not, as the delay can be Attended with but little Inconvenience, I will wait a further explanation from Congress before I take any Steps thereon.

I am much pleased that the money will be forwarded with all possible expedition as It is much wanted, Also that [John] Conolly & his Associates are [taken], It has been a very fortunate Discovry — I make no doubt but that the Congress will take every necessary measure to dispossess Lord Dunmore of his hold in Virginia, the sooner Steps are taken for that purpose, the more probability there will be of their being effectual. . . .

I will make application to Gen How & propose an Exchange for Mr Ethan Allen, I am much afraid I shall have a like proposal to make for Captain

Martindale, of the Armed Brigantine *Washington* & his men, who It is reported was taken a few days past by a Man of War & carried into Boston – we cannot expect to be allways successfull.

1. Washington Papers, LC.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE [1]

Sir Cambridge Decr 14. 1775

Your favour of the 11 Inst was handed me by the Two French Gentlemen, Monsieurs Penet & De pli[a]rne, for which I am exceedingly obliged to you — I have heard their proposals & plan for supplyg the Continent with Arms & Ammunition, which appear plausible & to promise success; But not thinking myself authorized to Enter into any contract respecting the same, & being not fully Acquainted with the measures Congress have adopted for procurg these Articles, I have prevailed upon them to go to Philadelphia & Recommended them & the consideration of their plan to that Body, where the Matter will be finally Agreed upon or Rejected

I must request the favour of you to furnish every Necessary for accomodating them & Carriages with all expedition for carrying them as far as Governor Trumbulls – They are to travel at the Continental expence & Whatever charge you may be at on their Account, you will be pleased to Transmit to me & It shall be immediately Reimbursed I am &c

1. Washington Papers, LC.

New England Chronicle, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7 TO THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1775

Cambridge, December 14.

Yesterday afternoon an express arrived at his Excellency the General's from Marblehead, with advice, that three men of war were seen off that harbour, and that it was apprehended an attack upon the town was intended. On the reception of this intelligence Col. Glover's regiment, with a company of artillery, were ordered to march immediately for that place.

Since the arrival of the above mentioned express, we hear, that the 3 men of war had approached, by yesterday noon, very near the mouth of Marblehead harbour; and that all the militia of the neighbouring towns were under arms – A very good fortification, mounting about 20 pieces of cannon, has been lately erected at the entrance of the said harbour; so that, we hope, any attempt for destroying the town will meet with a vigorous and successful resistance.

STEPHEN MOYLAN TO JOSHUA WENTWORTH [1]

Sir Cambridge 14th Decembr 1775

I see by your favour of the 3d Decembr that mine to you of the 1st had not then reach'd your hands I then desird you would dispose of the Cargo by the *Rainbow* allso the Sloop, if a tolerable price could be got for her if this last is not done 'ere this reaches your hands, you must defer it, until further orders

The two Vessells sent into Winter Harbour were very unjustly taken, and are deliverd up to their respective owners—Captain Adams has his compliment of men made up. Please to make my compliments to Mr King, tell him I will be much obliged to him for the Invoice of the Flour by first private hand –[2]

Captain Manly has been very successfull since I last wrote you, haveing taken three more valuable prizes – I wish the Commanders of the rest of our little fleet were as active if they were, we cou'd Conquer our Enemys without loss of blood

[1] Washington Papers, LC. Wentworth was Continental agent at Portsmouth, N.H.

[2] Flour from the cargo of the *Prince George*, seized in Portsmouth harbor in October 1775.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES [1]

[Watertown] Thursday, December 14, 1775
Afternoon

A Letter from his Excellency General Washington, inclosing a Letter from Colonel [James] Otis, and Colonel [Nathan] Freeman, relative to Shubal Lovell, a Tory, taken Prisoner by Colonel Otis. Read and Sent up.[2]

[1] Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch.

[2] See Freeman's and Otis' letters of December 12, 1775.

Boston Gazette, MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1775

Watertown, Dec. 14.

A sloop with 19 head of cattle, bound from Nova Scotia for Boston, and a brig laden with (*tory*) furniture, from Boston for Halifax, were taken at the Eastward about 12 days since.

DIARY OF EZEKIEL PRICE [1]

Thursday, Dec. 14 One Mr. Kelton, from Dorchester, says, that, by the flags of truce which have lately come out at the lines, the account of the enemy's taking one of our privateers is true. It was a brig fitted out at Plymouth, commanded by one Captain Mansfield [Sion Martindale], who, being attacked by a twenty-gun ship, which boarded them several times, and was beat off; at last the privateer was overpowered by their great force, but not before they had every officer on board killed, and all the men to eighteen out of seventy-five; and the brig was afterwards carried into Boston.[2]

[1] *Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society,* 1st series, VII, 220.

[2] About the only accurate statement in this report was that the armed brig *Washington* of Washington's fleet was captured and later carried into Boston.

Massachusetts Gazette and the Boston Weekly News-Letter, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1775

Boston, Dec. 14. 1775.

Last Thursday [December 7] a Piratical Brig, with 10 Carriage Guns and 75 Men, fitted out at Plymouth, and commanded by one Martingale, was taken by the *Fowey* Man of War and brought in here. The Prisoners we hear are to be sent to England in the *Tartar* which sails this Day. Several other Ships likewise sail this Day for England, two of which carry the Officers of the 18th and 59th Regiments.

LETTER FROM CAPTAIN PERRY [1]

[Boston, December 14] [2]

After a hard passage of ten weeks and three days I arrived at Boston; but what added to my uneasiness was, that after making the land I was three and twenty days beating off and on to get in, most of my rigging was perfectly blown away, for nothing sure was able to stand such weather; only two men and myself were able to keep the deck, the rest being fairly knocked up with the fatigue: at length we fell in with the *Fowey*, who lent us every assistance: [3] going for Boston harbour we were obliged to come to an anchor in Nantucket [*sic* Nantasket] road; and here from the shore the provincials fired at us, and would, I believe, have taken the vessel, but that the men of war sent their boats and towed us into harbour. The soldiery seem to be in good spirits. Fresh provisions are very scarce, and consequently very dear; beef 14d. per lb. potatoes 8s. per bushel, turkies 10s. a piece, and other poultry in proporition; however there is no want of salt provisions, with pease, oatmeal, &c.

[1] *London Chronicle*, January 9 to January 11, 1776. Perry, master of the transport *Mary*, was writing to the ship's owners in Liverpool.

[2] The date is approximated, and based upon the statement that the letter came in the *Tartar* frigate, which sailed from Boston, December 16, 1775.

[3] From journal of the *Fowey*, Monday, November 20, 1775: "at 7 [A.M.] fired a Gun to bring to a Snow which proved from Liverpoole to Boston, Sent her a Mizen topsail & a Puncheon with water & 3 Men." PRO, Admiralty 51/375.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES [1]

[Boston] 14 [December]

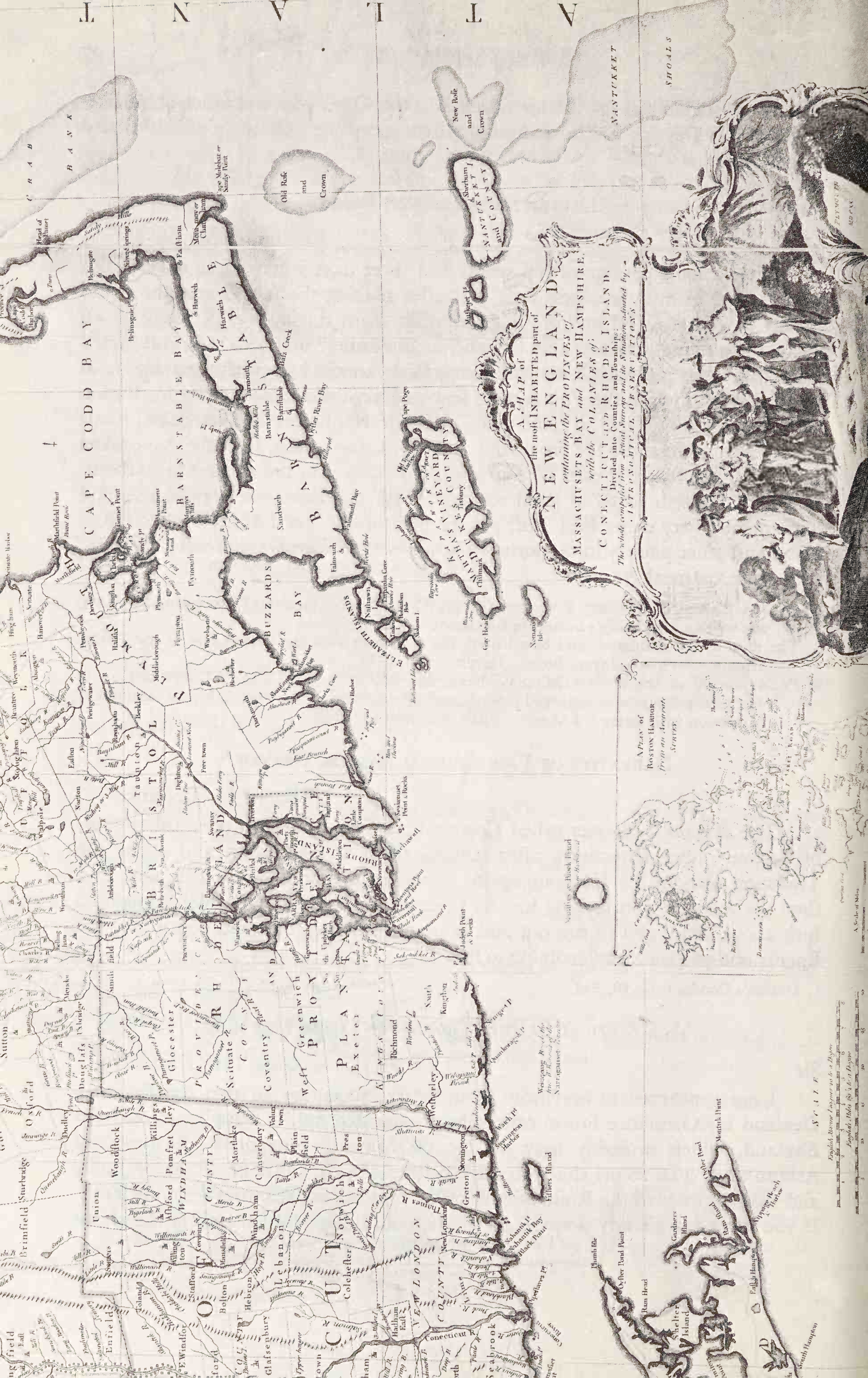
The *Halifax* Schooner sailed Convoy to a Transport with poor Inhabitants of Boston, under Directions, after landing them at Deer point and seeing the Transport safe up the Harbour again, to anchor in Pudding or Shirly Gut, and there to be vigilant in looking for the Enemies small Privateers which sometimes lurk about there, and to run out and in occasionally as she could best annoy the Enemy and protect Vessels coming to Boston.

[1] Graves's Conduct, II, 18, BM.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO JAMES MORDEN [1]

Sir *Preston* Boston 14th Decr 1775

I am concerned to find from your Letter November 3d that the *Preston*'s Demand for Ordnance Stores cannot be compleated until a Supply arrives from England, which probably may not be till May or June next. Commodore Arbuthnot acquaints me that you have neither Match, Cordage, Plank or Junk; and that contrary to the Rules of Service these Stores are required from the Yard. If you have not already done it, no time should be lost in demanding the above


A MAP of
the most INHABITED part of
NEW ENGLAND,
containing the PROVINCES of
MASSACHUSETS BAY and NEW HAMPSHIRE,
with the COLONIES of
CONECTICUT and RHODE ISLAND,
Divided into Counties and Townships:
The whole composed from Actual Surveys and its Situation adjusted by
ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATIONS.
A PLAN of
BOSTON HARBOR
from an Accurate
SURVEY
CAPE COD BAY
BARNSTABLE BAY
BARNSTABLE
BUZZARDS BAY
ELIZABETH ISLANDS
BRISTOL
PLYMOUTH
RHODE ISLAND
PROVIDENCE
PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
WINDHAM COUNTY
NEW LONDON COUNTY
DUKES COUNTY
NANTUCKET
NANTUCKET SHOALS
Old Rose and Crown
New Rose and Crown
Fishers Island
Shelter Island
Gardners Island
Montauk Point
SCALE

Articles, and all other kinds of small and great Stores generally used on board the Kings Ships, that the Service may not be retarded for want of necessary Supplies; and you may rely upon it that there will be frequent Applications to you next Summer. I am &c

Saml Graves

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1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 110–11, BM. Morden was Ordnance Storekeeper at Halifax.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M. SLOOP *Nautilus* [1]

Decembr 1775 In Nantasket Road, Boston

Wednesday 13th at ½ past 2: A M the *Lively* made the signall to weigh, at ½ past 3 weigh'd & came too sail, in Compy the *Lively, Canso* [*Canceaux*], and *Hinchinbrook* Schooner, Employ'd getting our Ship ready for Action, at day light saw several small Vessels in the Entrance of Marblehead Harbour, at 10: was a bout 2 or 3 miles from the Town, saw the *Hinchinbrook* in Chace of a Schooner, at Noon half way rock bore Wt 4 or 5 miles, hawl'd to the Etward, the *Hinchinbrook,* and *Canso* parted Company; cloos reef the Tops Modt Breezes and Cloudy Wr at 3 reeft the main sail; Thatchers Island NWBW½W 2 or 3 miles down Top gt yards, at 6. Do Wr hawld the wind, at 7 lost sight of the *Lively*

Thursday 14th 10 [A.M.] saw a sail in the SE sett cloos reeft fore & Mizen Topl out 3d reef main Topl More Modt & Cloudy, the Extream part off Cape Ann WBS 3 or 4 Leags Modt Breezes & Clear Wr at 1 TKd in Chace of a Schooner, out reefs the Tops gott Topgt yards a Cross, sett Steering sails, at 4 [P.M.] Pidgeon Hill WBN½N, 7 Leags still in Chace, at ½ past 6 lost sight of the Chace, down Steering sails in 1st & 2d reef Tops & hawld our wind, at 7 TKd

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1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1884.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA STILES [1]

[Newport] Decr 14.

Town Meeting – sent a Committee & settled with Wallace & agreed to supply him. Just at Night Orders came from the Committee of Safety, refusing to permit Wallace to be supplied & forbiddg all Communication with him. Instantly another To Meetg assembled & sat till IX o'Clock in Eveng. In the present Destress the[y] voted a Committee of 25 to set off to Morrow Morng for Providence to petition the Committee of Safety to revoke their Order; & nominated me for one of the Committee – but I declined it. The Committee a Mixture of Tories &c. I have Reason to believe that the Tories are inveigling the lower sort of pple with Ministerial Monies, to take up Arms on pretence of defendg their property, & makg them believe that it is the aim of Providence to destroy Newport. I think it necessary to undeceive them by a Reference to the Continental Congress.

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1. Diary of Ezra Stiles, YUL.

GURDON SALTONSTALL TO SILAS DEANE [1]

[Extract] New London, Dec. 14th, 1775.

Capt. [Dudley] Saltonstall is much disappointed in not receiving Articles for the seamen to be enlisted for sea-service. There are many good men well disposed to engage at this port, New Haven, and farther westward, but they will not engage as yet, without knowing the terms. Capt. Saltonstall will this morning take a turn among the seamen, to let them know he is without further directions, and encourage them as much as possible to engage; and then, immediately set off for Philadelphia, and will probably reach New York Sabbath evening, or Monday morning. He will necessarily be detained a little on the road, to engage what seamen he can: you'll not have a letter from him this day, as he will be with you as soon as possible.

1. *Collections of the Connecticut Historical Society,* II, 335–36. Deane was a Connecticut delegate in the Continental Congress and a member of the Naval Committee.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO JOHN HANCOCK [1]

[Extract] Albany December 14th 1775.

Sir Since my last to you I have received no Accounts from Canada.

I learn that the recruiting Parties I have sent out, meet with little Success. The Troops at Fort George & Tconderoga have only seventeen Days more to serve, & I fear they will come away, as soon as their Time of Service is expired.

All the Prisoners are not yet arrived here. The Moment they come in, I shall send them to Esopus, as well the Officers as Men, for Colo: [Erastus] Wolcott informs Me that Governor [Philip] Skene as well as his Son have fled and that two Frenchmen are also gone, one of which is Oreillat, whom Mr. Brook Watson recommended to Major Shireff [William Sherriff] to get exchanged, the Vicinity of Hudson's River to New Town & Bridge field, the two Tory Towns in Connecticut, favours their Escape; I have given such Orders to Colo: [Cornelius D.] Wynkoop that if they are properly executed, I shall be under no Apprehensions for those that go to Ulster County. Wynkoop is a spirited & good Officer. –

The River here is closed, the Prisoners are to march by Land. I propose keeping the French Seigneurs until I can move them at l[ess] Ex[pense] Perhaps too if Quebec should fall into our Hands General Montgomery may beg of Congress to permit them to pay a Visit to their Families. I am Sir &c.

Ph: Schuyler

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, I, 362, NA.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS [1]

[Philadelphia] Thursday, December 14, 1775

The Congress, agreeable to the order of the day, proceeded to the appointment of the committee, for carrying into execution the resolutions of Congress, for fitting out armed vessels.

Resolved, That the said Committee consist of one from each colony.

Resolved, That the choice be by ballot.

The members chosen, Mr. [Josiah] Bartlett, Mr. [John] Hancock, Mr. [Stephen] Hopkins, Mr. [Silas] Deane, Mr. [Francis] Lewis, Mr. [Stephen] Crane, Mr. R[obert] Morris, Mr. McKean,[2] Mr. [George] Read, Mr. [Samuel] Chase, Mr. R[ichard] H[enry] Lee, Mr. [Joseph] Hewes, Mr. [Christopher] Gadsden, and Mr. [John] Houston.

The Congress took into consideration a letter received yesterday from General Washington of the 4th: Whereupon,

Resolved, That the second resolution in the report of the committee on General Washington's letter, relative to transports, be recommitted.[3]

[1] Ford, ed., *JCC,* III, 427, 428.

[2] "Mr. McKean" is lined through in text.

[3] See this second resolution in the Journal for November 25, 1775, Volume 2, 1131–33.

SAMUEL WARD TO HENRY WARD [1]

[Extract] Philadelphia 14th Decr 1775

I have the Pleasure to acquaint you that upon considering our Instruction for a Navy the Congress have agreed to build thirteen Ships of War, a Comee is to be this Day appointed with full Powers to carry the Resolve into Execution, Powder and Duck are ordered to be imported, all other Articles it is supposed may be got in the Colonies; two of these Vessels are to be built in our Colony, 1 in New hampshire and etc; the particulars I would not have mentioned; the Ships are to be built with all possible Dispatch.

The fitting out our small Fleet go[es] on well: . . .

[1] Bernhard Knollenberg, ed., *Correspondence of Governor Samuel Ward, May 1775–March 1776* (Providence, 1952), 142–44. Hereafter cited as Knollenberg, ed., *Ward Papers.*

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH [1]

[Philadelphia] Thursday 14 Decr. Much of the Day was spent upon an Answer to that Part of Gen. Washns Letters requesting Directions what to do with the Ships & Cargoes lately taken by our armed Vessels which was at length referred after learned Debates & Authorities from Vattel [2] &c Much Altercation Whether a former Resolution of Congress had passed agt confiscating the Ships taken in Carrying Military Stores or Goods to Boston, the Colonies on Vote were equally divided upon it, however it was agreed that the Cargoes should be forfeited & that such Matters ought to be tryed in the Admiralty Court and by the Course of the Law of Nations not of the Municipal Law . . . A Member from each Colony ([Stephen] Crane for New Jersey, tho now absent) chosen by Ballot to procure or cause to be built and fitted out the 13 Ships of War yesterday ordered [3] . . . [James] Duane presented a Petition from Peter Berton of New York praying Compensation for a Vessel taken by the Men of War, it was referred by Ballot to [Thomas] Lynch, E[dward] Rutledge & myself —

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1. Richard Smith's Diary, LC.
2. Emeric Vattel (1714–67) Swiss jurist.
3. "Mr. [Silas] Deane was left out of the delegation by his State, and some others of the naval committee were dispersed, when Congress appointed a committee of twelve, one from each State, for naval affairs, so that I had no longer any particular charge relative to them; but as long as I continued a member of Congress, I never failed to support all reasonable measures reported by the new committee." John Adams, *The Works of John Adams, Second President of the United States: . . .* (Boston, 1856), III, 12.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

[Philadelphia] December 14th

Resolved, That John Ross, Muster Master, be directed to make a return to this Board of the Number of Men & quantity of Bedding on Board the armed Boats.

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1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 427.

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND CONVENTION [1]

[Annapolis] Thursday 14th December 1775.

It appearing to this Convention by sundry Depositions that William Bartlet Townsend of Worcester County had left this Province with inimical Designs against the same, and that the said William Bartlet Townsend [ha]d carried sundry Inhabitants of this Province to [join] Lord Dunmore, who is now carrying on Hostilities against the Colony [of] Virginia, and has committed Depredations upon the Property of some of the Inhabitants of this Province; And this Convention being also informed, that the Committee of Observation for Worcester [co]unty had fixed a Guard upon the Estate of the said William [B]artlet Townsend, as well to save the same from waste, as to [pre]vent the said William Bartlet Townsend carrying the Negroes thereon to join him with Lord Dunmore. And Application having been made [by Bartlett Townsend, son of the sa]id William Bartl[ett Townsend, to take the management of the said estate into his possession, to secure the same against waste, and to prevent the negroes thereon being removed,]

[*Resolved,* That it be recommended to the committee of observation for Worcester county aforesaid, to commit the said estate to the sa]id Bartlet Townsend, [taking bond with sufficient secur]ity for his taking Care of, managing and secur[ing] the said Estate, and every Part thereof, first having the same inventoried and appraised, and to be accountable for the same, and to take such Measures as shall be necessary to prevent the Negroes on the said Estate being carried out of this Province, or removed to any Place where they m[ay] be liable to be taken out of this Province, and to return [and deliver] up the said Estate and every part thereof, as soon as the said Wi[lliam] Bartlet Townsend shall surrender himself to the Committee of Worcester County, to take his Trial before the Convention, if sitting, or the Council of Safety hereafter to be appointed.[2]

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1. Proceedings December Convention Dec. 7, 1775–Jan. 18, 1776, Md. Arch. Text in brackets is either torn or missing in manuscript, and has therefore been taken from *Proceedings of the Convention of the Province of Maryland, Held at the City of Annapolis, on Thursday the seventh of December 1775* (Annapolis [1776]).
2. *Ibid.*, the Council of Safety was appointed Wednesday, January 17, 1776.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA CONVENTION [1]

[Williamsburg] Thursday, December 14, 1775.

The President laid before the Convention a letter from Col. Woodford, enclosing a petition from the poor inhabitants of the town of Norfolk, requesting his protection; also a petition from sundry distressed Highlanders, lately arrived from Scotland, praying that they might be permitted to go to Cape Fear, in North Carolina, the place where they intended to settle, together with sundry other papers, which were read.[2]

Resolved, That the President be desired to write to Col. Woodford, directing him that all such Tories, taken by him, who shall, upon an examination before the field-officers, appear to have born arms against this colony, be sent to the city of Williamsburg; and that all others who, upon such examination, shall appear inimical to the liberties of America, be detained by him till the farther order of the Convention, or Committee of Safety; That he extend all reasonable indulgence to such as appear to have taken the part of Lord Dunmore through necessity; that he take the distressed Highlanders, with their families, under his protection, permit them to pass by land unmolested to [North] Carolina, and supply them with such provisions as they may be in immediate want of.

The President also laid before the Convention a letter from Col. [Robert] Howe, of North Carolina, informing him that he had joined Col. Woodford with the troops under his command, and should be happy to afford him his best assistance.

Resolved, That no person be allowed to make reprisal on the property of Lord Dunmore, in this colony, or their property seized by him, or the navy, without the order of this Convention.

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[1] *Virginia Convention*, 65, 66.
[2] See Woodford to Pendleton, December 12, 1775.

LETTER FROM A MIDSHIPMAN ON BOARD H.M. SLOOP *Otter* [1]

[Extract] [Off Norfolk] December 14 [2]

The Rebels having now nothing to obstruct their passage, arrived and took possession of Norfolk, and in the evening saluted us with a volley of small arms; on which, the next morning, I was sent on shore to their Commander, to inform him, that if another shot was fired at the *Otter*, they must expect the town to be knocked about their ears.

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[1] *Lloyd's Evening Post and British Chronicle*, March 4 to March 6, 1776.
[2] Probably December 15. See Woodford's letter of December 15, 1775, and Squire's message of same date.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

In the Council of Safety [Charleston],
Thursday, Dec. 14th, 1775.

Mr. [John] Rutledge laid the following draught of a letter to the Congress or Council of Safety in Georgia, before the board:

> Charles-Town, Dec. 14th, 1775.
>
> Gentlemen – The Council of Safety have heard, with astonishment and concern, that several vessels are loading at Savannah for Great Britain; some with rice, and others, one in particular, of Mr. Tailfer's, with indigo.
>
> It is true that the Continental Association did not prohibit the exportation of rice to Europe, or of other American produce, (except to Great Britain, Ireland, or the West Indies) after the 10th of last September; so that shipping rice to Great Britain before the resolutions of Congress of the 1st ult., (copy of which is enclosed) were known, was allowable. It is to be wished, however, that Georgia had pursued the conduct of the northern colonies, all of whom, we are assured, in consequence of the late restricting acts, suspended exportation, as this colony also did after the 10th of September, (except for purchasing the means of defence) till the sense of the Continental Congress should be declared on that subject; but, with respect to shipping of indigo to Great Britain, after that period, they are without excuse.
>
> For the honor of your colony, and the interest of America, we shall rejoice to know, that a report so disgraceful to the former, and injurious to the latter, is void of foundation. We cannot yet be persuaded to think it otherwise, for we hope that the continental resolutions will be invoilably observed in your colony, as in any other, and doubt not that the disaffected in Georgia are so few, and the friends of liberty so numerous and powerful, that all attempts of the former, to hurt the American cause, will ever prove abortive.
>
> We have, however, thought it expedient to address you on the subject, being desirous of obtaining a true account of the matter, from the best authority. We therefore request that you will favour us with it, by return of the bearer, and hope it will enable us to remove any ill impressions which may have been made; but if, unfortunately, the fact should be as reported to us, we earnestly entreat that your Congress, Council of Safety, or General Committee will take the most effectual measures for preventing so flagrant a breach of the Continental Association and resolutions.
>
> We have been applied to, for leave to clear out vessels, with the produce of this colony for Great Britain, as a cover of safety, when it was pretended that such vessels should nevertheless proceed directly to a foreign port, and for the express purpose too of procuring ammunition; but we have refused our assent, and have ordered the committees at the out-ports to be watchful against such attempts, which, though specious at first view, are full of danger to the common cause, and might give great encouragement to designing men

to commit frauds. The Congress at Philadelphia refused such indulgence even to those to whom they had given special license to export.

By order of the Council of Safety.

Henry Laurens, President.

The Provincial Congress, or Council of Safety, Georgia.

Ordered, That the said letter be immediately engrossed, and sent by express.

Upon information that Capt. Alex. Wylly, master of a coasting scooner which had been seized about five weeks ago, had come up to town last night,

Ordered, That the said Wylly be summoned to attend this board immediately.

He attended accordingly; and declared that he had been detained on board the *Tamar,* sloop of war, ever since the seizure of his vessel by order of Lord William Campbell, to whom he had been represented as a good coasting pilot; that he had repeatedly solicited his dismission, but could never succeed till he received an answer (which he produced) from Lord William Campbell, to a letter he had written to his lordship on the 5th inst., which being shown to Capt. Thornbrough, that gentleman readily restored him to his liberty. Capt. Wylly also declared that he saw a number of slaves belonging to the inhabitants of this town on board some of the ships of war, and on shore upon Sullivan's Island, several of which he knew; and that a few days ago, when a report prevailed, that they were to be attacked upon Sullivan's Island, they were taken off the shore in boats sent from the ships, and that he saw about twenty of them carried on board the scooner seized from him, which scooner, as well as two negroes he left behind, was his sole property.

Capt. Wylly then signed the Association, declaring his frequent absence had prevented his doing so before.

The Hon. William Henry Drayton made an offer of his service in the naval department of this colony.

Ordered, That the said offer be taken under consideration tomorrow.

Ordered, That Col. Moultrie be desired immediately to procure and employ five proper boats, to cruize across the channels from James Island to the marsh of Shute's Folly, and within Hog Island, ordered, manned, and commanded in such manner as shall be most effectual to cut off all irregular correspondence with the men of war and other ships in Rebellion-Road.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society,* III, 82–85.

ABRAHAM HEYLIGER TO VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG [1]

Sir. St Eustatius 14th December 1775.

It having been represented to me on the part of Mr Joy Hair, the bearer hereof and owner of Schooner *Nancy* lately arrived from the port of Baltimore in the road of this Island, that on Tuesday the 12th Current, the said Schooner *Nancy* then Laying peacably at Anchor, under the neutral and friendly protection of the fortress in this Island Established for Security of the rights and franchises of the high and mighty the Lords States General of the United Netherlands, and the Honourable the West India Company by them priviledged; was by the certain persons of Charles Penman & Thomas Ramsy, feloniously and piratically carried away, under the Signal usually accorded to vessels of all Nations, requiring a Change of Birth; and by them delivered to William Garnier Esquire or other the Commanding Officer or Officers of his Britannic Majesty's Ship of War the *Argo*; and afterwards by him or them sent away to the Island of Antigua.

I flatter myself that your Excellency will readily believe, that this my public reclamation, in the name of my Masters, of the aforesaid Schooner *Nancy,* with whatever she had on board at the time of her being piratically carried away from under the protection of the fortress of this Island, flows from the purest and most disinterested motives, a Sense of the duty I owe to my Sovereigns.

Happy should I be in hearing that the unfortunate differences at present Subsisting between Great Britain and her Colonies, were terminated in a Satisfactory manner. Extremely Cautious have I ever been of Administering even the smallest avoidable occasion of Offence to the former and impressed by a just Sense of the Dignity and justice of his Britannic Majesty, I am bound to believe that in the Chastisement of his disobedient Subjects, he will never be brought to approve of an Evident infringement of the priveledges of a friendly Port; and certain I am, that Enterprizes of so atrocious and flagitious a nature as those committed by the Persons who carried the afores[aid] Schooner *Nancy* out of the Road of this Island, in manifest violation of the law of nations, neither can or will be Countenanced by the worthy and distinguished representative of one of the first potentates in Europe.

I purposely avoid all reasoning upon the Subject; Submitting to your Excellency's own Wisdom and Sensibility the part you are to take upon this occasion and being with the highest Consideration and respect. – Sir [&c.]

Abr^{m} Heyliger

His Excellency James Young Esquire, Vice Admiral of the Red and Commander in Chief of His Britannic Majesty's Ships, Stationed at the Leeward Islands. Antigua.

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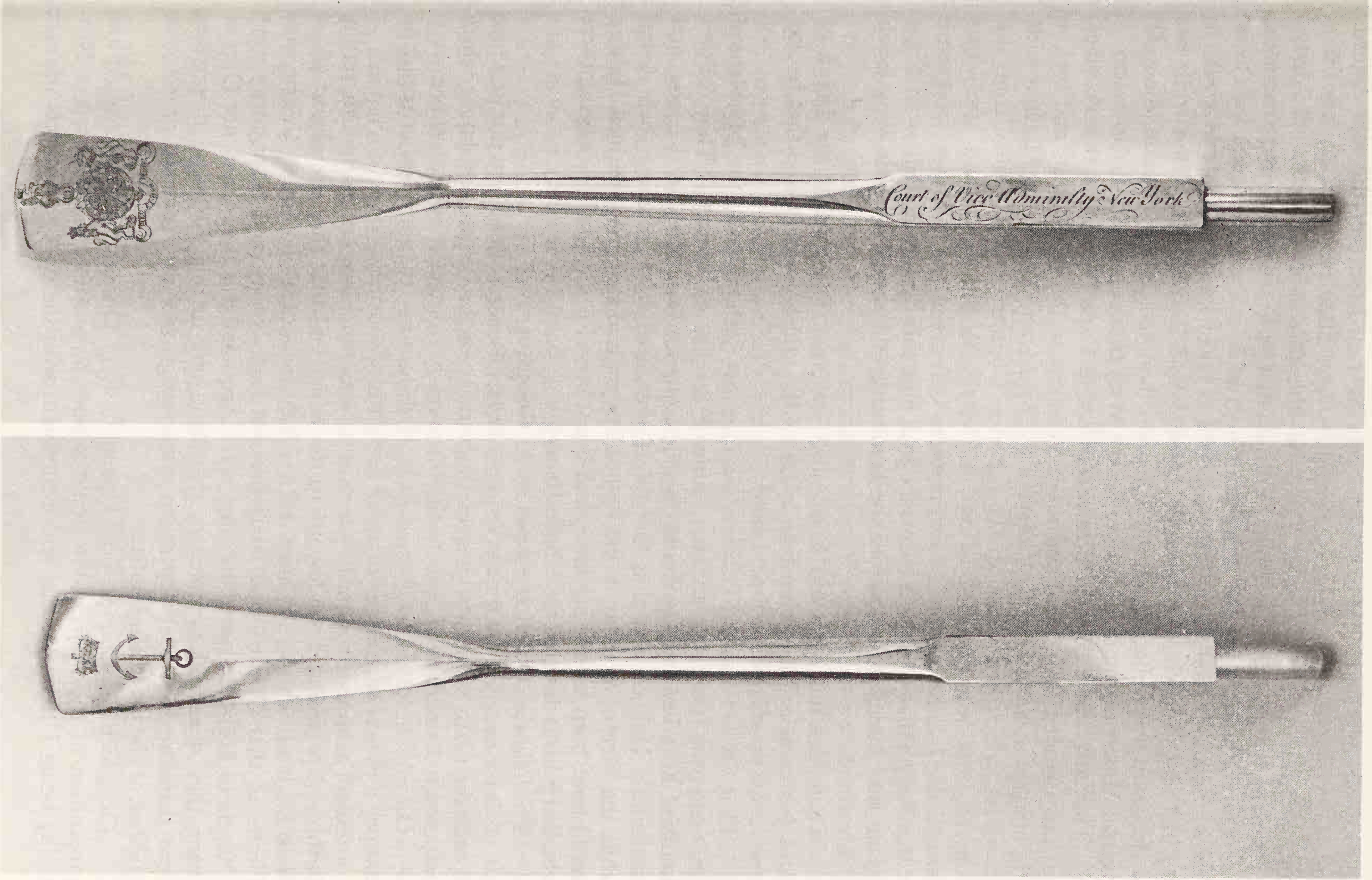
1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309. Heyliger was governor of St. Eustatius.

15 Dec.

MINUTES OF THE NOVA SCOTIA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.[1]

At a Council holden at Halifax the 15th December 1775

Mr George Henry Monk Marshall of the Provincial Court of Vice Admiralty having been sent by Order of the Court to Cape Sable, attending According to Order declared that Mr Joshua Snow of Port Rosway did on the 13th December declare & say, that being at Barrington about 8 Days past, on board a Schooner, He then saw two Armed Schooners each Mounting 8 Carriage Guns and 16 Swivels (the Carriage Guns about 8 pounders) and Mann'd with 80 Men each,


Court of Vice Admiralty New York

Silver oar, mace of the Vice Admiralty Court of New York, c. 1725. (Bottom) The reverse side.

well Armed and Equip'd for War, – That he heard some of the said Armed Schooner Crew, say, that the said Schooners were fitted out together with three others at Salem, in New England, – that the other three were in the Bay of Fundy, in company with Captain [Jeremiah] OBrian, that he heard said Arm'd Schooners were Commissioned from the American Congress to make prizes upon the Coast of Nova Scotia – That the said Schooners had taken four Prizes, three of which they had sent to Salem, and brought the other into Barrington. – That while he the declarant was at Barrington the Schooners there took a Brig Captain [Samuel] Ingersol Master taking in a Loading for the West Indies, and sent her to Salem. –

That afterwards the said Schooners went to Cape Forshue in this Province and there landed their Men, and made Prisoners of the Inhabitants and took a Brig bound for Nantuckett by Orders of the American Congress to Machias with Provisions, which had Come to Cape Forsue Contrary to the Orders from the Congress, and was supposed to be run away with the Cargo and afterwards released the Inhabitants except two or three Officers of the Militia – That some of the Petty Officers of said Schooner told him this declarant, that from Cape Forsue they intended to come to the Eastward, and should in their Way touch at Liverpool.

That Also this declarant heard that Governor Patterson of the Island of Saint John was a Prisoner on board One of the said Schooners, and that he was taken at the three Rivers, on said Island: –[2]

That One of the said Officers told him this declarant that the Marblehead Regiment was broke up, and put onboard the five Schooners – That thirteen thousand Men had been embodied by the Congress to subdue Nova Scotia, and particularly Halifax, and that they Were prevented from pursuing their design while the Men of War lay in the Bay of Fundy, and that they beleived Halifax would have been taken long since, had it not been for the Small Pox being there which at present deterred the Liberty Army –

The following Question was put by the Governor.

Is it necessary at this time to require of every Person coming into this Province to take the Oath Acknowledging the Supremacy of the British Legislature which proposed to be part of An Act for the More ready Admission of Settlers &ca –

On which Mr Chief Justice gave His Opinion, that no person could be compell'd to take any oath without the Legislative Authority. –

Read, a Memorial signed by several persons Inhabitants of Yarmouth, setting forth, and professing their Loyalty to the King, and that they are almost all, of New England, where they have ma[n]y Relations, that the Armed Vessels with Pirates of that Country had lately invaded their Town, and taken away some Officers of Light Infantry, that they were Acquainted if they woud not Oppose them, they should be unmolested, that they were unable to defend themselves, And therefore requested permission either to go to New England, or come to Halifax, or else to remain Neuter

On which the Council were Unanimously of Opinion that the request and proposition of the Memorialists could neither be received or Admitted, a Neutrality being Utterly absured and inconsistent with the duty of Subjects who are

Always bound by the Laws to take Arms, in defence of Government, and oppose and repel all Hostile Attempts and Invasions, that the Duty they Owe as subjects cannot be dispensed with and that they Must be Obedient to the Laws of the Province; – In the Mean time every possible Measure will be take[n] for their Aid and Protection. – And it was resolved, that Application be made to [the] Admiral, for a Ship of War to be Stationed at Port Rosway in such a Manner as will best protect the Inhabitants of that part of the Coast: – Also One Ship of War in the Gut of Canso.

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1. Council Minutes, N.S. Arch.
2. The prisoner was Lieutenant Governor Phillip Callbeck; not Governor Patterson who was then in England.

Governor Francis Legge to Vice Admiral Samuel Graves [1]

Nova Scotia Halifax 15th December 1775.

Sir From frequent accounts and informations which I receive, the Coast of this Province from Canso to Cape Sables, is much expos'd to the Insults and depredations of the New England Pirates, they began at Canso and having taken an English Schooner thereabouts, & other Vessels elsewhere (by their own accounts) the[y] proceeded to Cape Sables to a place call'd Yarmouth, where they landed; it appears from the Accounts transmitted, that there were two large Schooners each mann'd with 80 Men, who had firelocks Pistols and Cutlasses, & the Vessels Arm'd each with eight Carriage Guns, besides Swivels, after they landed they went to a part of the Town where a light Infantry Company was Collecting, & forming, and there seiz'd and took away several of the Officers belonging to it, at the same time acquainting the people in General, that if they woud remain Quiet and not oppose them they shoud not be molested.[2]

On the whole this proceeding has excited such Terror in the people, that they have transmitted a Memorial requesting in Effect to be absolv'd from their Duty as Subjects, by having Liberty to be Neuter, or that they may come to Halifax, or go to New England, Alledging that they have relations there, at the same time professing their Loyalty to the King, but declaring their inability to defend themselves. And it was thereon Advis'd and Resolv'd that application should be made Sir to you, requesting that you woud Order one Ship of War to be Station'd to the Eastward in the Gut of Canso, & another to the Westward at Port Roseway, between this Harbour and Cape Sables, from this Disposition together with the two Ships Station'd in the Bay of Fundy, it is conceiv'd that the Coast may be preserv'd from Insults and Ravages, and the Inhabitants be kept in Countenance and protection. I am &c

(Sign'd) Fran^{s} Legge

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1. Letter Book of the Governor and Council, Commencing 19th October, 1760 and ending in 1784, 234, Public Archives of Nova Scotia, Halifax, N.S. Hereafter cited as Council Letter Book, N.S. Arch.
2. The Governor confused two separate raids. That around Canso was perpetrated by Captains Broughton and Selman of Washington's navy. The incident at Yarmouth was the action of an armed vessel from Machias.

PORTSMOUTH COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO THE NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

Gentlemen – Portsmo 15th Decr 1775.

We herewith transmit you Gen. Washington's Letter respecting Capt. Emmes, supposing it a Matter more properly cognisable by you than us. At the same time We beg leave to hint that we should think it imprudent to suffer him to take passage to the W. Indies in either of the vessels now fitting out, & that a reasonable Sum should be allowed him for Board from the time he was discharged from the ship *Prince George,* till he leaves the Province. I am by order of the Committee of Safety, &c.

H. Wentworth, Chairman.

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[1] Nathaniel Bouton, *et al.,* eds., *Provincial Papers: Documents and Records Relating to the Province of New Hampshire . . .* (Concord, etc., 1867–), VII, 684. Hereafter cited as Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire.*

STEPHEN MOYLAN TO WILLIAM BARTLETT, BEVERLY [1]

Sir Cambridge 15th Decer 1775.

Your favour of the 14th came to hand with the Sundry articles therein mentiond, I was in hopes there was some bottled porter which would have been much more agreeable than that in Cask, the General sends back the Tea which I am informed consists of two Canisters only – the barrel of Lemons was not halfe full there was some preserved ginger on board the Antigua vessel wch woud be very agreeable.

Capt. Lowrie just now deliverd yours of the 11th His Excelly thinks the price of Teams as fixt by the Province full sufficient, he will not raise the price – His Exy approves of your Selling the Lemons & Limes, the Potatoes Cabbage & every thing that is perishable on board the different prizes

Capt Lourie & Capt. Foster have Liberty to stay at Salem on their Parole, Let them have their wearing apparell, & what to you appear Clear to be their private property takeing their Receipts for what you give them –

Mr [John] Burk will deliver you this, You are orderd to give him & Mr Gregory all their private property takeing their Receipts You must allso give Capt [Robert] Adams all his private property takeing his rect –

Attend to former Orders by preventing embezzelment, as the Court is not Yet establised to bring on the Trial, I have nothing further to mention to you concerning them than that all possib[le] Care must be taken of every article. – 4 Loves of sugar are all that came to hand. I am, Sir [&c.]

Stephen Moylan

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[1] Washington Papers, LC.

STEPHEN MOYLAN TO WILLIAM BARTLETT [1]

Sir, Cambridge 15th Decemr 1775

I wrote you this day by Mr Burke to which you will please be refered – the General was Much Surprisd at the Rapacity of the Crews in Stripping the prizes of every Little thing they Coud Lay their hands upon – it is now his positive Comand that you make a Strict enquirey for the different articles which have been taken, & such as can be got returned to the proper owners & that Such articles as cannot be found must be made good to them the same to be deducted from the shares of those whom it can be proved were the pilagers, if they cannot be found out – it must be a charge upon the one third belonging to the Captors – of this you must acquaint Captain Manly & the Agent for the people if any Such is by them appointed

His Exy desires, you will pay a Strict attention to this order, & that he may not be plagued with any more applications of this sort –

[1] Washington Papers, LC.

Memorandum of a Letter to William Bartlett [1]

Sir Cambridge 15 Decr 1775

Acknowledged receipt of his letter with petition from Committee of Correspondence of Beverly – If any Cannon not immediately wanting for the armed Vessels to be lent them – Shot to be lent – powder found on board the prizes to be detained in his hands & if absolutely wanting for the Town, to be lent

Wm Bartlett Esqr

[1] Washington Papers, LC.

Jacob Boardman's Petition to the Massachusetts General Court [1]

To the Honl the Council & House of Representatives of the Colony of Massachusetts Bay—

The Memorial of Jacob Boardman of Newbury-port sheweth—

That your Memorialist together with several others, Inhabitants of the same Town, being anxiously concernd, lest the American Cause shou'd suffer for want of a convenient supply of the Articles necessary to make a vigorous Defence against the wicked Attempts of our Enemies, have entertaind Thoughts of sending a Vessell to some part of Europe for the purpose of procuring Gun powder & other military Stores; and they have so far prepar'd for a Voyage of this sort, as to have rais'd upwards of Two Thousand Pounds Lawfl Money, to be laid out for Articles of that sort besides a Sum sufficient to purchase a Vessell to bring it in. – They will however, have no Desire to proceed any further in this Design, if it should be made known to them that their Endeavors in this Regard, will not probably tend to the Advantage of the Public: But if on the other hand, Your Honors shoud so consider the matter as to think fit to give them suitable Encouragement, they will proceed with Alacrity to accomplish their propos'd Plan. All which is humbly submitted, by your Honor's dutiful Memorialist

Jacob Boardman

Watertown Decr 15th 1775.

[1] Mass. Arch., vol. 180, 249.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO PHILIP STEPHENS [1]

Sir, *Preston* Boston 15 Decemr 1775.

On the 5th instant His Majesty's Ship *Fowey* cruizing off Cape Anne fell in with and after a Chace of two hours and a half took the Brig *Washington* commanded by Sion Martingale [Martindale] Mounting Six 6 Pounders, four 4 Pounders and Ten Swivels with Seventy four Men.

This Vessel is Armed at the Continental Expence, and her Commander, besides a Commission of Captain in their Army, from the Congress, has Instructions from General Washington; her Lieutenant has also a Commission for Lieutenant in the Rebel Army.

Considering it of importance that their Lordships should have the earliest intelligence of this Capture, and have possession of the Commissions and Instructions above Mentioned. – I have directed Captain Medows to proceed in the *Tartar* without a Moments loss of time to Spithead, and to go Express with them to Town. – I beg leave to refer their Lordships to Capt Medows for any other information they may desire of the State of things here. As there is no Commission in Boston to try persons Guilty of Acts of Rebellion or High Treason Committed on the High Seas, I have sent home the whole Crew of the Brig with Captain Medows,[2] except four, two Deserters from the *Glasgow* and *Swan* and two Englishmen Prisoners who have entered on board the *Fowey.* The Derserters shall be tried at a Court Martial as soon as possible.

It was my intention to have manned the Brig and send her out again immediately but the Account of her unfitness was so strongly represented that I ordered three Captains to survey and report the State she was in, I transmit a Copy of my Order and their report, their Lordships may be assured, she exceeds their description of her badness.

Two Victuallers Vizt The *Layton* and *Resolution* are not Yet arrived, nor any others of the Men of War expected but the *Phoenix* and *Roebuck,* and the *Lizard* at Quebec.[3] The *Boyne* Sailed for England the 5th instant with General Burgoyne on board.

I beg their Lordships directions Concerning the future disposition of the Crews of such Vessels as may be taken in Arms. Many inconveniencies will arise from keeping Prisoners on board and in the present State of things a few only can be kept Prisoners in Boston. – I must therefore intreat their Lordships will be pleased to direct in what manner any that may be landed shall be Victualled, and if under the direction of the Commissioners for Sick and Hurt and Prisoners of War as hath been Usual, that that Board may be Ordered to send me the necessary forms and directions for my guidance, or Appoint an Agent to receive and Victual Prisoners at Boston. I am Sir [&c.]

Sam^{l} Graves

Endorsed Rd by Capt Meadows 6 Jan. 1776

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 1/485. A copy is in Graves's Conduct, II, 18–19, BM.

[2] General Howe, in a private letter to Lord Dartmouth on December 14, expressed the hope that the uncertainty about the fate of the crew of the *Washington* would deter others from privateering, and added: "Besides I coud wish a Distinction to be made between Prisoners taken on Shore and on Sea, which last Mode of War will hurt us more effectually than any thing they can do by Land during our Stay at this Place," PRO, Colonial Office, 5/93.

3. The *Layton* and *Resolution* had parted from their convoy in a gale which occurred during the night several days after their sailing from St. Helen's on September 8, 1775. See journal of the *Charming Nancy*, Volume 2, 709.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES [1]

[Boston] 1775 Decr 15

The *Brittania,* [Martin] White Master, the first of a Fleet of 30 Sail with Coals, Porter, Potatoes &c for the Army,[2] arrived this day.

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[1] Graves's Conduct, II, 19, BM.

[2] A list of twenty-three of these ships was enclosed in a letter from Philip Stephens to Graves, September 26, 1775, Volume 2, 735–36.

BARNABAS HEDGE'S ACCOUNT AGAINST WASHINGTON'S ARMED SCHOONER *Harrison* [1]

1775	Schooner *Harrison* To Barnabas Hedge	Dr
Decr [15] [2]	To the Use of My Store for barrecks for the Men before the Vessell was ready to receive them – 1 week	. . 4 –

Recd the Contents of Watson & Spooner
Entd P Barnabas Hedge —

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[1] Prizes and Captures, No. 135, LC.

[2] The date is an arbitrary one. The use of the store for a barracks was probably in November while the *Harrison* was undergoing repairs in Plymouth, but the payment for rental was made much later. A second bill from Hedge for the use of his store for ten days as a barracks for the crew of the *Washington* "before the Vessel was ready to Receive them," is also dated December 1775. *Ibid.*, No. 137.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Lively,* CAPTAIN THOMAS BISHOP [1]

Decr 1775 Cape Cod SW½W 9 or 10 Leag[s]

Fridy 15 at 6 A M made Sail at 8 handed Fore Topsail at 10 handed Main Topsail Saw a Sail to the Eastward Bore away & gave Chace Set the Topsails Fresh Breezes and fair Weather at ½ past one P M Came up with the Chace found her to be a Brig from Guardeloupe bound to Pescataque at 5 took her in Tow and made Sail [2]

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 51/546.

[2] *Ibid.*, according to the *Lively*'s journal, the brig was towed until December 18, and then cast off. No further record of her has been found.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA STILES [1]

[Newport, December] 15.

The Committee of 25 went off this Morng accompanied with Miss Molly Call[e]nder a Quakeress, who is moved by the Spirit to intercede for the Safety of Newport. Wallace promises that he will wait for the Return of the Committee; and Expresses his Desire to save the Town.

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[1] Diary of Ezra Stiles, YUL.

JOURNAL OF THE CONNECTICUT ASSEMBLY [1]

[New Haven, Thursday, December 15]

Resolved, That a brigantine owned by Capt. John Griggs be purchased for the use of this Colony,[2] to be fitted and improved as an armed vessel for the defence thereof; and that Col. David Waterbury be a committee to purchase the said brigantine and appurtenances, at a price not exceeding one thousand pounds, taking an inventory of the appurtenances belonging to said brigantine and a bill of sale thereof to the Governor and Company of this Colony; and that he make report thereof to this Assembly; and in case the said Colo. Waterbury shall purchase said brigantine, that with all convenient dispatch he proceed with her to the port of New Haven.

Resolved by this Assembly, That Colo. David Waterbury and Capt. Isaac Sears be impowered and directed to enquire, view, examine and find out some suitable vessel to be improved for an armed vessel in defence of this Colony, and what terms such an one may be either purchased or chartered, with their judgment, estimate and opinion thereon, and report made to this Assembly at their present sessions.

Resolved by this Assembly, That Colo. David Waterbury and Capt. Isaac Sears be a committee to view and examine a certain brigantine belonging to Capt. John Griggs, at Greenwich, and find whether said brigantine in their opinion and judgment is fit to be improved for an armed vessel for defence of this Colony, find the terms she may be purchased or chartered, and report accordingly.

Resolved, That Capt. Giles Hall, commander of the brigantine *Minerva*, now in the Colony's service, be directed and he is hereby directed and ordered, forthwith to deliver to Jonathan Fitch, Esqr, at New Haven, all the guns and warlike stores now on board said brigantine; and having so done, he is further directed to dismiss as many hands as he shall think proper, reserving a sufficient number to sail said brigantine into Connecticut River, and proceed with her with all possible dispatch to Rocky Hill, and deliver her to the owner according to charter party. And in case he should be prevented by ice in the river, he is to lay said vessel in the most convenient and safe place and to discharge the hands, reserving only a sufficient number to take proper care of said vessel, and make return to his Honor the Governor and Council of War of his proceedings, and make up his portledge bill and muster roll and lay the same before the Committee of the Pay-Table for adjustment and payment.

Resolved by this Assembly, That one armed vessel in addition to those already ordered or provided, and also four row-gallies, be built or otherwise procured, suitably manned, armed and equipp'd for the defence of this and the neighbouring Colonies, under the direction of his Honor the Governor and the Council appointed to assist him in the recess of the Assembly, who are hereby authorized and fully impowered to perform said service as soon as may be.

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[1] Charles J. Hoadly, ed., *Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut . . .* (Hartford, 1890), XV, 200–02. Hereafter cited as Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut Records*.

[2] The brigantine *Lilly Ann* was purchased and renamed *Defence*. Under Seth Harding's command, she was manned and ready for sea in April 1776.

Captain Giles Hall to Matthew Griswold [1]

Decr 15th 1775

To the Honorable Mathew Griswold Esqr

Sir – In Case the weather wold not permit of Getting the Brigg *Minerva,* up to the proper place of Deliverry,[2] Should be Glad of partickular Directions with Regard to Laying up sd Brigg In Sum Safe place and Likewise in Regard to the Guns Stores, &C and how I shall Discharge and pay of[f] the People I am Sir [&c.]

Giles Hall

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[1] Trumbull Papers, vol. 373, ConnSL. Griswold was Deputy Governor of Connecticut.

[2] See Journal of the Connecticut Assembly of this date.

Colonel Henry Knox's Account for Bringing Cannon from Ticonderoga to Fort George [1]

Decr 9	paid Capt [John] Johnson for the work of 43 men for 2 days at 1/ each man		
	11 dollars	£4	8
	4 ditto for Colo Holmes men	1	12
	2 ditto for Capt Wyncoops		16
	10 ditto paid Mr Adams	4	
15th	paid the Battoe men for going up to Tionderoga & bringing [torn] concerning the Cannon	[torn]	

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[1] Diary of Henry Knox, MassHS.

Peter Vandervoort to Nathaniel Shaw, Jr.[1]

[Extract] New York Decemr 15, 1775

Dear Sir booth Leeds & Chappell be still here, & hope in the morning a Wind will offer, a sloop that saild two days ago with a Clearance for a foreign Island was Stopt by the *Asia* man of War & Sent back & in Consiquence of what Capt Vandeput said, she yesterday Cleared out for an English Island & went down again this morning & was again Stopt & overhauld by the *Asia* & finding all Right agreeable to her Clearance, was Dischard & Proceeded on her Way with a Certificate from Capt Vandeput, to let her pass the two 40 gun Ships now at Sandy hook –

yesterday we had Acct of two 40 gun ships Arriving at Sandy hook, the *Rhobuck* & the [*Phoenix*] booth was come to Winter here with the *asia* and by Request of Dunmore One of them is orderd to Virginia & wich of the two will Winter here is as yet Uncertain, as this sloop has been admitted to pass this day, I make no doubt, Chappell & Leeds will be admitted to pass in Ballast, as they be booth Cleared for Jamaica my only fear is for Leeds, your Renownd name being in the Register, the Pilot that Carries Leeds down will give me Information on his going from the hook, in Consiquence of wich I shall take care to advise Whartons of their Sailing from the hook, wish you had wrote me of their Intended Voyage & on their sailing woud have advised the flower being sent to

Reedy Island for fear of the Ice as the Season is so far advanced fear they will not get up to Phila – I am now shipg you some more flower by Jno Harris, as I fear One of the 40 gun ships may come in our East River & stop us, hope he will sail to morrow – am obliged to pay Cash for flower . . .[2]

our Provintial Congress have made a house & doubt not a good one & firm to the Cause & hope all will go Right here – by Acct by a Vessell here I learn E & W L Sloop was at sd Asd & has some of the Need – & hope she is saif by this [Post.]

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1. Shaw Papers, NLCHS.
2. See Shaw to Thomas & Isaac Wharton, and Vandervoort to Shaw, December 13, 1775.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS [1]

[Philadelphia] Friday, December 15, 1775

Resolved, That Messrs. George Meade and company, merchants, of the city of Philadelphia, be permitted to export from the colony of Virginia, so much of the produce of that country, as shall be equal in value to any quantity of salt, not exceeding six thousand bushels, which they shall carry and safely deliver there to the committee of safety or their order, who are empowered to regulate the prices of the said produce and salt; and that the said George Meade and company, having given to the delegates of the said colony, in this city, bond with sufficient surety, under a penalty of double the value of the said salt, that they will not carry any produce of the said colony, which they may receive in return for their salt, to the islands of Great Britain, Ireland, Jersey, Guernsey, Sark, Alderney, or Man, or to the West Indian islands, and producing to the committee of safety of the said colony a certificate thereof, signed by the said delegates here, shall have a permit under the hand of the chairman of the said committee of safety, to export the said produce, the said permit being to be endorsed on, or annexed to a manifest of the cargo exported.

The Committee to whom the second resolution in the report on General Washington's letter relative to transports, was referred, brought in their report, which was read.

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1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, III, 429–32.

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH [1]

Friday Decr 15. Col. [Richard Henry] Lee moved that George Mead & Co. of Philada may export from that City to Virginia 6000 Bushels of Salt & carry abroad Produce to the Amount from thence, opposed by [John] Jay, [Francis] Lewis & others & supported by [Thomas] Nelson, Wyth [George Wythe], Rob. Morris &c – it passed in the affirmative 7 Colonies to 4.

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1. Richard Smith's Diary, LC.

SILAS DEANE TO ELIZABETH DEANE [1]

[Extract] Philadelphia, Dec. 15th, 1775.

. . . Naval preparations are now entering upon with spirit, and yesterday the Congress chose a Standing Committee to superintend this department, of which I had the honor to be unanimously chosen one. This will detain me here some time after the 1st of January; indeed, I apprehend that the Congress will leave a number, to put into execution the Resolves of the Congress, together with the Naval Committee, as the adjournment will probably be over to the 1st of March. I do not expect to return sooner, unless it may be, to engage workmen in the business, part of which I shall agree to have carried on in the Colony . . .

I look out, most impatiently, for your brother Dudley. His Ship is a fine one, of thirty odd guns, and is nearly ready.[2]

[1] *Collections of the Connecticut Historical Society,* II, 339–41.

[2] Dudley Saltonstall had been given command of the Continental ship *Alfred,* 24 guns, flagship of Esek Hopkins' fleet.

GEORGE READ TO HIS WIFE [1]

[Extract] [Philadelphia, December 15]

I was yesterday put upon a committee [2] that is to meet every evening at six o'clock, which may be obliged to sit regularly for ten days to come, and as I am considered a great absentee hitherto, I must attend constantly for awhile.

[1] William Thompson Read, *Life and Correspondence of George Read, a Signer of the Declaration of Independence* (Philadelphia, 1870), 117.

[2] The Marine Committee.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

[Philadelphia] Friday, December 15th.

Garret Hulscamp having made application for liberty to have his Boat go down the Bay to take him out of Capt. Johnston's Ship, of which he is Pilot.

Resolved, That the liberty he prays for be granted, provi'd he goes no farther than the Brown, & that he avoid going or being taken on Board any British Ship or other Vessel of War

Upon application of Mr. [Matthew] Mease, an order was directed to Capt. Dougherty to discharge from Capt. [Alexander] Henderson's Boat, Daniel McMichael, as he is to be employ'd in another Service.

Resolved, That Colo. [Daniel] Roberdeau, Mr. [Owen] Biddle, & Mr. [James] Mease, be a Committee to draw up Rules and Regulations for the Government of the Officers and Men belonging to the Armed Boats, while they are quarter'd in the Barracks.

[1] *Pennsylvania Colonial Records,* X, 428.

PURDIE'S *Virginia Gazette,* FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1775

Williamsburg, December 15.

Seven sailors, deserted from the men of war at Norfolk, came to town this week. They were pressed men, and say there is hardly a sailor on board the ships but would run away if he had an opportunity.

On Tuesday last [December 12], a large schooner from the West Indies, bound to Norfolk, was taken and brought into Hampton by our men stationed there. She was laden with rum and sugar, and had 2700 dollars on board.

Last Friday se'night [December 8] the sloop *Christian,* belonging to mr. Archibald Govan, loaded with wheat, and bound for Glasgow, having met with a gale of wind, put back into Hampton road, and was carried into Hampton by a party of the minute-men stationed there. On examining the letters aboard of her, many were found to contain sentiments inimical to America, written by people from Norfolk; but, in justice to the owner, we cannot help mentioning, that his letters contained *sentiments very friendly to this country.* This is the third time this vessel has put back from accidents.

Last night col. Bullit [Thomas Bullitt] arrived from the army, with doctor Campbell of Norfolk, who, besides several other gentlemen of that borough, had surrendered themselves to col. Woodford, and sued for protection. – Lord Dunmore, we hear, swears most furiously that he will bombard Norfolk, should the *shirtmen* come into it. They most certainly will, so that we need not be amazed to hear, soon, of that place's being laid in ashes.

COLONEL WILLIAM WOODFORD TO EDMUND PENDLETON [1]

[Extract] Norfolk, December 15, 1775.

Sir, I wrote you last night; since then nothing material has happened; we still remain in the same situation. This morning a midshipman, with a flag of truce, arrived from the *Otter.* That and our answer you have enclosed. All the principal Tories, with their families and effects, have retired on board the ships of war and other vessels in the harbour, of which there is a very large fleet. What they intend I know not, and I am much at a loss to inform your Honourable Body what steps we shall take, further than to keep possession of this part of the town, and afford what protection we can to the inhabitants that claim it. We are much at a loss for your further orders, which we hoped to receive before this time, and are not without our fears that some accident must have happened to your express.

I received a letter this morning from Mr. Cary Michell: Our answer is enclosed, with his letter. I have the worst opinion of the people here, and have no doubt but every thing relating to us is laid before his Lordship. If it is your intention that a part only of the present force should remain at this place, I would submit it to your consideration, whether the 2d regiment, or any part of it you may think proper to withdraw, may not, after their hardy duty, be drawn off.

I wrote the Convention last night that I had resigned the command to Col. [Robert] Howe, as that Gentleman's military abilities, and great experience, will be full equal to every task. I would ask the Convention's leave of absence to see my family, and attend to my private affairs, for so long time as shall be agreeable to them. I do not mean this so long as there is a prospect of any actual service, either offensive or defensive.

You have, enclosed, a return of the strength of the troops at this place, and for further particulars must refer you to several members of your respectable body, who are the bearers of this. I am, with the greatest respect, Sir [&c.]

William Woodford.

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[1] Dixon and Hunter's *Virginia Gazette,* December 23, 1775.

CAPTAIN MATTHEW SQUIRE, R.N., TO THE OFFICER COMMANDING AT NORFOLK [1]

Captain Squire's compliments to the commanding officer, informs him that several musquet balls were last night fired at the king's ship from some people at Norfolk. Captain Squire did not return the fire, from a supposition it was done out of wantonness. Captain Squire does not mean to fire on the town of Norfolk unless first fired at; must beg to know if any hostile intention was meant to his majesty's ship, and people under his command.
Otter sloop, off Norfolk, December 15, 1775.

Answer to the above.

Colonel Howe's and colonel Woodford's compliments to captain Squire, and assure him they gave no orders to fire upon the *Otter,* and conceive the musquet balls mentioned in captain Squire's message to have come from our guard, who fired by mistake upon one of our own parties.

Robert Howe. William Woodford.

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[1] Pinkney's *Virginia Gazette,* December 20, 1775.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

In the Council of Safety [Charleston],
Tuesday [*sic* Friday,] Dec. 15th, 1775.

The Hon. Wm. H. Drayton's offer of yesterday being taken into consideration,

Resolved, That his offer be accepted, upon condition that Capt. Tufts will relinquish his command of the ship *Proper* [*Prosper*]. Ordered.

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[1] *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society,* III, 85–87.

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16 Dec.

MAJOR GENERAL RICHARD MONTGOMERY TO GOVERNOR SIR GUY CARLETON [1]

Holland-House, near Quebec,
December 16, 1775

Sir:

Notwithstanding the personal ill-treatment I have received at your hands – notwithstanding the cruelty you have shown to the unhappy prisoners you have taken, the feelings of humanity induce me to have recourse to this expedient to save you from the destruction which hangs over your wretched garrison. Give me leave to inform you that I am well acquainted with your situation. A great extent of works, in their nature incapable of defence, manned with a motley crew of sailors, most of them our friends; of citizens, who wish to see us within the walls; a few of the worst troops, that call themselves soldiers; the improbability of relief, and the certain prospect of wanting every necessary of life, should your opponents confine themselves to a simple blockade, point out the absurdity of resistance. Such is your situation. I am at the head of troops accustomed to success, confident of the righteousness of the cause they are engaged in, inured to danger and fatigue, and so highly incensed at your inhumanity, illiberal abuse, and the ungenerous means employed to prejudice them in the minds of the Canadians, that it is with difficulty I restrain them, till my batteries are ready, from assaulting your works, which would afford them a fair opportunity of ample vengeance and just retaliation. Firing upon a flag of truce, hitherto unprecedented, even among savages, prevents my following the ordinary mode of conveying my sentiments; however, I will at any rate acquit my conscience. Should you persist in an unwarranted defence, the consequence be upon your own head. Beware of destroying stores of any sort, as you did at Montreal or in the river. If you do, by Heavens there will be no mercy shown.

[1] Force, comp., *American Archives,* 4th, IV, 289–90. Montgomery was promoted to Major General by the Continental Congress, December 9, 1775.

MAJOR GENERAL RICHARD MONTGOMERY TO BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID WOOSTER [1]

Head Quarters before Quebec Decr 16th 1776 [*sic* 1775]

Dear General, The Bearer Mr Melchoer I sent Express to St Johns for Artillery Stores. Be so good as to give him all the Assistance in your Power, particularly in Money Matters. Yesterday we open'd a Battery of 5 Guns & a Howitzer and with very little Effect. I attempted to summon the Governor by a Flag of Truce – He would not receive any Letter. The Enemy have very heavy Metal, and I think will dismount our Guns very shortly. Some they have already rendered almost useless. This gives very little Uneasiness – I never expected any other Advantage from our Artillery than to amuse the Enemy, and blind them as to my real Intentions.

I propose the first strong North Wester to make two Attacks by Night, one with about a third of the Troops on the lower Town, having first set Fire to some Houses which will in all Probability communicate their Flames to the Stockade lately erected on the Rock near St Roque, the other upon Cape Diamond Bastian by Escalade. I have not Time to point out my Reasons for this particular Attack Let it suffice that it is founded on the Nature of the Ground, Works, & the best Intelligence I have been able to procure. However I am not certain whether or no the Troops relish this Mode of Proceeding. I am fully convinced of the Practicability. But should it not appear in the same advantageous Light to the Men, I shall not press it upon them, well knowing the Impossibility of making Troops act with the necessary Viguor on such an Occasion when their Minds are possessed with imaginary Terrors.

We are exceedingly weak it is true, but the Enemy are so too in Proportion to the Extent of their Works; and as they know not where they will be attacked all must be guarded. Indeed their Apprehensions for the lower Town induce them to bestow their greatest Attention on that Quarter. I hope the Arms, Lead, & Flint are on the Way. I could wish for a Reinforcement if to be spared. We have not much above 800 Men fit for Duty, exclusive of a few Ragamuffin Canadians. I believe you will not think it proper to let the Contents of this Letter go abroad. Should you have no Account of any Cash on the Way, I must beg you will send an Express to hasten it. I shall soon be exceedingly distressed if a Supply does not arrive. I must therefore beg you to raise what you can for Fear of Accident. Let a considerable Number of Shirts be sent down as soon as possible. Our Men are much in Want of them. I must refer you to Mr Melchoir for Particulars Believe me Dr Sir [&c.]

Richard Montgomery.

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1. John Hancock Papers, III, 292–93, LC.

RICHARD BULKELEY TO THE MAGISTRATES OF THE TOWN OF YARMOUTH [1]

Secys Office
Halifax 16th December 1775

Gentlemen

The Memorial from the Inhabitants of Yarmouth has been laid before the Governor & Council and I am to acquaint you, that the request and proposition of the Memorialists coud neither be received or Admitted, a Neutrality being utterly Absurd and inconsistent with the duty of Subjects, who are always bound by the Laws to take Arms in defence of Government, and oppose and Repel all Hostile Attempts and Invasions, that the duty they owe as Subjects cannot be dispensed with, and that they must be obedient to the Laws of this Province.

In the meantime every possible Measure will be taken for their Aid and Protection. I am &c

(Sign'd) Rich^{d} Bulkeley

To the Magistrates & Inhabitants of the
Township of Yarmouth in Queens County

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1. Council Letter Book, 231, N.S.Arch. Bulkeley was Secretary of Nova Scotia Royal Council.

WILLIAM KNIGHT AND OTHERS TO THE NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

Portsmouth, Decr 16, 1775.

Pursuant to the above order,[2] We the subscribers determined on & transported four vessels for the purpose abovementd & valued the same. Since wch findg it unnecessary they shou'd lay any longer at their mooring & have return'd them to the respective wharves from whence they were taken & deliver'd them to the several owners unhurt; but that one of the Cables & Hawsers are injured by use, of wch a future Estimate may be made, if the owners require it.

Wm. Knight   William Pearne
Josh. Wentworth   Supply Clap.

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1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire,* VII, 632.
2. The resolution of October 27, 1775, requiring that the vessels be prepared to block the harbor in case the threatened attack by Henry Mowat's squadron materialized.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Senegal,* CAPTAIN WILLIAM DUDDINGSTON [1]

Decemr 1775 C. Ann. S51W, Dis[t] 12 Leags

Saturday 16 at 9 A M pass'd by the *Tartar* & *Halifax* with 4 Transports ½ past 11 let go the Bt Br in 3 fam
Light House E Boston Town WNW 6 miles – Convoy run up to the Town –
Light airs, at 1 P M weigh'd & got under sail & run up to Boston at 4 Anchored with Bt Br [2]

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1. PRO, Admiralty 51/885.
2. The *Senegal* and convoy had sailed from Halifax on December 8, 1775.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Tartar,* CAPTAIN EDWARD MEDOWS [1]

Decemr 1775 Cape Ann N B E½E Distce 7 Leagues

Tuesday 16 [2] at [6] A M Unmoor'd made Signal for Sailing fir'd a 9 Pdr
Weighed and came to Sail 5 Sail of Transports in Co
First part Modt & Clear

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1. PRO, Admiralty 51/972.
2. The 16th was a Saturday. The writer of the journal went astray on Wednesday, December 13, and did not have a correctly dated entry until Wednesday, December 20.

CAPTAIN RICHARD DODGE TO GEORGE WASHINGTON [1]

[Extract] [Chelsea] Decr the 16th 1775

May it please your Excellency

I Have in Closed the Observation of the Day.

Last Eveing Eight men Runaway in a bote from Boston, to our guard at the ferry – arly in the moring finding thay had been with the guard. Immediately forwooded them to the Commete on the Commete Re[c]eption thay Clensed them by Smooking them and Lett them pass one of tham was Capt James Warden who was Taken, in major mifflins employ [2] who is Vary Desierous of Seeing the major – Six of them are masters of Vessels and brought the inClosed Acctt I am [&c.]

Richard Dodge Capt

N B Yeasterday one Large morter was Caried over to Bunker Hill the Troops are fillin water Carring on board the Transports Provision is Very scarce the officers Say not more then anuf to Last them Six weeks one of the Gente man Say he Dined with a man that Dined with Lord parsey [Lord Hugh Percy] a few Day[s] ago upon horse beaff this from the men that Came out of Boston last Night.

[Enclosure]

This Acompt I Recivd from Boston this day – Dcmber 17, 1775

Remarks for Tusday Dcmber 5 1775 Gott into Boston mett With the Ship *Boyan* [3] Bound for London, Wich Had on Bord 30 Masters of Vesels Pasheners on bord

Thusday 7 the *Fwy* [*Fowey*] man of war 20 Guns Mountigue [George Montagu] Commander Brought in the Brige *Washington* one Martendell Commander mounted 10 Guns and ten Swivells 72 men the Capt and all the men was Put On Bord the *Priston* [*Preston*]

General Washington

Munday Last Prisners was Put on bord the *Tarter* man of war to be Sent Hom for Triel as Pyrets –

The Followg is the Price of Provison in Boston vizt

Rum	£ 0 12–0	P Gall Starding
Moloses	0 3–0	by the Hh
Wood	4–16–6	P Cord
See Coal	4–14:0	[Cholron]
Salt Beef	4 4–0	P bl
Merder Wine	1– 8–0	P Doz
Read Porter	1– 4–0	D[i]tto
Hay	20– 0–0	P tun
beef	0– 9–0	
Turke[y]s	0–10–6	
Foulls	0– 4–6	
Onions	0– 0–6	P lb
Patato	0–10–0	P Bushel
Solders Lounces	4 Pound	P week

orders from Generel How to Pull down the Old North meetng House and one Hundr[e]d Wood Houses

Morson Scotch menster took Bribe of A Seretu[ain] Genttelmen of 36/ Starling to Gett Out of Boston and 72/ to Let him Bring Out [ ] trunk of £2 ho Pound in Cash Wich when he Had it in his Power Sezd the Holl and Carreed it to Boston

1. Washington Papers, LC.
2. Warden was master of the schooner *Tryal,* taken by H.M. Sloop *Nautilus* August 22, 1775. See journal of the *Nautilus* for the same date, Volume 1, 1206–07.
3. H.M.S. *Boyne,* departing for England with dispatches and passengers.

INTELLIGENCE REPORTS FROM GEORGE WASHINGTON TO JOHN HANCOCK [1]

Chelsea December 16, 1775

Observations of this day.

Last evening eight men came in a boat from Boston to our guard at the ferry, six of them captains of vessels. They brought the following account.

Yesterday one large mortar was carried over to Bunker hill, the troops filling water, carrying it on board the transports – provisions scarce; not more than sufficient for six weeks – one regiment of foot and three companies of the light horse sail for Hallifax this day.

Dorchester 16 December 1775

Sailed out of Boston harbour this morning, eight large and two small vessels taken to be tenders, by their firing appeared to be going a voyage out to sea.

Mr Joshua Pico came last night from Boston, he confirms the information that the regiment of foot and some companies of light horse were preparing to embark for Hallifax.

Cambridge 16 December 1775

Sir

The information contained in the above coming so many different ways corroborated by several vessels having sailed this day from Boston, I thought it my duty to transmit it to you, tho Hallifax is the place given out for their destination, it is possible they may be bound elsewhere. I shall communicate this intelligence to governors Cooke and Trumbull, and to the convention of New York for their government. I remain, sir &c.

Geo. Washington

1. Papers CC (Transcript of Letters from George Washington), 169, I, 147–48, NA.

CAPTAIN PELEG WADSWORTH TO GEORGE WASHINGTON [1]

[Cambridge] 16th December 1775

May it please your Excellency

Agreeable to your Orders of the 5th Inst: I have examined the harbour of Cape Cod. Give it as my Oppinion – that Cape Cod makes a very extensive Harbour with any Winds from the West to North & N.E. & Shipping may conveniently Ride out of the Reach of Cannon altho' the whole Shore was lined with them. But the Cove, which may strictly be called the Harbour might be pretty well commanded from an Eminence on the Shore. This might deprive an Enemy of the most commodius part of the Harbour prevent their Watering, Rendesvous &c &c I am [&c.]

Peleg Wadsworth

1. Washington Papers, LC.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL [1]

[Watertown] Saturday, Decr 16, 1775

The Committee of both Houses appointed to take into Consideration sundry Resolves of the Continental Congress and Report, have attended that service, and Report on the Resolve of said Congress dated October the 26th, 1775 as their Opinion, that a Committee of both Houses be appointed to engage & Fix out with all possible dispatch on the Account and Risque of this Colony, Ten Vessels to be laden with as much Provision, Horses, or any Other Produce of this Colony, except Horned Cattle, Sheep, Hogs & Poultry, as they may deem necessary for the Importation, of Ammunition, Sulphur and Salt Petre, Arms and German Steel, for the Manufacturing Gun Locks, &c, And that the said Committee be empowered to give Orders to the Commander of such Vessel to export the said Cargo to the Foreign West Indias for the Purposes aforesaid—all wch is humbly Submitted.

In Council Read and Sent down

Walter Spooner pr Order

[Endorsed] In the House of Representatives Read and Accepted

In Council Read and Concurred and Thereupon

Resolved that William Sever, Benjamin Greenleaf & Moses Gill, Esqrs with such as the Honble House shall join be a Committee for the purposes mentioned in the above Report.

[Endorsed] In the House of Representatives Read and Concurred and the Speaker, Colo [Azor] Orne, Capt [Joseph] Foster, & Major [Stephen] Cross are joined to the Committee of the Honle Board—

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 34.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES [1]

[Watertown] Saturday, December 16, 1775.

A Memorial of Jacob Boardman, of Newbury-Port, setting forth that he with a number of others, Inhabitants of said Town, had made preparations for a Voyage to Europe, for Gun Powder, and other Military Stores, and praying the Court (if their intention is thought to tend to the public Advantage) to give them suitable Encouragement.[2]

Read and committed to Col. [Nathaniel] Freeman, Mr. [Thomas] Crane, and Doct. [William] Baylies.

[1] Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch.

[2] See Boardman's petition, December 15, 1775.

DIARY OF DR. THOMAS MOFFAT [1]

[Boston] Decr 16th embarkd In the *Tartar* Ship of war Captn Meadows to whom I was recommended by the admiral [2] – Captn Meadows distinguishd me with every civility favour and kindness. Captn Harris a wounded Officer of Earl Purcys Regt was also a Passenger of the Cab[i]n we passed time most agreably in Conversation and reading without Cards or Gaming.

[1] Thomas Moffat's Diary, July 30, 1775 to October 8, 1777, LC. Moffat was a notorious Rhode Island tory. Pinkney's *Virginia Gazette* of December 9, 1775, carried a dispatch from Providence dated November 16: "An act has passed the house, sequestering the estates of Thomas Hutchinson, esquire, late governor of the Massachusetts Bay, Gilbert Deblois, Doctor Thomas Moffat, Samuel Sewall, George Rome, Jahleel and Benjamin Brenton, and several other estates within this colony, the owners of which are avowed enemies to the liberties of America."

[2] H.M. Sloop *Tartar* sailed from Boston for England, December 16, 1775 and arrived at Spithead, January 6, 1776. PRO, Admiralty 51/972.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES [1]

[Boston] Decr 16

By the *Senegal* the Admiral received a Letter from Commissioner Arbuthnot, dated 30th November 1775,[2] relating that two armed Schooners from Marblehead had been in Canso Road, and forbid all the Masters of Vessels there to carry Lumber or any other Supplies to the West Indies or any other of the Dominions of Great Britain or to Boston: that these Schooners had only taken one Vessel laden with 40 Tubs of Butter, and came from the Island of St Johns, where they had not done the smallest damage except making Prisoner of the Lieutt Governor, on pretence of his enlisting Volunteers for the Royal Army and Militia: that afterwards they put into Barrington Harbour, took a Brigantine with Fish and then steered to the Westward: . . . that he had directed the *Senegal* to Victual and Store for six Months, and then proceed to the Bay of Fundy and cruize as long as the Season would admit, but that on hearing the aforegoing Account of the Rebel Schooners he had altered her destination.

By another Letter dated 8th December, the Commissioner informed the Admiral, that the Governor had sent an Officer to him (who had come in three days from Annapolis [Royal]) to let him know that the People there were under the greatest Apprehensions of being attacked as soon as the *Merlin* should leave that Place, and that he had therefore sent a Schooner with six months provisions to that Sloop, and Orders for her to cruize as long as she could and to winter at Annapolis.

The Admiral, who had long ago ordered both the *Senegal* and *Merlin* to winter in the Bay of Fundy where they had been left by the *Tartar* expressly for the Security of the Trade in the Bay and the Western Coast of Nova Scotia, was surprized and not altogether satisfied with this irregular innovation upon his Orders: And the *Senegal* going so soon to Halifax for Provisions was what he had not intended, as he well knew how much provision those Sloops had on board, and had taken care to send a Transport on purpose with a farther Proportion for four Months, in order that they might not be obliged to quit their Station during the Winter. However, as contrary to his Expectation, no Frigates or Sloops were arrived from England, and he had Intelligence that several Vessels were expected at Liverpool in Nova Scotia with Arms and Ammunition from Barcelona, and knew Liverpool to be a Place not much frequented by Men of War, he imagined the *Senegal,* as she was quite ready, would be the properest Vessel to send there, and therefore did not order her back to Annapolis.

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1. Graves's Conduct, II, 19–20, BM.
2. This seems to have been Graves's first knowledge of the raid by Broughton and Selman on the Island of St. John.

LIEUTENANT SAMUEL NORTON TO THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT [1]

Martha's Vineyard, December 16, 1775.

Gentlemen:

On the 24th November last, I observed a sail-boat, with six men on board, sailing from Edgartown, in pursuit of His Majesty's ship *Swan,* Captain James Ayscough, commanding. I being officer on guard on the east side of Holmes's Hole harbour, observed her motions; but she being so far from the shore, could not command her to, but going nearer the west side, the guard fired upon the said boat, but the people would not bring to. But keping watch of said boat's return, I had the pleasure of seizing her on the 25th said November; and as there was no Committee or leading men in this town that would take notice of the offenders, I, by order of my commanding officer, took said offenders under examination, before a Justice of the Peace, whose affidavits I have herewith enclosed, which will show your Honours said offenders' faults.

Your advice in this case shall be ever acknowledged by [&c.]

Samuel Norton,
Lieutenant in Second Company in Dukes County.

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1. Force, comp., *American Archives,* 4th, IV, 290–91.

Providence Gazette, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1775

Providence, December 16.

Several Vessels, loaded with Fuel, provision, &c. bound to Boston, were last Week taken, and carried into Salem and Beverly. – A Privateer from Plymouth has likewise taken several small Craft, bound to Boston, with Provision and Fuel.

Journal of H.M. Sloop *Swan*, Captain James Ayscough [1]

[December, 1775] Moord be[tween] the Town [&] Fort Wh[arf off Newport]

Saturday 16th [Light Airs & Variable] Weather Landed on Brinton's Point to Get hay was attack[d] By a Great Number of Rebels & Returned on Board again with out any hay –

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 51/960.

Journal of H.M. Brig *Bolton*, Lieutenant Thomas Graves [1]

December 1775 Moored abreast the Town of Newport

Saturday 16 At 7 A M unmoored and hove short on small Br at 8 loos'd sails to dry.at 9 Weighed and ran out to the So wd of Fort Island in Comy the *Rose* and *Swans* Tenders at 10 Anchd with small Br in 8½ fm Water in Brenton's Cove, Veer'd away ⅓ a Cable. Brentons point NW ¼ mile. Landed several of our Men, with those of the Tenders (under the Command of Lieut Graves) in order to get off some hay, saw a great Number of Rebels [wit]h Arms, advancing who fired at our Men, coming off in the Boats returned it with Carriage Guns and Small Arms, which soon dispersed them.

First part mode & fair Wr middle little wind, with Calms, latter thick foggy Wr

at [4] P M weighed and came to sail, turning to Windward, between Fort Island and Brentons Point. at ½ past 4 it falling calm, Anchd with small Br in 18 fm off Brenton's farms. Veer'd away ½ a Cable Dumplin Rocks NW ½ a mile, the Rebels coming down again and firing at the Brigg, threw 4 Shells & 8 3 pdrs among them, after which they continued Silent, at ½ past 9 weigh'd and came to sail, at ½ past 10 Anchor'd with Small Br in 5½ fm in Newport Harbour; Veer'd away ½ a Cable.

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 51/4127.

Diary of Dr. Ezra Stiles [1]

[Newport] Dec. 16.

The infamous Capt Wallace at X A.M. sent one Brig & 2 Tenders & landed Marines on Brentons point to take off hay as they have 13 head of Cattle starving. Two Compa marched from Head Qurs down the Neck & joyned Capt [William] Bartons Compa there – in all about 120 men, to oppose the Landing. The Brig fired – the Marines & sailors had got to the Stacks – our soldiers fired on them, & they instantly quitted, left the Hay & fled on board ship.

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[1] Diary of Ezra Stiles, YUL.

ADAM BABCOCK TO SILAS DEANE [1]

[Extract] New Haven, 16th Decr 1775.

I am very glad you have been thoughtful of Capt. [Dudley] Saltonstall, and have provided him with a place which, I have not the least doubt, he will fill with honor to himself and satisfaction to his Country. It will give me much pleasure to assist him and the officers he leaves behind him, in collecting seamen here, not only that I may serve him, but especially the Cause, which lies very near my heart. But why do you stop at four Ships? Pray let me hear you are preparing ten at least, of the best Ships you can get; and order every material collected this winter, in the different ports that favor such a design, to build and furnish out a fleet of twenty sail of Frigates, from twenty-four to thirty-six guns, In case of an accomodation this winter, the expense will be no mighty affair; and if the war proceeds, we are undone without such a Fleet, which, as their Force must be divided into three or four parts on the Continent, would be an over match for any they can send into these seas. I think this place would be a proper one for building two; and here is a very fine parcel of long stuff collected quite eno' for one; and as our ports will soon be entirely secure, provided we can get heavy cannon, the Ships would be in perfect security till they should be fit for sea. I should be glad to serve the public in this or any other way that I am capable of.

[1] *Collections of the Connecticut Historical Society,* II, 341–43.

COLONEL GOLD SELLECK SILLIMAN TO REV. JOSEPH FISH [1]

[Extract] New Haven Decemr 16, 1775

Yesterday the General Assembly met here but they have not yet had Time to do any Thing, but only hear the Publick Letters read; nor do I understand that any One particular Matter occasioned their coming together at this Time, but the general alarming State of publick Affairs; I hear that our Enemies have lately given another Specimen of their Savage Cruelty, in burning up all the Buildings on Connanicutt Island; where they will strike next God only knows; God has appeared most signally favourable to us this Summer; every Place in Canada is in our Possession except Quebeck which our last Accounts told us was beseiged by Col. Arnold and that General Montgomery had marched from Montreal to assist him, all the Armed Vessels & transports with which Govr Carlton went from Montreal are in our Possession and he himself fled away in a Boat. these particulars may be depended on;

[1] Trumbull and other Assorted Papers, YUL.

LIEUTENANT WILLIAM HUNTER, R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES [1]

Copy

Sir I have the misfortune to inform you that I was taken Prisoner at St Johns with thirteen more belonging to His Majesty's Brig *Gaspee*; ten seamen are quartered at Canaan and myself and Officers are in this place – As to particulars I am not permitted to write; and I am Sir with respect [&c.]

W^{m} Hunter.

Weathersfield, Connecticut December 16, 1775

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 1/485.

Colonel Timothy Bedel to Colonel James Holmes [1]

Sir Crown Point 16th Decr 1775

I Arrived here last Night with the Schooner and Sloop [2] and about 60 Prisoners, and the Ice will not permit me to come up any further I have Genl Montgomerys Orders to deliver them to Genl Schuyler And being informed he is not at Ticonderoga Shall be glad you would give me some Assistance and it being the Genls Orders that they Should go to Harlaers, I Should be glad to know what to do with them. If Lake George is passable I Should be glad all the Boats there might be detained for the Use of the Service. I am Sir [&c.]

Tim° Bedell Co[l.] of N Hampshire Rangers

I Shall be glad to know if the Committee from the Congress is with you, as a number of Indians is here wants to See them the Bearer will bring an Answer

The Commanding Officer Ticonderoga

[Endorsed] Colo. Tim. Bedells Letter 16th Decr 1775 to Col: James Holmes

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[1] Schuyler Papers, vol. 14, NYPL.

[2] The *Liberty* and *Enterprise*, respectively.

Lieutenant William Brown, Jr.'s Receipt for Captain John Johnson [1]

Fort George Decr 16, 1775

Recd of Henry Knox twenty six dollars which Capt John Johnson paid to different Carters for the use of their Cattle, in dragging Cannon from the fort of Ticonderoga to the North Landing of Lake George [2]

W^{m} Brown Jun^{r} Lieut

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[1] Diary of Henry Knox, MassHS.

[2] See partial list of cannon and ammunition transshipped by boat on Lake George, December 9, 1775.

Letter from New York [1]

[Extract] Dec. 16, 1775.

Captain Vandeput of the *Asia*, has shown his orders to some of the principal inhabitants here, whic[h is,] to seize all vessels either going in or out, the prov[ision] vessels and those with salt to be sent to Boston; in [con]sequence of which he has already took a brig belong[ing] to Mr. Beach, with a load of salt, from Lisbon, [or St.] Ubes; and notwithstanding she leaks intolerably, a[nd] has already pumped out near one quarter of her salt, [yet] she is going to Boston.[2]

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[1] *Pennsylvania Packet*, December 25, 1775.

[2] The brig *St. Helena*, Thomas Herriot, master.

Journal of the Continental Congress [1]

[Philadelphia] Saturday, December 16, 1775

Resolved, That the committee appointed to carry into execution the resolutions of Congress relative to a naval armament, be empowered to draw on the Treasurers, from time to time, for any sums not exceeding 500,000 dollars, for carrying into execution the resolutions of Congress.

The Committee to whom the petition of D[avid] Beveridge was referred, brought in their report, which was read.

Ordered, To lie on the table.

[1] Ford, ed., *JCC,* III, 432–35.

Diary of Richard Smith [1]

Saturday 16 Decr A Letter read from Gen. Washington [2] advising of some Captures made by our Vessels & that he had released the President of the Island of St Johns & others who had been taken [3] . . . the Comee appointed to fit out the 13 Ships were impowered to draw on the Treasury for 500,000 Dollars –

[1] Richard Smith's Diary, LC.

[2] Washington's letter of December 7, 1775.

[3] Phillip Callbeck, Thomas Wright, and Mr. Higgins.

Vote of the Continental Marine Committee [1]

[Copy] Marine Committee Decr 16, 1775

Agreed That the Thirty two Gun ships be of the following Dimensions Vizt

The Gun Deck	132	feet	1	Inch
Keel	110	Do	10¾	Inches
Beam	34	Do	5½	Inches
Hold	11	feet		

That the 24 Gun Ships be of the Same dimensions as the *Hero* Privateer built in the City of Philadelphia in the last War – the[n] follows the *Hero*'s Dimensions [2]

[1] Captain J. G. M. Stone Private Collection, Annapolis. This copy was made for John Langdon who was to build one of the thirty-two gun frigates in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and, as he was not interested in the smaller ships, the dimensions for them were omitted from his copy.

[2] The *Hero* was built at Philadelphia in1762 by James Penrose, Joshua Humphreys, master. Her principal dimensions were 120 feet 6 inches by 95 feet 6 inches by 32 feet 6 inches by 10 feet 6 inches. Marion V. Brewington, "The Designs of Our First Frigates," *The American Neptune,* VIII, No. 1, January 1948, 16.

Minutes of the Pennsylvania Committee of Safety [1]

[Philadelphia] December 16th, 1775.

At a Meeting of the Committee of Safety.

Resolved, That the Prisoners confined by this Board, agreeable to the directions of Congress, be removed to the New Gaol, and that the following order be delivered:

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a, 16th Dec'r, 1775.

You are hereby required to conduct the Soldiers & the three Sailors from Rhoad Island,[2] now Prisoners in your Gaol, to the New Gaol in this City, and there deliver them into the Custody of Mr. Thomas Apty.

Sign'd by order. Jno. Nixon, Chair'n.

To Thomas Dewees, Keeper of the Gaol of Philad'a County.

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[1] *Pennsylvania Colonial Records,* X, 429.

[2] Prisoners brought in by Abraham Whipple in the Rhode Island armed sloop *Katy.*

INSTRUCTIONS FOR OFFICERS OF PENNSYLVANIA ARMED BOATS [1]

In Committee of Safety,

[Philadelphia] 16th Dec'r 1775.

The officers of the Provincial arm'd Boats are hereby enjoined to observe the following Rules while stationed in the Barracks, that good order be supported and strict discipline maintained:

The Boats on their arrival at this City must be moored in some convenient Dock, and after a proper Guard is appointed to them, the Crews must be march'd in good order to the Barracks, where they will be quartered by Mr. C[lement] Biddle in the South wing & not more than 8 privates with non-commissioned officers in One Room, reserving to Capt. William Allen the 2 Rooms which he has fitted up while he stays.

That the roll of each Crew be called over every Morning & Evening, and that proper notice be taken of the absentees.

That the Tatoo shall be beat every evening at 8 O'Clock, and that none of the men of the Crews shall be out of the Barracks after that hour, and until the Roll is called in the morning, except with special leave.

That the master-of-arms officiate as an adjutant and make the return to the Commanding officer for the Guards each day, & parade them at the proper time for that purpose.

That the South Gate of the Barracks be the only passage for the Privates of the Boats to and from their Quarters.

That not less than one commissioned officer of each crew lodge in the Barracks during the time their men are there.

The suitable Guards be constantly kept over the Boats, the Firewood & at the South Gate.

That one-quarter of a Cord of wood be allow'd to eight men weekly, and no more.

That our Resolve of the 13th Inst. be constantly and steadily observed, for relieving the Boats stationed at Fort Island from time to time, while the navigation continues open.

That the men be paraded as often as possible at some convenient place and taught the manual Exercise & Evolutions, according to the most modern & approved practise.

As the preserving a strict discipline amongst the men is essentially necessary to keep a proper harmony and decorum amongst them, it is therefore enjoined & required that the Officers exact a steady & strict observance of these & all our former Rules and Articles for the orderly government of their Crews, and as it is too common that an unnatural & unreasonable jealousy subsists between Seamen & Landsmen, that may be productive of mischievous strifes & contentions between People of the Provincial arm'd Boates & the Troops now Stationed in the Barracks, you are therefore, each of you, in your respective stations, to prevent it amongst the Officers or men as much as you possibly can; and we do further recommend to the Officers, as they are embarked in the same cause, and intended for the same service, as the officers of the marching Regiments (viz: the protection of American Liberty,) that they display a Liberality of sentiment becoming Gentlemen, by cultivating a friendly intercourse with the said Officers.

1. Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives,* 2nd series, I, 599, 600.

LETTER FROM THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

[Extract] Williamsburg, December 16.

The action at the Great Bridge proves more important than we expected. The victory was complete. The enemy abandoned their post hastily, and retreated to Norfolk, their loss near an hundred. The Regulars, disgusted, refused to fight in junction with Blacks; and Captain Leslie, we are told, declared no more of his troops should be sacrificed to whims, and put them on board the ships, in consequence of which Norfolk is abandoned, and we expect is now occupied by our troops, who were on their march there when our last account was dispatched. Many Tories are come to us, and their cases now under consideration. More notorious ones are gone on board the vessels, which have in them very valuable cargoes.

1. *Pennsylvania Packet,* Philadelphia, January 1, 1776.

DIXON AND HUNTER'S *Virginia Gazette,* SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1775

Williamsburg, Dec. 16.

Last Tuesday [December 12] a vessel from the West Indies, for Norfolk, was made a prize of by a party of our troops, and carried into Hampton. Her cargo (which was intended for the use of our enemies) consisted of 2700 dollars, a large quantity of sugar, and several hogsheads of rum.

MINUTES OF THE PITT COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

[Martinborough] December 16. 1775

Whereas the Committie of this County on the 17th day of July Last made a Certain Contract with Capt Paule White for the Importation of powd[er] & Lead which Contract have been Complyed with on the part of said Capt Paule White who hath Laid his Accot Before this Committie wherein it appea[rs] that the Vessell was Seized on Acc[ot] of the powder &c. but have Deliverd the powder & lead &c as p Accot

The Sloop *Temperence* which was Seizd on accot of powder & Lead sent to the West Indias as p agrimenent with the Committiee				£450	0	0
To 717 lb of powder @ 5/.	£179.	5.	0			
To 1782 lb of Lead @ 63/.	56	2	6			
To 8 Cask for the Lead @ 2/.		16.	0			
To 2 hodgsds for the powder 11/.	1.	2	0			
	£237.:	5:	6			
75 p Ct advance p agriment.	177.	19.	2			
				£415.	4.	8.
				£865:	4:	8

The above Accot was Rendered by Capt Paule White which is allowed

Ordered that the prisedent of this Committie Transmitt a Coppy of the above Accot and the Agriment (with Capt White Relative thereto) to the provintial Councill of this province for their Approbation

The Committie being Informed that Capt White hath a Quantity of Po[w]dr orderd that Coln Robt Salter & Arthur Forbes wai[t] on Sd Capt White & Secure the Same for the use of the Publick

1. Secretary of State Papers (Committees of Safety 1774–1776), NCDAH.

Minutes of the South Carolina Council of Safety[1]

In the Council of Safety [Charleston],
Saturday, Dec. 16th, 1775.

Mr. President reported, that having yesterday, as desired, conversed with Capt. [Simon] Tufts respecting the command of the ship *Prosper,* that gentleman expressed so great a zeal for the public service, as to declare, that he shuld not look upon any exchange or alteration in his situation, that might be conducive to the public good, as a slight or disgrace; and he would readily and cheerfully quit the command of the *Prosper,* and resume that of the *defence*, or serve in any capacity wherein he could be useful to the colony.

On motion,

Resolved, That the captains in the colony navy bear command independent of each other, and without regard to dates of commissions, until further order.

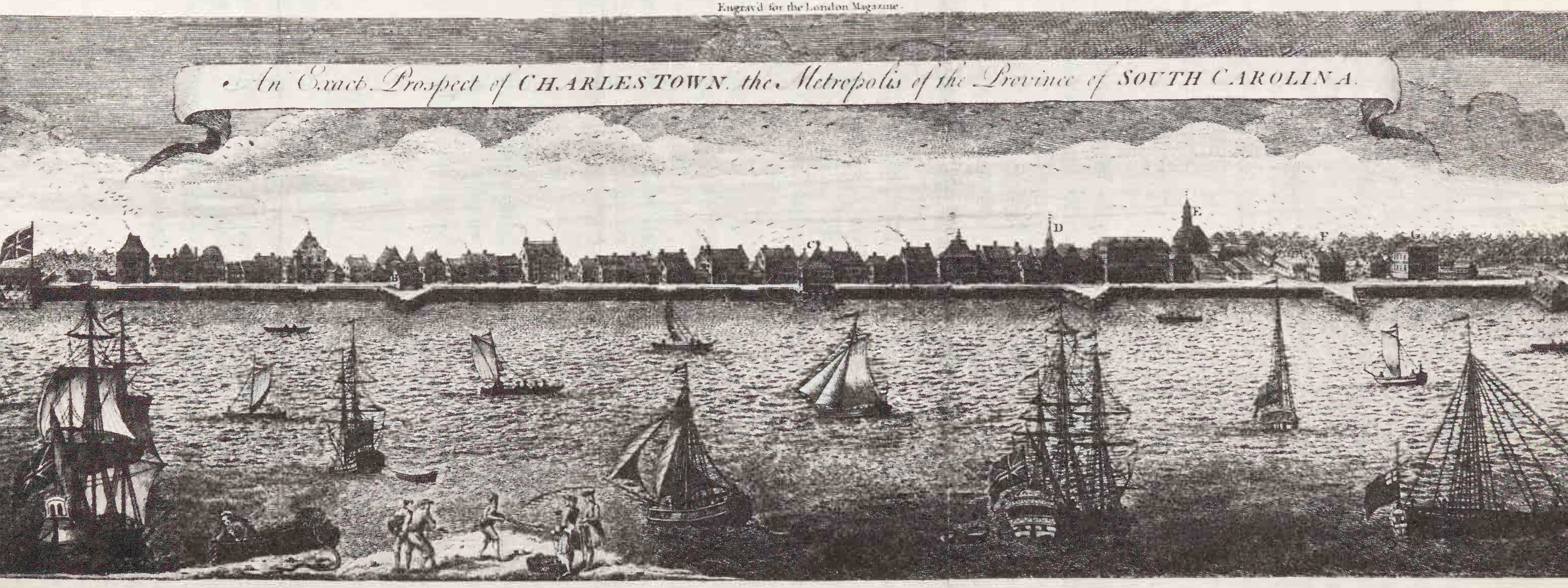
Resolved, That the Hon. William Henry Drayton be appointed captain and commander of the colony armed ship *Prosper.*

And a commission was made out accordingly.

Mr. President acquainted the board, that the provincial guard upon Col. Gadsden's wharf, had last night intercepted a canow, clandestinely attempting to go through Hog Island creek to the *Cherokee* armed ship, having on board two of the domestics of Lord William Campbell, three negroes, the property of inhabitants of this town, with sundry quantities of provisions and other articles; and that certain letters had been found upon them, which were produced and read.

Mr. John Sigell, steward to Lord William Campbell, attended in the name of Lady William, to inquire the cause of the above seizure, which he was made acquainted with.

Engrav'd for the London Magazine.



An Exact Prospect of CHARLESTOWN, the Metropolis of the Province of SOUTH CAROLINA.

Col. Moultrie attending, to report the foregoing seizure, also reported the seizing of another canow, destined as the former, and delivered in another intercepted letter.

Ordered, That Col. Moultrie be desired to restore to Lady Wm. Campbell all the wearing apparel of her ladyship or children that were found in the first-mentioned canow, and to dispose of the other articles for the use of the troops, in such manner as he shall think proper.

On motion,

Resolved, That measures be forthwith taken to apprehend and disperse the runaway slaves upon Sullivan's Island, under the protection of the men of war, and who have lately, in armed parties, committed several robberies and depredations on the people of the colony.

Lieuts. [William R.] Withers and [James] Coachman of the Indian company attending.

Ordered, That the concerting a proper plan of operations for the said company be committed to Mr. President, Mr. Arthur Middleton, and Doct. [David] Oliphant, and that they do confer with Col. Moultrie, and the said Lieuts. Withers and Coachman, upon the manner of carrying the same into execution.

On motion,

Resolved, That John Moggridge (one of the waiters in the service of the customs) being suspected of practices highly injurious to this colony, be forthwith seized and apprehended, and committed to the common jail in Charles-Town.

The following warrant was accordingly issued:

South-Carolina,
Charles-Town, Dec. 9th, 1775.

> By order of the Council of Safety for the colony aforesaid. To the Sheriff of Charles-Town District, or his Deputy, or to the Keeper of the common Jail in Charles-Town:
>
> You are hereby commanded and required to receive into your custody in the common jail, and there safely keep until further orders, the body of John Moggridge, herewith sent to you, suspected of high crimes and misdemeanors against the liberties of the colony aforesaid. And for so doing this will be your warrant.
>
> Given under my hand and seal, the day above written.
>
> Henry Laurens, President.

Ordered, That a letter be written to Capt. Thornbrough, acquainting him that all further supplies of provisions to the king's ships will be prohibited, unless the fugitive slaves of the inhabitants which receive protection from them, are forthwith delivered up.

It appearing by an intercepted letter, that a trunk of books belonging to James Trail, who lately withdrew himself on board the *Cherokee* armed ship, is shipped on board of a sloop bound for Georgia.

Ordered, That the committee of observation be desired to make inquiry after said trunk, and if found, to cause the same to be re-landed.

In the Council of Safety,
Saturday Evening, Dec. 16th, 1775.

The Hon. Wm. H. Drayton applied for commissions appointing Capt. Stephen Seymour to be Second Lieutenant, and Capt. Jacob Milligan to be Third Lieutenant of the colony armed ship *Prosper*.

And commissions were made out and signed accordingly.

Ordered, That the domesticks of Lord William Campbell, which were on board the canow stopt last night, be immediately brought before the Council.

Being brought accordingly, and it appearing, upon their examination, that some of his Lordship's effects had been put on board the sloop ———, Alexander Mills, master, bound for Georgia.

Resolved, That the said sloop be immediately stopt; that no goods whatever be taken out; and that all letters in possession of the master be demanded.

Ordered, That the committee of observation be desired to carry the above resolution into execution.

Ordered, That a guard be immediately placed about the house of Lord William Campbell, to prevent the removal of any of his Lordship's effects, until further orders, in order that such persons as may be injured by his Lordship's seizure and detention of their property, and encouraging, harbouring and protecting their runaway slaves, may be indemnified.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society,* III, 87–91.

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17 Dec. (Sunday)

George Washington to Governor Nicholas Cooke [1]

Sir Cambridge 17th Decr 1775.

By sundry persons and accounts just from Boston, I am informed, that the Minesterial Army is in very great distress for want of fresh Provisions and having received intelligence that there are 200 fat Cattle on Block Island and some Transport Vessels cruizing that way, in quest of Necessaries for the Army, I must request you to have the Cattle &c removed from thence immediately, and from every other place where their Ships can come and take them of[f]; It is a matter of the utmost importance, to prevent their getting a Supply; If they can be hindered now, the advanced Season of the year and the Inclement weather, which we may expect ere long, will put it out of their power.

I yesterday received the inclosed information from several persons who lately came out from Boston, which I thought my duty to transmit to you. It is more than probable, that the destination of the Troops may be very different from what they have given out; they may have made use of that to deceive in another Quarter. I am &c.

G° Washington

1. Washington Papers, Varick Transcripts, LC.

STATEMENT OF WALTER LOGAN [1]

Camp at Cambridge, Decr 17th 1775.

Walter Logan Esqr appearing before me this Day Declares –

That on the 19th day of April last, he went to Boston; The twenty fifth of said month Sailed for Halifax & Nova Scotia – where he continued untill about the sixth day of October last, when he embarked for Boston in a Brigt Captain Hanes, loaded with Live Stock, where he arrived the 16th of said month, and on the 17th Demanded a Pass to Newport Rhode Island, and having obtained one, Embarked on Board a Transport Snow *Robinson*, with provisions for the ships of war at that Port, where he arrived in three weeks, Staid there about fourteen Days, and then came to Needham, where he arrived on last Wednesday Evening – That he is now Comptroller of the Custom for the Port of Perth Amboy – New Jersey, and intends with leave Immediately to remove himself and Family to that place, and further saith not, which is presented to his Excellency General Washington for Consideration, and for such orders as he shall think fit to give thereon – By his Excellency's most obedient [&c.]

W. Heath.[2]

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[1] Force Transcripts, LC.

[2] Major General William Heath.

GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE TO THE RHODE ISLAND DELEGATES IN THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS [1]

Gentlemen, Providence Decemr 17th 1775.

You will find in the Providence Paper the latest Intelligence we have from Quebec. Palmer further informs us that the Breaches in the Walls had been repaired with Fascines; and that the Inhabitants were very generally determined not to engage in Defence of the Place. A Letter from Lieut. Col [Christopher] Greene dated the 23d ulto acquaints his Wife that they arrived before Quebec Ten Days too late, and were obliged to retreat; & that General Montgomery with 3 or 4000 Men were to embark the same Day about 45 Leagues above him in order to join Col. Arnold and attack the City. So that I have still Hopes the City is in our Possession.

This will be delivered to you by Messrs Penet and Pliarne who arrived here in Capt Rhodes. They appear to be Persons of some Consequence, and I hope may be useful in beginning a Negociation with the Court of France for Assistance, which I look upon to be a most important Object. But I forbear enlarging upon this Subject although the Measure appears to me absolutely necessary; because the Congress are the best Judges how far they are ripe for such an Application.

There is no Doubt but that Capt. Martindale in a fine Cruizer fitted out by General Washington from Plymouth is taken by One of the Enemy's Ships of War disguised as a Transport who made Sail from him with Drugs. It is reported that he had 55 Men killed and wounded out of 70.[2]

The stopping of Lord Dunmore's Progress in Virginia is an Object of Importance. Indeed I think he ought instantly to be crushed at all Expence and Hazard. I am, with great Regard Gentlemen [&c.]

Nich^s Cooke

Hon'ble S. Hopkins & S. Ward Esqrs

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1. Cooke Papers, RIHS.
2. A report at complete variance with the facts.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA STILES [1]

[Newport, December] 17.

The Men o'War at Noon sailed northward in hostile manner.

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1. Diary of Ezra Stiles, YUL.

COLONEL HENRY KNOX TO GEORGE WASHINGTON [1]

Fort George, Decr 17. 1775

May It please Your Excellency,

I returned from Ticonderoga to this place on the 15th instant & brought with me the Cannon, &c. It having taken nearly the time I conjectur'd it would to transport them here.—It is not easy to conceive the difficulties we have had in getting them over the lake owing to the advanced Season of the Year & contrary Winds—Three days ago it was very uncertain whether we could have gotten them over untill next spring, but now please God, they shall go—I have made forty two exceeding strong sleds & have provided eighty yoke of Oxen to drag them as far as Springfield where I shall get fresh Cattle to carry them to Camp. The rout will be from here to Kinderhook, from thence into Great Barrington, Massachusetts Bay, & down to Springfield—There will scarcely be any possibility of conveying them from here to Albany or Kinderhook, but on Sleds the roads being very much gullied.—At present the sledding is tolerable to Saratoga about 26 Miles; beyond that there is none.—I have sent for the Sleds & teams to come up & expect to begin to move them to Saratoga on Wednesday or Thursday next, trusting that between this & that period we shall have a fine fall of Snow which will enable us to proceed further & make the Carriage easy—if that should be the case I hope in 16 or 17 Days to be able to present to your Excellency a Noble train of Artillery, the Inventory of which [is] inclos'd. I have been particular with respect to their dimensio[ns,] that no mistake may be in making their carriages as there are none here or Implements of any kind I also send a List of those Stores which I desir'd Colo McD[ougall] to send from N York. I did not then know of any 13 Inch Mortars which was the reason of my ordering but few Shells of that Size; but I now write to him for 500 13 Inch, 200 5 7/10 Inches & 400 of 4 1/2 Inches.—If these sizes could be had there as I believe they can I should imagine it would save time & expence rather than to have them cast—if You should think otherwise or have made provision for them elsewhere you will please to countermand this order.

There is no other News here of Col Arnold than that from Colo McCleans having burnt the Houses round Quebec Col Arnold was obliged to go to point aux tremble about 6 miles from the City, that Gen. Montgomery had gone to join him with a Considerable body of men & a good train of Artillery Mortars, &c. There are some timid & some malevolent Spirits who make this matter much worse, [but] from the different accounts which I have been able to collect, I have very little doubt that General Montgomery has Quebec now in his possession. I am [&c.]

Henry Knox

[1] Washington Papers, LC.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Phoenix,* CAPTAIN HYDE PARKER, JR.[1]

December 1775
Saturday 16th — At Single Anchor Sandy Hook Light House SBE½S fir'd 3 Shot at Different times to bring Vessels too coming in The first part Modt Breezes & Cloudy. The Remainder light winds & hazy wth Drizling rain. PM at 1 Weighed and came to Sail. at 5 Anchord wth the Small Bower in 14 Fathom Veerd to ½ A Cable Governor Island Bearing SE Distance ¾ Mile. Found riding here His Majestys Ship *Asia* and the *Dutchess of Gordon* [2]

Sunday 17th — Moor'd in East Rive[r] Abreast of the Town [of] New York

The first part light winds & Cloudy. The remainder Modt Breezes & Clear. PM at 4 weighed & came to Sail, at 5 Anchord wth the best Bower in 8 Fam in the East River abreast of the Fly Market Moor'd Ship aCable each way

[1] PRO, Admiralty 51/693.

[2] The *Dutchess of Gordon* was the floating residence of Governor William Tryon whose safety could not be guaranteed in New York City.

COLONEL WILLIAM WOODFORD TO EDMUND PENDLETON [1]

Norfolk, December 17, 1775

Your favour of the 14th came safe to hand last night, and I should esteem myself wanting in duty and respect to your honourable body if I did not take the earliest opportunity to express the high sense I have of the great honour done me by your resolution of the 13th instant,[2] and to assure the Convention that I consider my country's approbation of my conduct a sufficient reward for any services I may be thought to render at this alarming crisis.

I had taken the liberty to afford that protection and assistance to the distressed Highlanders which I find is the wish of the Convention, and col. [Robert] Howe and myself will pay due regard to your directions respecting those that remain still in this town. Their vessel being detained, and their distressed wives and little ones left to starve in a strange country, is a fresh instance of the inhumanity of a certain lord.[3]

Your orders respecting the Tories, and negro prisoners, shall be complied with. We have upwards of 100 of them now in our guards. Capt. Squire sent us yesterday the following ticket: "Capt. Squire's compliments to Messrs. Howe and Woodford, and will be glad to know if they mean to prevent the navy and army from being supplied with provisions and water." To which we returned this answer: "Col. Howe and col. Woodford's compliments to capt. Squire, and return him for answer to his message, that as his majesty's troops and ships of war have long since committed hostilities upon the persons and property of the good people of this colony, and have actually taken and imprisoned several private gentlemen, and others, who did not bear arms at the time, our express orders are, to prevent, to the utmost of our power, any communication whatever between the said troops and ships of war and this town, or any part of this Colony."

In the afternoon the two ships of war and tenders got under sail, and fell down towards the distillery. They gave a signal for a snow, with 4000 bushels of salt, to follow; but she not being so quick as they expected, our guard ordered her to continue. The *Kingfisher* sent a boat, with about fifteen hands, to bring her off; but our officer hailed her, when within gunshot, and told her he would fire if she did not return. She took his advice and put about to the man of war. On board the snow was mr. Cary Michell, with all his official papers, which we have in possession, likewise the vessel moored to the wharf, and intend landing the salt so soon as a proper house can be got within our guards. That gentleman has made many professions of his innocence, and has prevailed upon col. Howe and myself to take his parole of honour for his appearance before the Convention, for which he sets off tomorrow.[4]

Twenty odd pieces of cannon were left by the enemy, but spiked and dismantled.

1. Purdie's *Virginia Gazette,* December 22, 1775.
2. The resolution of the 12th, not the 13th.
3. See Letter to John Pinkney, December 20, 1775.
4. Collector of the Lower District of the James River.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM COLONEL [CHARLES] SCOTT TO CAPTAIN SOUTHALL, DATED NORFOLK, DECEMBER 17"[1]

Dear Sir,

I just have time to inform you that we have at last got possession of the most horrid place I ever beheld; I mean Norfolk. Almost all the inhabitants fled on board the ships. Flags are continually passing, asking water, provision, or to exchange prisoners. Duty is harder than I ever saw before, our guards have not been relieved for [illegible] hours. The men of war fell down last evening about a mile, and left a brig with 3000 bushels of salt behind, which our guard took and brought to the wharf, but have not yet got one bushel on shore yet. We have got on board the vessel Mr. Cary Mitchell.

1. Pinkney's *Virginia Gazette,* December 20, 1775.

LORD DUNMORE TO LORD DARTMOUTH[1]

[Extract] [On board the Ship *Dunmore* off
[No. 34] Norfolk] 13th of December[2]

Being informed that the Rebels had procured some Cannon from North Carolina, and that they were also to be reinforced from Williamsburg, and knowing that our little Fort [at the Great Bridge] was not in a Condition to withstand any thing heavier than Musquet Shot, I thought it advisable to risque Something to save the Fort, as the loss of it was not only exposing the well disposed People of this part of the Country, to the resentment of the Rebels, but the moment they pass that Bridge, we must expect to be cut off from every supply of Provisions from this Colony; Captain [Samuel] Leslie who commands the detachment of the 14th Regiment now here, Marched on Friday the 8th Instant after dark from this, to reinforce the Garrison at the Fort, with orders from me, if on his Arrival there he found no Material change, to order two Companies of Negroes to make a detour, and fall in behind the Rebels a little before break of Day in the morning, and just as Day began to break, to fall upon the rear of the Rebels, which I expected would draw their attention, and make them leave the breast work they had made near the Fort, he was then with the Regulars, the Volunteers and some recruits to sally out of the Fort, and attack their breast work; he accordingly arrived at the Fort in the Night unperceived by the Rebels, the Negroes by some mistake were sent out of the Fort to guard a pass, where it was thought the Rebels might attempt to pass, and where in fact some of them had Crossed a Night or two before, burnt a house or two, and returned; Captain Leslie not finding the Negroes there, imprudently Sallied out of the Fort at break of Day in the morning, the Rebels as I suppose having got intelligence of his design were prepared to receive him from behind their Trenches, and kept a very heavy fire upon them, Notwithstanding that the advanced Guard forced their way up to the breast work, but being much weakened by the incessant fire of the Enemy, and discouraged by the loss of Captain [Charles] Fordyce (who fell at the Breast Work) were obliged to retire to the Fort, with the loss of three Officers killed and one Wounded, who was made a prisoner, 14 Privates were killed and 43 Wounded, a return of which is inclosed (No 4); Captain Fordyce's bravery and good conduct (who fell with his hand on the breast work) would do honor to any Corps of any Country, His loss is most Sincerely lamented by all who knew him; Lieutenants Napier and Leslie who were the other two Officers that fell, were both very deserving young Men and are realy a loss to their Corps; the greatest praise is due to both Officers and Soldiers of the 14th for the undaunted Spirit they shewed on this occasion.

This loss having so much weakened our before but very weak Corps, and Captain Leslie being much depressed by the loss of Lieutenant Leslie, his Nephew, and thinking that the Enemy elated with this little advantage they had gained over us, might force their way a Cross the branch, either above, or below, and by that means Cut off the Communication between us, determined to evacuate the Fort, and accordingly left it soon after it was dark, and returned with the whole to this place; The Rebels however remained at the Bridge for a day or two.

This Town standing on a Neck of Land and by that means pretty easily made defensible against an undisciplined Army determined the few remaining Inhabitants (most of whom are Natives of Great Britain) to throw up a breast work and to defend themselves, for which I had supplied them with the few Arms I had, but this work not being quite finished when the News of this little advantage the Enemy had gained, threw them all into dispair, and they at present give themselves up as lost, but their transitions from hope to despair are very quick, should any assistance (which God grant) they possibly may be induced to return to their Trenches, when they may soon put themselves in such a Situation as will make it very difficult for the Enemy to force them.

The Rebels when reinforced at the Great Bridge to the number of Sixteen or Eighteen hundred, or as some say two thousand, advanced to Norfolk, where they arrived the 14th in the Evening. All who were friends to Government took refuge on board of the Ships, with their whole families, and their most valuable Effects, some in the Men of War, some in their own Vessels, others have chartered such as were here, so that our Fleet is at present Numerous tho' not very powerfull. I do assure your Lordship it is a most melancholy sight to see the Numbers of Gentlemen of very large property with their Ladies and whole families obliged to betake themselves on board of Ships, at the Season of the year, hardly with the common necessarys of Life, and great numbers of poor people without even these, who must have perished had I not been able to supply them with some flour, which I purchased for His Majesty's service some time ago.

In the first part of this letter I informed your Lordship of the Collector and Comptroller of the lower District of James River being arrived here, when the Rebels came to Norfolk they embarked on board a Brig which I had requested Captain Squire to Seize to prevent both her and the Salt with which she was loaded from falling into the hands of the Rebels, in consequence of this Step, to such distress are they now reduced on Shore for this most essential Article of Life (especially in this quarter of the Globe) that they now give fifteen Shillings per Bushell for what they used to give only Ten pence or a Shilling; this Brig lay within Musquet Shot of the Town of Norfolk when the Rebels entered it and she being very weakly manned and not being able immediately to weigh her Anchor, the Rebels boarded her, made the two Officers prisoners, and hawled the Brig into one of the Wharfs, but we soon afterward burnt her when they had taken out but a Small proportion of the Salt.

Immediately after the Rebels took possesion of the Town of Norfolk, they came down and fired twelve or fifteen Shot at the *Otter* Sloop of War, next morning Captain Squire informed me, he had sent a Flag of Truce on Shore to know if these Shot were fired by orders or not, they Answered in the Negative,[3] He then at my desire sent another Flag of Truce on Shore to know if they meant to allow His Majesty's Forces to be supplied with fresh provisions, to which they Answered, that their orders were from the Honorable Convention, that they should do every thing in their power to prevent His Majesty's Troops from being supplied with any of the Necessarys of Life.[4]

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1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/1353.
2. Continuation of Dunmore's letter begun December 6. This section of the letter is dated December 13; it is evident, however, that the concluding paragraphs were written December 17, 1775.
3. See Squire to Commanding Officer at Norfolk, and reply, both dated December 15, 1775.
4. See Woodford to Pendleton, December 17, 1775.

Minutes of the South Carolina Council of Safety [1]

In the Council of Safety [Charleston],
Sunday, Dec. 17th, 1775.

The following orders and letters were written:

In the Council of Safety, Dec. 17th, 1775.

Sir – You are directed to confer with the Hon. William Henry Drayton and Doct. [David] Oliphant, upon taking post and erecting a fascine battery for four canon, eighteen pounders, at Haddrel's Point, with all convenient dispatch; and for this service you will order a detachment from the provincials, consisting of two hundred privates, commanded by a major; one surgeon is necessary.

You are likewise to order Capt. [Barnard] Beckman, of the Artillery Regiment, upon this service, and that he do provide all necessary stores for the canon, with all possible dispatch.

By order of the Council of Safety,

Henry Laurens, President.

Col. [William] Moultrie.

In the Council of Safety,
Charles-Town, Dec. 17th, 1775.

Sir – You are ordered to furnish Capt. Beckman with all such stores as he may call for, and if they are not in the magazine, you will provide them, and charge to the public.

By order of the Council of Safety,

Henry Laurens, President.

[Robert Cochran]

The Secretary, from the committee of observation, reported that he had last night stopt the sloop *Betsy* from proceeding on her voyage to Georgia, caused its sails to be unbent and put into one of Mr. Gibbes' stores; that there are on board four packages shipped by Lord William Campbell's steward; that a guard was therefore placed on board to prevent anything being landed; and that the captain had readily delivered all the letters, and from their address, seemed to be of no consequence.

Ordered, That the goods on board Capt. Willis' sloop, belonging to Lord William Campbell, be removed to his lordship's house, and that an exact inventory be taken of the whole, under the inspection of Fenwick Bull, esq., notary public, Mr. John Siegell, his lordship's steward, and Capt. Robert Cochran, ordnance-storekeeper, on the part of the Council; and that all the wearing apparel belonging to Lady William Campbell and her children, together with those in the custody of Col. Moultrie, be sent down and tendered to her ladyship on board the armed ship *Cherokee.*

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[1] *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society,* III, 91–94.

18 Dec.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Hunter*, CAPTAIN THOMAS MACKENZIE [1]

Decembr 1775	Remarks [at Quebec] &c
Mondy 11	recd 2 Barrels of Beer Fresh Gales with hard frost PM the Rebels at work in their Batterry we fired Several 32 and 24 pounders at it—
Tuesdy 12th	Do Weather fired several Shells and Shot at the Rebels Batterry [2]
Wednsdy 13	had a Sentry Killed by a Musquett Shot from the rebels recd a Hogshead of Beer
Thursdy 14	Modt with snow the Rebels at work in their Batterry fired several Shells & Shot at them received one Barrel of Beer— Light Breezes and fair PM the rebels at work in their Batterry we fired some Shot at them
Fridy 15	at 7 AM the rebels open'd a Gun Batterry and fired smartly into the Town we return'd their fire and by ½ past 10 silenc'd their Batterry ½ past 11 the rebels sent a flag of Truce to Callas Gate but the Governor would not receive it into the Town received no damage from the Rebels— Light Breezes and fair at 4 PM the Rebels fired from their Batterry which we soon silenced and kept firing Shott and Shells at them—
Saturdy 16	receiv'd a Hogshead of Beer & regimental Clothing Fresh Breezes with Snow at 4 PM the Rebels began to fire on us we kept a Constant fire on them at 6 they ceas'd fireing at night they began fireing into the Town from a Battery of 7 Cohorns in St Roque we fired several Mortars Cohorns & Guns at them to dislodge them.
Sunday 17	recd 2 Hhd of Beer the Master Carpenter and other Officers Visited the Ship Do Weather Continued our fire on the Enemy
Mondy 18	at 4 AM the Alarm was beat for Enemys approach every one repaired to their alarm Post but found every thing quet at 9 the Enemy began to fire from their Batterry which we soon silencd, had a Fuzileir wounded by a Musquett Ball from the Enemy fired several Shells into St Roque Opend a Cask of Beef No 1570 Contents 162 short three Pieces— Modt with Snow

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1. PRO, Admiralty 51/466.
2. The crews and guns of both H.M.S. *Lizard* and H.M. Sloop *Hunter* had been used to augment the Quebec garrison. See journal of the *Lizard*, November 26 to December 1, Volume 2, 1213–14, and journal of the *Hunter*, December 2 to December 10, under the latter date.

BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID WOOSTER TO MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER [1]

Dear General Head Quarters Montreal Decr 18. 1775

General Montgomery informs me, that You desired me to send You an Account of the Number of Men, that I discharged between Albany & Tionderoga, therefore I would inform You, that I did not discharge any Men but only gave them a Furlough & that to the Connecticut Troops only, to pass to New England, as the Term of their Inlistment were not expired & I imagined they might be very serviceable there, & as the Captains are Paymasters to their own Companies by Act of Assembly of the Colony of Connecticut, they are all returned home & without Doubt have setled their Pay Rolls with the Committee of the Pay Table appointed for that Purpose – Sir I must beg Leave to inform [of] General Montgomerys Request for the Paymast[er] or Money to be sent forward or We shall be Overwhelmed with Mutiny & Disorder, I am Dear General [&c.]

Dav^{d} Wooster

(A true Copy)

[1] Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, I, 378, NA.

LETTER FROM BEVERLY [1]

[Extract] Dec. 18, 1775

You no doubt have heard of Captain Manly, who goes in a privateer out of this harbour, because his name is famous, and as many towns contend for the honour of his birth as there did for that of Homer's. Capt. Manly has brought into this harbour in the course of a fortnight two large brigs of 220 tons each, laden with military stores and provisions, two ships 300 ton each, laden with English goods, porter, live hogs, &c. to the amount of forty thousand pounds sterling the whole –[2] A sloop is just brought in here from Virginia, laden with corn, oats, potatoes, &c. The Capt. was a midshipman belonging to the *Otter* sloop of war there, she was bound to Boston, and had been out 14 days – of the people on board, are two members of their Provincial Congress, two other persons of note, whom Lord Dunmore had taken prisoners, and ordered to Boston to be tried ('tis supposed) for their lives – There is likewise a Tory Col. who had inlisted 300 slaves and convicts, but was defeated and obliged to fly to Lord Dunmore, who advised him to go to Boston, and recommended him to Gen. Howe for a commission.[3]

The prisoners, with all the letters and papers (some of which are of great consequence) are just gone off to Head-Quarters.

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[1] *Pennsylvania Packet*, January 8, 1776.

[2] The brigs *Nancy* and *Little Hannah*, and the ships *Concord* and *Jenny*.

[3] The sloop *Betsey*, commanded by Midshipman John Atkinson, was taken by Manley in the *Lee*. The tory colonel was Moses Kirkland, and the four prisoners being sent to Boston were Captain Thomas Mathews, of the Virginia militia, William Robinson, a delegate to the Virginia Assembly, and two shipmasters, Captain William Deane and Oliver Porter.

CAPTAIN WILLIAM HULL TO ANDREW ADAMS [1]

[Extract] Camp on Winter Hill Decemr 18th 1775

We are maiking Approaches nearer the Enemy Constantly – Cobble Hill was fortified without Molestation, which is situate very near them – we are now fortifying on Leechmore's Point, but a very small distance from Boston, from which Place the Town can no doubt be distroyed Yesterday and this day they fired pretty briskly upon our People, but did little Execution.

You no doubt have seen an account of the several Prizes taken by Capt Manly and others, on the Sea, where we least expected Success – The Military Stores taken in one is computed at atleast 30,000 pounds Sterling – a Mortor called the Congress the finest that was ever in America

There were two French Gentlemen of Distinction here about two days ago immediately from France, they brought 20 Tons of Powder, and the General provided them Carrages and they went immediately to the Congress, for what Purpose you may Judge [2]

[1] Trumbull Papers, YUL.

[2] Messrs. Penet and Pliarne arrived there from the French West Indies; not from France. They brought no powder.

MAJOR GENERAL RICHARD MONTGOMERY TO MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER [1]

My dear General Head Quarters Decembr 18 1775

I have been near a Fortnight before Quebec – at the Head of upwards of 800 Men, a Force you'll say not very adequate to the Business in Hand – but we must make the best of it – It is all I could get – I have been so used to struggle with Difficulties that I expect them of Course.

I hope the Troops will be sent down as soon as possible, for should we fail in our first Attempt, a second or a third may do the Business before Relief can arrive to the Garrison. – Possession of the Town and that speedily I hold of the highest Consequence – The Enemy are expending the Ammunition most liberally and I fear the Canadians will not relish a Union with the Colonies, till they see the whole Country in our Hands and defended by such a Force as may relieve them from the Apprehensions of again falling under the Ministerial Lash – Were it not for these Reasons I should have been inclined to a Blockade till towards the first of April – by which Time the Garrison wou'd be probably so much distressed for provisions and Wood.

With anxious Wishes for the Recovery of your Health and best Respects to your Family if you be returned Home I am my dear Sr [&c.]

Rich^{d} Montgomery.

[1] Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, I, 394, NA.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HOWE [1]

Sir Cambridge 18th Decemr 1775

We have just been informed of a Circumstance, which were it not so well authenticated I should scarcely think credible – it is, that Colonel Allen who (with his small party) was defeated and taken prisoner near Montreal, has been treated without regard to decency, humanity, or the rules of War – that he has been thrown into Irons & suffers all the hardships inflictd upon Common Felons – I think it my duty Sir, to demand & do expect from you, an ecclair[is]sement on this Subject; at the same time I flatter myselfe, from the character which Mr Howe bears, as a man of honor, Gentleman, & Soldier, that my demand will meet with his approbation – I must take the Liberty allso of informing you, that I shall consider your Silence, as a Confirmation of the truth of the report; & further assureing you, that whatever treatment Colonel Allen receives – whatever Fate he undergoes – such exactly shall be the treatment & fate of Brigadier Prescot now in our hands –

The Law of retaliation, is not only justifiable in the eyes of God & Man, but absolutely a duty which in our present Circumstances we owe, to our relatives, Freinds, & fellow Citizens –

Permit me to add Sir, that we have all here the highest regard & reverance for your great personal qualities & attainments, & that the Americans in General, esteem it not as the Least of their misfortunes – that the name of Howe – a name so dear to them, should appear at the head for the Catalogue of the instruments employed by a Wicked Ministry for their destruction —

With due respect I have the honor to be Sir [&c.]

Signed Geo. Washington

P.S. if an exchange of prisoners, taken on each side in this unnatural Contest, is agreeable to General Howe, he will please to signify as much to his Most Obt &c

a true Copy Stephen Moylan P.T.S. G. W.

1. Papers CC (Letters of George Washington), 152, I, 360–62, NA.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO JOHN HANCOCK [1]

[Extract] Cambridge 18th Decemr 1775

Sir Captain Manly of the *Lee* armed Schooner took & sent into Beverly the sloop *Betsey,* A. Atkinson master, she is an armed vessell, dispatchd by Lord Dunmore with Indian Corn, Potatoes & Oats for the Army in Boston – the paquetts of Letters found on board I have the honor to send you with this, by Captain James Chambers, they being of so much importance that I do not think, it woud be prudent, to trust them by a common express –

As Lord Dunmores schemes are fully Laid open in these Letters, I need not point out to the Congress, the necessity there is, of a vigorous exertion being adopted by them, to disposses his Lordship of the strong hold he has got in Virginia, I do not mean to dictate, but I am sure they will pardon me for giveing them freely my oppinion, which is, that the fate of America a good deal depends, on his being obliged to evacuate Norfolk this Winter, or not – I have [Moses] Kirkland well secured,[2] and think I will send him to you for examination – by most of the Letters relative to him, he is a dangerous fellow – John Stewarts [3] Letters and papers are of a very interesting nature – Governor Tonyn's & many other Letters from Augustine shew the weakness of the place, at the same time, of what vast consequence it woud be for us, to possess ourselves of it, & the great quantity of

Amunition Contained in the Forts; Indeed these papers are of so great Consequence, that I think this, but little inferior to any prize, our famous Manly has taken

We now work at our ease on Leechmore's hill, on discovering our party there yesterday morning, the ship which Lay opposite, began a Cannonade,[4] to which Mount Horam added Some Shells, one of our men was wounded; we fired a few Shot from two eighteen pounders which are placed on Coble hill, and soon obliged the Ship to shift her Station – She now lyes in the Ferry way – and except a few shells from the Mount in Boston, (which do no execution), we have no interruptions in prosecuteing our works, which will, in a very short time be Completed, when that is done – when we have powder to Sport with – I think if the Congress resolve on the execution of the proposal made, relative to the town of Boston – it Can be done –

I have sent a Letter in, this day to General How [Howe], of which, a Copy goes herewith – my reason for pointing out Brigadier Gen. Prescot [Richard Prescott] as the object who is to Suffer Mr. [Ethan] Allens fate, is, that by Letters from General Schuyler, & Copies of Letters from General Montgomery to Schuyler, I Am given to understand that Prescot is the cause of Allens Sufferings – I thought it best to be decisive, on the occasion, as did the Generals whom I consulted thereon –

Your Letter of the 8th instant with the explanatory resolve respecting my calling forth the Militia & minute men is come to hand, to which I shall pay all due attention—You have removed all the difficulties which I Labourd under about the two Battalions of Marines I shall obey the orders of Congress in Looking out for proper officers to command that Corps –

1. Papers CC (Letters of George Washington), 152, I, 351–55, NA.
2. Colonel John Glover took charge of the *Betsey*'s crew, passengers and prisoners when the sloop was brought into Beverly, as per his bill to William Bartlett: "To Sundry Expencis Horses &c Carring Col. Kirkland[s] Son, Capt Atkinson and Mr Husties prisoners p Sloop *betsey* Tacking by Capt Manly to Head Quarters," Prizes and Captures, No. 205, LC.
3. John Stuart, British Superintendent of Indian Affairs for the Southern Department.
4. From the journal of H.M.S. *Scarborough*: "Moored in Charlestown River. Decr '75 Sunday 17th at 10 A M saw a number of Rebels making a Redoubt upon Phipp Farm, at ½ past 11 began to Fire at them with Round & Grape shot, at ½ past noon left off Firing. at ½ past one the Rebels fired 8 shott at us, one of which went thro' the Quarter Monday 18th At 4 A M took up the small Br at ½ past 7 weigh'd the best & came to sail, at 8 came too abreast of Charlestown Ferry, with the Best Br & veer'd to ⅓ a Cable," PRO, Admiralty 51/867.

LETTER FROM CAMBRIDGE [1]

[Extract] December 18, 1775.

Yesterday being dark and cloudy, General Putnam broke ground, with four hundred men, on Lechmere's Point, at ten o'clock in the morning. The mist was so great as to prevent the enemy from discovering what he was about, until twelve, when it cleared up, and opened to their view our whole party at the point, and another at the causeway, throwing a new bridge over the creek that forms the

Island at high water. The *Scarborough* ship-of-war, which lay off the point, immediately poured in upon our men a broadside. The enemy, from Boston, threw many shells, and obliged us to decamp from the point, with two men badly wounded. The bridge, however, was ordered to be raised by the brave old General, and was completed last night. The garrison of Cobble-Hill were ordered to return the ship's fire, which they did, and soon obliged her to heave tight upon her springs, and to cease firing. But the battery in New-Boston kept up the fire of shells till twelve o'clock last night. Our party at the point renewed their work in the evening, and continued it all night. This morning at day-light, by a signal of two rockets from Boston, the *Scarborough* weighed anchor, and has left the point clear. She is now anchored at Charlestown ferry, out of harm's way. The work at the point is well secured, and will be completed this night.

The *Scarborough*'s flight is a proof of the enemy's weakness, and of the strength of our two last posts, Cobble-Hill and Lechmere's Point.

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[1] Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, IV, 313.

BRIGADIER GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE TO SAMUEL WARD [1]

[Extract] Prospect Hill December 18 1775

. . . [James] Wallace at Newport [batters] and destroys just as he pleases – doubtless you have heard of his Ravages – General [Charles] Lee is going to Newport to morrow – The Island can and ought to be fortifyed and Conannicut too – I think the Point may be fortifyed so as to prevent any Ship from doing much damage, it certainly will command the Harbour – Colo Joseph Wanton Negroes piloted Wallace crew about the Island, and pointed out the Houses to burn, he deserves to be taken up as much as any Tory upon the Continent – . . . Two french Gentlemen are coming to Congress their business to me unknown –

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[1] Greene Papers, CL.

JOSEPH HAWLEY TO JOHN ADAMS [1]

[Extract] Watertown Decr 18th 1775

We are somewhat Alarmed with Dunmore['s] ferocity but hope that he will be soon crushd – The Surprising Success of the Privateers this way we hope will animate the whole continent to the like practice

The art of Making Saltpetre is well investigated here – But the exertions for the largest Supplies of amunition and arms through the whole Continent ought to be now constantly as great as if all the force was in sight which they talk in Britain of Sending against us early Next Spring

For Gods sake let the river St Lawrence, the lake Champlain and Hudson river be impenetrably Secur[e]d against all the Attempts of Ministerial troops and Pray order Matters so without fail that the inhabitants of Canada may be refreshd with full draughts of the Sweets of liberty this has been My cry and prayer to you eversince the taking of Ticonderoga

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[1] Adams Papers, MassHS.

EXECUTIVE RECORDS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL [1]

[Watertown] Present in Council, Monday Decemr 18th 1775

Read [2] & on the Examination of the said Shubael Lovell by the Major Part of the Council, Ordered that the said Shubael Lovell be sent to the Goal in Plymouth & there held in close confinement unless he give Bond, with good Security for the Liberty of the Yard, & to be supported there at his own Expence, untill the further Order of the Major Part of the Council, And that a Mittimus go to the Keeper of the said Goal accordingly.

[1] Executive Records of the Council, Mass. Arch.

[2] See letters of Joseph Otis and Nathaniel Freeman, December 12, 1775.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES [1]

[Watertown] Monday, December 18, 1775

Ordered, That Col. [Samuel] Thompson, Mr. [Daniel] Hopkins, and Col. [Joseph] Cushing, be a Committee to consider a Representation of Philip Hodgkin's, relative to the Capture of the Sloop *Advance*, from Boston, commanded by Capt. Nehemiah Eastman, with Two Depositions accompanying; together with a Memorial of the Committee of this Court at Union-River, respecting the same Sloop; and likewise respecting the Brig *Betsy,* commanded by Capt. Benjamin Wormstead, bound from Boston, to Halifax, who delivered himself and Vessel to the Committee of Deer-Island.

And also a Petition of the said Committee at Union-River, praying for liberty to send a Number of Vessels which are by them detained for countervailing the Resolves of Congress, to the Southern Colonies for Provision.

Ordered, That the Committee appointed to consider the foregoing Papers, be directed to Enquire into the Conduct of Col. Cargill, relative to the said Sloop *Advance*, and report what is proper to be done.

Afternoon.

A Petition from a Convention of Committees from the several Towns in the County of Cumberland, praying for liberty to send two Vessels to the West-Indies for Powder and other warlike Stores.

And also, A Petition from the Committee of the Town of Biddeford, Pepperilborough, and Arundel, praying that they may be permitted to fit out one Vessel for the same Purpose, were both read and committed to the Committee appointed to fit out Vessels for Powder, &c.

[1] Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch.

CAPTAIN PELEG WADSWORTH TO GEORGE WASHINGTON [1]

Camp at Roxbury 18th Decr 1775

Command to Plymouth, (to fling up some works for the Defence of that Town by Genl [Artemas] Ward's Order) to Peleg Wadsworth – Dr

To 4 Weeks 4 days Board	a 8/0		1. 16 . . 7
Horse hire 42 Miles	3d		10 . . 6
Keeping Do	8/5	Week	1. 18 . . 0
Extra Expence			0. 10 . . 0
			4. 15 . . 1

Camp at Roxbury 18th Decr 1775

Command [to] Cape Cod (to examin[e the] Harbour &c, pr Genl Washingtons Order) to Peleg Wadsworth Dr

To Horse hire 78 Miles	a 3d	0. 19 . . 6
11 Days Expence on Road	a 7/	3. 17 . . 0
		4. 16 . . 6

To his Excellency
General Washington

Sir, Should the above Accounts appear reasonable, I pray, of your Excellency, an Order of Reimbursment from your very humble servt

Peleg Wadsworth

[Endorsed] Resolve of a Grant of 9:11:7 in favr of Peleg Wadsworth for Surveying the Coast of Cape Cod – October 21st 1776 –[2]

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1. Charles Roberts Autograph Collection, Box 3, 724, HCL.
2. *Ibid.*, the bill, which was submitted to Washington, was not paid out of the Continental account at that time, and apparently after a long wait, Wadsworth submitted it to the Massachusetts General Court where it was finally paid.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M. SCHOONER *Halifax* [1]

Remarks on Monday Decr 18th 1775 –

Boston light house SW 5 Leagues Cape Ann NW 5 Legs

Fresh Breezes wt Hard frost at 10 [A.M.] the Lighthouse made the Signal for seeing a Rebel Cruizer attackg a Merchantman in the Offing Cutt the Small Br Cable pr Order of Capt [Francis] Banks and gave Chace. at Noon in Chace of 3 Rebel schooners

Fresh Gales and Clear Weather in Chace of 3 Rebel Schooner Privateers Cape Ann N E 11 Miles at 2 [P.M.] one of the Schooners parted Compy wt the others and hauld her wind in shore gave Chace to her the other two getting in to Cape Ann Harbr Fired several Shott at the Chace at 5 she got in under the Battery at Marble head Shortned sail left off Chace at 6 Boston light House WSW. 4 or 5 Leagues – Empd Turng in for the Light house and tacking Occassionally at 8 Came too in the light house Chanell in 7 faths of water. Veerd to ½ a Cable

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1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1775. Lieutenant John de la Touche was relieved as commanding officer by Lieutenant William Quarme on November 29, 1775. The entry in the master's log for that day notes: "Came on Bd Lieut Wm Quarme and Supersceded Leut De La Touche, Read his Commission to the Schooner Company."

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN WILLIAM DUDDINGSTON, H.M. SLOOP *Senegal* [1]

You are hereby required and directed to proceed as soon as possible in his Majesty's Sloop under your Command to Liverpool in Nova Scotia, at which place I am credibly informed Vessels are expected to arrive from several parts of Europe with contraband and other Merchandize to be conveyed to the Rebel Army on the Continent. You are to use your utmost Endeavours to prevent such unlawful Commerce, strictly search all Vessels coming in and going out, carefully examine every Letter and take every precaution in your power to prevent the Rebels having any Communication with or obtaining Supplies of any sort from Liverpool. After you have compleated your Complement, you are to raise Seamen for his Majesty's Service by pressing, if Volunteers cannot be had; but you are not to impress Seamen that are Inhabitants of Nova Scotia. In case of your procuring 30 or more over and above your Complement, you are to bring them to Boston, otherwise you are to remain on this Service until further Order.

And whereas from Intelligence (Copy of which is inclosed) the Brig *Liberty* may be expected at Liverpool from Barcelona laden with Arms and Ammunition, you are to keep a very good Look out for her: Should you get intelligence of her being on the Coast or in any Harbour thereon, you are to proceed in quest of her, and if possible seize and bring her to Boston or Halifax, which shall be most convenient; but you are to be very careful to take out the Master, Mates and the greater part of the Crew, and put your Lieutenant on board her with as many Seamen and Marines as are capable of defending her, should she afterwards part Company. You are to be constantly on your Guard against a Surprize from the Enemy and to prevent desertion.

For all other Orders I refer you to my general and additional Orders of the 22d of last October.

Given under my hand on board his Majs Ship *Preston*
at Boston the 18 Decr 1775

Sam Graves

By Command of the Admiral G. Gefferina.

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1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 111–12, BM.

GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE TO JOHN HANCOCK [1]

[Extract] Providence Decemr 18th 1775

This Letter will be handed to you by Messrs Penet & Pliarne, who arrived here about Ten Days ago from Cape Francois in a Vessel sent by this Colony for Powder. They were well recommended to us, and I gave them a Letter to General Washington, who hath prevailed upon them to lay their Proposals before the Congress. I hope their Visit to North America will be an Introduction to such Measures as may be attended with happy Consequences to the United Colonies.

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1. Papers CC (Rhode Island State Papers), 64, 356, NA.

JOURNAL OF H. M. BRIG *Bolton*, LIEUTENANT THOMAS GRAVES [1]

December 1775 At Single Anchor in Newport Harbour.

Sunday 17 11 A M hove Short on the Small Bower.

First part little wind and foggy Wr middle and latter fair Wr at 1 P M cleard up weighd and came to sail, in Company the *Swan* Sloop, the *Rose*'s and the *Swan*'s Tenders. at ½ past 2 Anchd with small Br in 13 fm Water, between Prudence & Dy[e]rs Islands; landed some Men on Dyers Island brought off some hay and put it onboard the Tenders

Monday 18 at ½ past 7 A M weigh'd and came to sail in Compy as before at ½ past 9 anchor'd with small Br in 10½ fm off Gold Island, sent a party of Men on shore to Cutt Wood, brot off a Quantity of Wood, at 11 Anchor'd here the *Rose*'s Tender. Fired to bring too a small sailing Boat, 2 Three pounders.

Mode & fair

P M got onboard a Long boat Load of Wood. Empd Stowing it away.

[1] PRO, Admiralty 51/4127.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA STILES [1]

[Newport, December] 18.

Men o' War took off hay from Dyers Isld, burnt some, & killed two horses. Our pple burnt 2 stacks Oats at Hog Island.

[1] Diary of Ezra Stiles, YUL.

THOMAS MUMFORD TO SILAS DEANE [1]

[Extract] New Haven, 18th December, 1775.

Capt. Saltonstall left us yesterday; will be with you before this. It would give me pleasure to assist him with some good sailors. The vessels Mr. [Nathaniel] Shaw [Jr.] and self are now fitting will carry off the chief there is at New London.[2] As the soldiers are now returning,[3] a number of which are sailors, I hope some may soon be enlisted. I daily expect Capt. Elisha Hinman, who I imagine will gladly accept to go second with Capt. Saltonstall.

I expect pr next post to receive a line from you respecting Mr. Shaw's permission. I must have leave for the sailors to carry some shoats in the vessels I am fitting out, which is what they always expect.[4]

[1] *Collections of the Connecticut Historical Society*, II, 343, 344.

[2] One vessel was the sloop *Lizard* bound to Philadelphia with seamen for the fleet.

[3] Referring to the Connecticut troops from the army at Cambridge, whose time of enlistment expired December 8, 1775.

[4] Exportation of cattle, sheep, hogs and poultry was not permitted by the Continental Congress.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Asia,* CAPTAIN GEORGE VANDEPUT [1]

December 1775	Moor'd between the Battery & Oyster Island
Sunday 17	AM Arrived H.M. Ship *Phoenix* Light Breezes & fine Wr Sail'd into the East River the *Phoenix* & the *Preston*s Tender [2]
Monday 18	At Single Anchor in the No River AM Clear'd Hawse Fresh Gales & Cloudy PM Clear'd Hawse, sent the Brig loaden with Salt to Boston under Convoy of the *George* Sloop [3]

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 51/67.

[2] *Ibid.,* the *Preston*'s tender had arrived from Boston on December 10, 1775.

[3] *Ibid.,* the journal entry for December 15 notes: "PM detain'd a Brig loaded with Salt." The brig *St. Helena* was also mentioned in Captain Vandeput's letter of December 18 to Admiral Graves.

CAPTAIN HYDE PARKER, JR., R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES [1]

(Copy)

Sir, I have the pleasure to acquaint you, that, I Anchor'd off of the Neversunk the 11th but was not able to get up to the Town untill the 16th The *Viper* is not yet arrived nor can I imagine what is become of her, she was left by the *Royal George* Sloop the 18th November off the South End of Nantucket Sholes.[2]

Your Orders relative to the detaining of the *Asia* are received, and flatter myself I shall be able to place both Ships, so as to answer your Wishes; The People of New York not having, as yet made any attempts to Fortify, leaves it in my power, to place the Ships in such a situation as to deter them from putting into execution any Plan they may have form'd to do so; and also to secure the Ships, as not to suffer any great inconvenience from Ice.

By an Article, Sir, in your Additional Instructions you order me to Seize and send to Boston all Vessels loaded with Provisions, Rum, Live Cattle, Hay, Salt, Lumber, Molasses, Fuel or Any sort of Naval Stores; New York being situated upon an Island, almost every Article mentioned by those Instructions are daily passing to the Town in small Vessels; but as I cannot imagine your Intention by those Orders, were to distress a Town, which at present furnishes every necessary we ask for, and I believe from what I have already found, and learn'd from Governor Tryon and Captain Vandeput would even go so far (had we Transports or Sloops to give Convoy to their Vessels) as to supply Boston with Cattle and other necessaries; This being the particular situation of the Town, I shall defer putting the said Instruction into execution, untill I receive your further Orders upon that head.

I mentioned to you, Sir, before I left Boston the great use I foresaw Vessels would be of here, but even then I did not see it in so clear a point of View as I now do, the want of which, obliges me to send this Convoy to the Southward of Long Island, which I am apprehensive will prove fatal to some of them, but dare not trust them through the Sound, having certain information, that, the Rebels have a Brig of Twelve or Fourteen Guns,[3] & several other small Vessels cruizing there; we have also information that the Congress are determined to attempt the stoping up the Navigation between the Hook and the Town; This I do not apprehend they will be able to Effect; and I shall use my utmost endeavors to prevent it, but the Season is now so far advanced, that it will be extremely dangerous sending Open Boats below the Narrows (the place aimed at by them) which is at least Twelve Miles from the Ships, this I should hope, Sir, wou'd induce you to dispatch immediately, a Schooner, and enable me to defeat a project which altho' not altogether Effected may prove detrimental to the bringing large Ships up to the Town.

The *Charlotte* sailed for Virginia the 17th by whom I wrote to the Commanding Officer of His Majesty's Ships there, to recommend his dispatching her immediately back, upon a supposition you were anxious to know the State they are at Virginia in; as to the Privateers not fitting at Philadelphia I do not apprehend any consequences to any of His Majesty's Ships; the largest of them, is a Ship of 350 Tons only, and pierced for Thirty two Guns, Nine & Six Pounders; from this it is not unnatural to form a Judgment of the others, which in my opinion they have rendered less Formidable by the great number of Guns they have Crouded into her; nor from what I am able to learn do I believe they will venture out untill the Spring, from the following reasons, first, they are not yet Manned, Seamen not chusing to enter upon such a Service; they have had Bills stuck up in this Town, and have by Stealth in the Night, got some Men but not any Number; Secondly the Delaware will be very difficult of entrance after the expiration of this Month, on account of Ice, and I do not see they can possibly have any other Harbour from South Carolina to Boston; to the Northward of that, they have Harbours, but the Winter is too far advanced for them to have any view to the Northward of Boston; Enclosed is all the Intelligence we have as yet been able to collect respecting of them.[4]

I Enclose you a Letter taken out of the Sloop Seized from North Carolina; it not only contains some information respecting the Motions of Lord Dunmore but also serves to shew the Tyranical usage of the Rebel Party; The Man by whom it is wrote is Chairman of the Provincial Congress and both him and the Gentleman who has suffered are well known to Governor Tryon.[5]

I beg leave to remind you, Sir, of an application Capt. Vandeput has made more than once, Slops for his Ships Company, who are now suffering extremely for want of them, nor is it in our power to assist him, the Demand being so large which I herewith enclose, as also the Weekly accounts and Reports of the Vessels Seized, the Two Sloops are so very deep that I do not think it safe to venture them round at this Season of the Year, therefore shall keep them untill the Spring, or untill I have an opportunity of sending them by the Sound to Rhode Island.

Enclosed is a Letter from Capt. Vandeput containing all the Intelligence he has been able to collect, since his last writing.[6] I am Sir [&c.]

Signed. H. Parker

Phoenix at New York, 18th Decr 1775.

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1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485.
2. *Ibid.*, due to bad weather H.M. Sloop *Viper* was unable to reach New York and instead arrived at Prince Ruperts Bay, Dominica, January 4, 1776. The journal for December 3 to 10, under the latter date, indicates the severity of the weather and notes that: "the ship being leaky and short of water bore up for Antigua."

3. Parker was probably referring to the Connecticut armed brig *Minerva* which had already been ordered released from Connecticut service and returned to her owner.
4. The intelligence received from Philadelphia, December 12, 1775.
5. See William Lowther to Joseph Hewes, December 22, 1775.
6. See Vandeput to Parker, December 18, 1775.

INTELLIGENCE FROM THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS [1]

(Copy) In Congress/Payment being provided The next thing to be considered is how to convey the Vessels safe to America as there is no doubt but Brittish Cruizers will Seize all American Ships that is employed, if they fall in with them, neither will they spare Foreign Ships if they are met with on the American Coast, should Quebec Grace the American Laurels & by that means all Canada will fall into our hands, it might be well then to have a plentifull supply of Indian Goods brought out [in] a French Ship early next Spring to the Island of Saint Peter or Miquelon, from whence they are ready to run up the River Saint Lawrence as soon as the Naviga[tion] opens, the goods to be Shipped by French Merchants as their own property and consigned by Bill of loading and invoice to a person appearing as their Factor but in reality ours. – Another parcel of Goods might be Shipped from France this Winter in French bottoms to Cape St Nichola in Hispaniola consigned to an Agent stationed there who can readily provide American Ships to Run them to any part of the Continent, that might be ordered, should it be judged expedient to send any Indian Goods into the River Missisipy, whither French or Americans might be employed to carry them, as the Navigation of that River remains free to both and from New Orleans the goods might be brought in the River as far as Fort Pitt in Batteaus.[2]

[Endorsed by James Brattle] Had not time to Copy all the whole but this is the particulars [3]

Bernard Romans is appointed Engineer of the Fortress in the High lands, he had 50 Pounds a Year from the Crown as Botanist for One of the Florida's.[4]

It is imagined that goods might be had from France nearly as cheap as we have been supplied from England, many Articles indeed are known to be much Cheaper; if orders were sent to France or an Agent employed to go there to Ship a few Thousand pounds worth of Goods from there in a number of Vessels and could not get insurances made thereon in France, the Merchants and Manufacturers would soon taste the Sweets of such a intercourse with us and perhaps it would soon become a National Commerce. I apprehend there would be little difficulty therein and imagine that Vessels loaded from here with our produce for Foreign Markets by order of Congress might be Insured in France as well as Vessels bound from thence to America, if so and only one half of them, or one third should Arrive safe, the Trade would be benificial or at least answer very Valuable purposes.[5]

Resolved that in case any difficulty shall arise or be apprehended in forming the New Army destined for the defence of the Lines at [or] near Cambridge, General Washington be intituled to request the respective assembly & conventions of the Four New England provinces to contribute their utmost aid to compell the Levies which shall be desired.[6]

N.B. This from Governor Tryon who had it from undoubted Authority.

Signed. H: Parker

[Enclosed in Captain Parker's letter of December 18, 1775, to Vice Admiral Graves]

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1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485.
2. This appears to be a copy of part of the report of a committee appointed November 11 and enlarged November 23, to devise plans for carrying on a trade with the Indians to keep them neutral, and ways and means for providing goods proper for the Indian trade. The committee's report was submitted to Congress, Saturday, December 9, 1775. Ford, ed., *JCC,* III, 350, 366, 419.
3. James Duane, delegate from New York, was a member of the Committee on Indian Affairs, and his papers were constantly copied by Brattle, his valet.
4. Romans was employed as engineer by the New York Provincial Congress; not the Continental Congress.
5. Apparently a discussion on the floor of Congress during the consideration of a petition of Jonathan Hudson, asking permission to export cargo abroad, and considered by Congress on December 11. Ford, ed., *JCC,* III, 422.
6. *Ibid.*, 414, an inaccurate resumé of a resolution passed in Congress, December 7.

CAPTAIN GEORGE VANDEPUT, R.N., TO CAPTAIN HYDE PARKER, JR., R.N.[1]

(Copy) *Asia* Decemr 18th 1775 –

Sir, According to your desire I send you such Intelligence as I have met at different times since I wrote last to the Admiral – A Fort is built about sixty Miles up Hudson's River intended to prevent the communication with Albany. – Many of the most Violent in Town being become very moderate, & the Loyal Party having shewn themselves and spoken with greater Freedom than they have been used to do, & Rivington having ventured to put several Paragraphs from England in his Paper against the Rebels, about three Weeks ago [Isaac] Sears at the head of Seventy Armed Men on Horseback came into the Town, beset Rivington's House, took away his Types, & robbed him of three or four Swords which he had for Sale, having done this he quitted the Town and carried off his Plunder to Connecticut. This Insult is highly complained of by every One, and the Provincial Congress, a New One that met about Ten days past for the first time 'tho it was chosen the 8th of last Month, have remonstrated, and it is said have demanded restitution and satisfaction to be made; The Connecticut Assembly deny the Authority from which Sears acted. – In East and West Chester Counties many of the Inhabitants have been Disarmed and very ill treated by Bodies of Men from Connecticut. – The People of Queens County in Long Island expecting the like Usage (they have been so threatend) have associated and Published a Declaration that they will defend themselves if attackd; they have nearly Fifteen hundred Men Arm'd, half the number of which are kept in readiness to turn out at a Short notice; on Governor Tryon's Application to me by Letter, I have supplied them with two Barrels of Powder, some Flints, and 300 Weight of Musquet balls. – The Collector of Rhode Island has taken refuge on board the *Rose,* and the King's Money in the Custom House at Rhode Island is Seized by the Rebels – this Intelligence comes from Mr [Andrew] Elliot Collector of New York. – The Assembly of New Jersey passed a Vote very lately to Petition the King, one Dissentient only, on this being known to the Continental Congress, three of their Members were sent (Dickenson [John Dickinson], [John] Jay, & another whose Name I dont recollect) to Jersey, where after an Harangue of three Hours they persuaded the Assembly to rescind its Vote.[2]

Lord Dunmore who has hoisted the Standard and declared all the Negroes belonging to Rebels, Free, is entrench'd at Suffolk, he is allowed to be Two thousand strong, some say much Stronger, and that numbers join him every Day. – Preparations are making at Philadelphia to send three Regiments to oppose Him, and One is to go from Jersey, to go by the way of Cheseapeak – The Ships fitting at Philadelphia are, One Ship of 32 Guns of 350 Tons only, One of 20 of 300 Tons, One of Sixteen & one of Ten, and a Privateer also of Twelve Guns from New Haven – The four former are to be fitted at the Expence of the Congress for Six Months, at an Estimate of 93 Thousand Dollers, for which they have Voted the Money – some pretend that they are intended to attack the Ships at Virginia, others say they are going to Cruize for Our West India Ships – from late Accounts they do not find Seamen willing to Enter 'tho they offer very high Wages. It is said they will Sail the latter end of this Month – Continental Money in much disrepute even in Philadelphia, it passes with difficulty in the Markets and the Quakers absolutely refuse it; in this Town It passes in Exchange at a Discount but is much disliked in the Country and no One will take it that dare refuse – A Gentleman of Long Island told the Governor two days ago in my presence, that in his Neighbourhood, a Dollar Bill would not buy an Egg – Governor [Robert] Eden in Maryland lives still Unmolested a Shore – Governor Tryon's Letter acquainting the People of his having the King's Leave to Quit the Government &ca. &ca. occasioned a Warm Debate in the Provincial Congress in consequence of which, Five of their Members have quitted it, and they have not assembled since – Those are the most material Circumstances that have come to my knowledge and I believe can all be depended upon. I am Sir &ca

Signd, Geo: Vandeput

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1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485.
2. The action of the New Jersey Assembly resulted in a resolve in the Continental Congress that it would be dangerous for any colony to petition the King or Parliament separately. The Congress appointed Dickinson, Jay and George Wythe to go to New Jersey and show the Assembly the error of its ways. Journal of Congress, Monday, December 4, 1775; Ford, ed., *JCC,* III, 404.

CAPTAIN GEORGE VANDEPUT, R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES [1]

(Copy) *Asia,* New York 18th Decemr 1775 –

Sir, I received your Letter by the Sloop *George,* and Mr Lobb who arrived here on the 11th Instant from Rhode Island, deliver'd to me your Orders of the 4th all which I have communicated to Captn Parker, as I have whatever Intelligence I have thought necessary for you to be informed of. I have sent to Boston (according to your Order) the Brigg [*St.*] *Helena* with Salt from St Ubes which Captain Parker has directed the Commander of the Sloop *George* to take under his Convoy, the Owner of the Brigg, Mr. Bache, (for whose Character I beg to refer you to Major [Thomas] Moncreiffe or any of the Officers who have been at New York) informs me that Five Guns which are under the Salt, have been always in her as part of her Ballast, which he says he will take care to send proof of. – We have for a considerable time past had every Supply that we have demanded sent on board to Us, without any Molestation to the Boats which have brought it; nor do I expect there will be any unless some of the Rebel Troops from Connecticut, or New Jersey, should come into the Town, and prevent the Towns People from acting as they seem at present inclined.—

Enclosed I send you a Form of Two Vessels I have Stopp'd, the [*St.*] *Helena* Brigg and the Sloop *Charity,* the latter who is very Deep, and deep Waisted is not fit to be sent round at this Season of the Year. – John Sharp and Thomas Smith, two Volunteers whom I have Discharged into the *Preston,* are both Pilots for the Sound, John Sharp knows all the Coast from Boston, and is a Pilot for the Delawar, and is acquainted with James River. I am, &ca

Geo: Vandeput.

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1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

CAPTAIN HYDE PARKER, JR., R.N., TO GOVERNOR WILLIAM TRYON [1]

Sir, *Phoenix,* at New-York, 18th Dec. 1775.

Being ordered by my Instructions from Vice-Admiral Graves, Commander in Chief of his Majesty's Ships and Vessels in North-America; publickly to signify to all Towns accessible to his Majesty's Ships, that, in Case any Violences shall hereafter be offer'd to any of the Officers of the Crown, or other peaceable disposed Subjects of his Majesty; or if any Bodies of Men shall be raised and arm'd in the said Towns, or any Military Works erected otherwise than by order of his Majesty, or those acting under his Authority; or if any Attempts shall be made to seize or destroy any publick Magazines of Arms, Ammunition, or other Stores, in all or either of those Cases, it will be my Duty, to treat the said Towns as in open Rebellion against the King.

I am to request that your Excellency will be pleased to let the above Instructions be publickly made known in the Town of New York, at the same Time you will assure them, that I shall be happy in granting the Town every Protection in the Power of his Majesty's Ships under my Command. I am, Sir, [&c.]

H. Parker.

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1. *New-York Gazette,* December 25, 1775.

GOVERNOR WILLIAM TRYON TO WHITEHEAD HICKS [1]

Ship *Dutchess of Gordon,* Off New-York, 18th Dec. 1775

Sir, I lose no Time in transmitting to you herewith, a Letter I this Morning received from Captain Parker, of his Majesty's Ship *Phoenix,* communicating certain Instructions he has received from Vice Admiral Graves, for the Rule of his Conduct on this Station: Which Letter you will forthwith make known to the Corporation and Citizens of New-York; and I request you will insert it in the public Papers, to the End that the Inhabitants of the Province may have the Comfort of knowing the Protection that is afforded to the Friends of Order and good Government, and be warned to avoid a Continuation of Measures that will involve the Country in Misery, and bring Destruction upon their families, and on their own Heads. I am Sir, [&c.]

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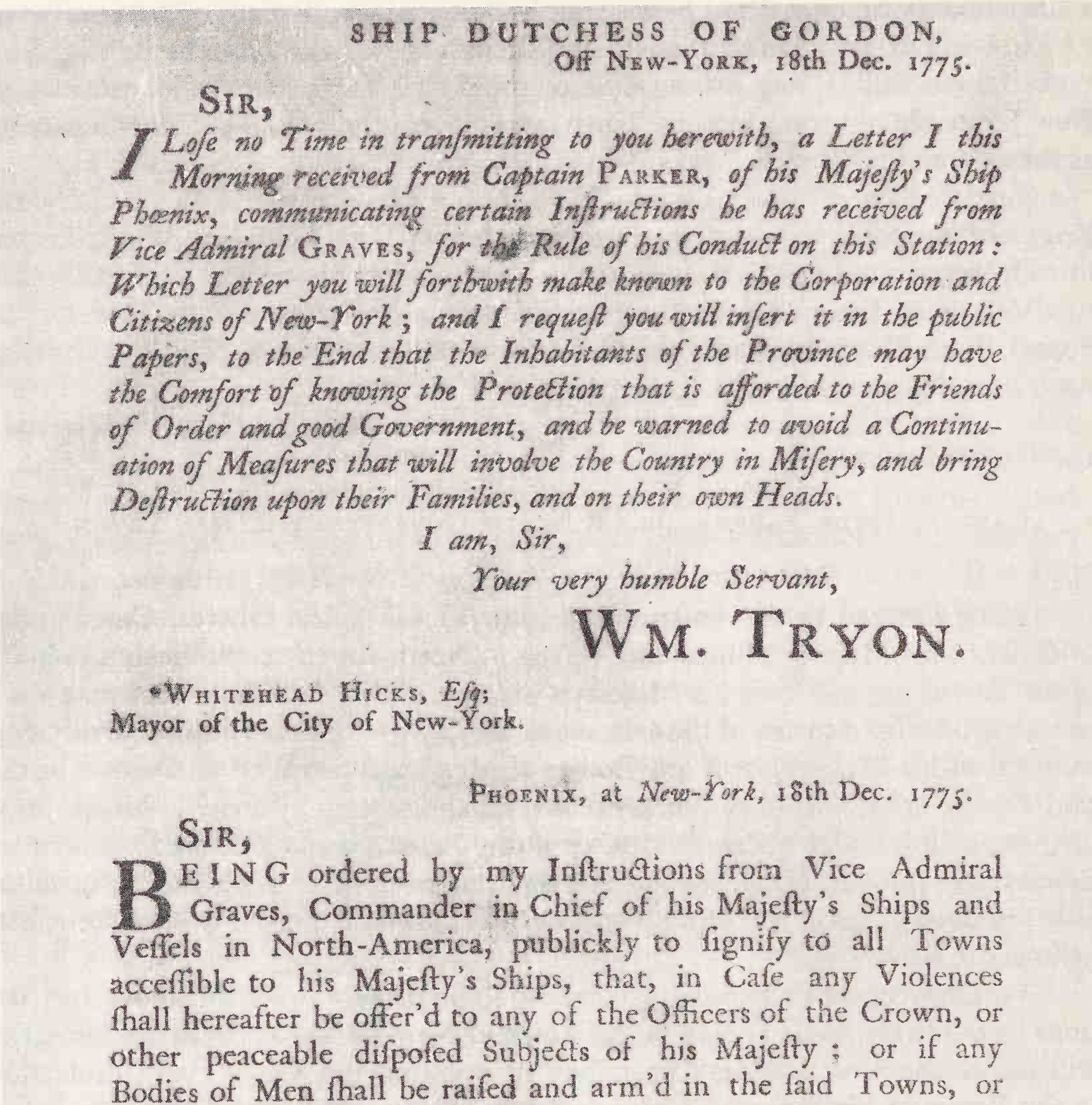
1. *New-York Gazette,* December 25, 1775. Hicks was mayor of New York City.



SHIP DUTCHESS OF GORDON,
Off NEW-YORK, 18th Dec. 1775.

SIR,

I Loſe no Time in tranſmitting to you herewith, a Letter I this Morning received from Captain PARKER, *of his Majeſty's Ship Phœnix, communicating certain Inſtructions he has received from Vice Admiral* GRAVES, *for the Rule of his Conduct on this Station: Which Letter you will forthwith make known to the Corporation and Citizens of New-York; and I requeſt you will inſert it in the public Papers, to the End that the Inhabitants of the Province may have the Comfort of knowing the Protection that is afforded to the Friends of Order and good Government, and be warned to avoid a Continuation of Meaſures that will involve the Country in Miſery, and bring Deſtruction upon their Families, and on their own Heads.*

I am, Sir,
Your very humble Servant,
WM. TRYON.

*WHITEHEAD HICKS, *Eſq;*
Mayor of the City of New-York.

PHOENIX, at *New-York,* 18th Dec. 1775.

SIR,

BEING ordered by my Inſtructions from Vice Admiral Graves, Commander in Chief of his Majeſty's Ships and Veſſels in North-America, publickly to ſignify to all Towns acceſſible to his Majeſty's Ships, that, in Caſe any Violences ſhall hereafter be offer'd to any of the Officers of the Crown, or other peaceable diſpoſed Subjects of his Majeſty; or if any Bodies of Men ſhall be raiſed and arm'd in the ſaid Towns, or any Military Works erected otherwiſe than by order of his Majeſty, or thoſe acting under his Authority; or if any Attempts ſhall be made to ſeize or deſtroy any publick Magazines of Arms, Ammunition, or other Stores, in all or either of thoſe Caſes, it will be my Duty to treat the ſaid Towns as in open Rebellion againſt the King.

I am to requeſt that your Excellency will be pleaſed to let the above Inſtructions be publickly made known in the Town of New-York, at the ſame Time you will aſſure them, that I ſhall be happy in granting the Town every Protection in the Power of his Majeſty's Ships under my Command.

I am, Sir,
Your moſt Obedient, and
Moſt Humble Servant,
H. PARKER.

To His EXCELLENCY
Governor TRYON.

JAMES WEBB TO HIS BROTHER AND SISTER [1]

Dear Brother and Sister— *Asia*, New-York, December 18th, 1775.

The bearer, Mr. [Charles] Smith,[2] is a friend of mine, I hope you will receive him as such, and recommend him to brother and sister Bunn; he is master's mate of the *Asia* man of war, and when I was obliged to fly for refuge, he received me very kindly and treated me as a gentleman, and can give you the particulars of the times and proceedings of the American rebels. They have deprived me of carrying on my business, on which I have applied to Governor Tryon, and have proved him my very worthy friend, in recommending me by him to Brigadier-General Robinson [James Robertson], at Boston, and shall sail for there to-morrow, and my wife, if time permit. We are both in good health and hope this will find you both, brother and sister Bunn, and all friends, and remain your ever well wishing and affectionate brother, &c.

James Webb.

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[1] *New York Provincial Congress,* II, 166.

[2] Smith, later sent to Boston as master of the ship *Sally,* was a midshipman, not a master's mate. The journal of H.M.S. *Asia* for December 20 notes: "AM sent a Midshipman & 10 Men on board the *Sally* a Mercht Ship laden with Salt to go to Boston with Musquets, Cartouch Boxes, Cutlasses, &c & 20 Days Provisions," PRO, Admiralty 51/67. Smith received his formal orders on February 29 from Captain Hyde Parker, Jr., commanding H.M.S. *Phoenix.* The *Sally* was wrecked on Montauck Point on March 6, 1776, her crew and papers being seized and sent to New York.

CERTIFICATE OF THE NEW YORK GENERAL COMMITTEE [1]

These are to Certify that Joseph Comstock Master of the Sloop *Polly* bound to Providence in the Colony of Rhode Island is permited to Ship on board said Sloop *Polly* a Cargo of Flour and other necessaries for the Use of the inhabitants there.

By Order of the General Committee for this City and County of New York
New York the 18th Decemr 1775 Evert Bancker

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[1] Manifest of Imports, R.I. Arch.

Pennsylvania Packet, MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1775

Philadelphia, December 18.

By a gentleman here on Wednesday last from Wilmington, in North-Carolina, we are informed, that the *Scorpion* sloop of war, and a transport ship from Boston, arrived at Brunswick, fifteen miles below, about the 12th ult. it was imagined their intention was to carry away the guns belonging to Fort Johnston. – At the same time arrived a ship from the Isle of Sky, in Scotland, with a number of (report 4 or 500) Highlanders, all young men, no women being on board; that they were supposed to be soldiers, being all dressed in the Highland manner, and it was said, some officers in the same dress were on board the ship; upon this information coming to Wilmington, the inhabitants were called upon, and chearfully agreed to take all necessary measures to prevent their landing, for which purpose they had determined upon laying some booms and chains across the channel, and were about erecting a fort at Hangman's Point, where a camp was marked out, and 400 men immediately took post there.

We are also informed that the *Cruizer* sloop of war was at Brunswick; that Lord William Campbell was on board the *Tamar,* cruizing to the southward as far as Charlestown Bar; that two small tenders were on the station off Ocracock, and the *King-Fisher,* Capt. Montague, was stationed between Ocracock and Cape Henry in Virginia.

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH [1]

[Philadelphia] Monday Decr. 18. An Express arrived from Montreal with Letters from Gen. Montgomery, Col. Arnold & others, Eleven Vessels are taken near Montreal by our people who have also seized Brig. Prescot [Richard Prescott] who had caused all the Powder to be thrown overboard, but the Ships contain plenty of Provision – Ethan Allen is sent to England in Irons – Col. James Livingston is about to raise a Regiment of Canadians in our pay for One Year. Arnold is near Quebec but has not Men enough to surround it & his Powder so damaged, that he has only 5 Rounds apiece – Montgomerys Soldiers very disobedient & many of them Come Home without Leave – Frauds discovered in some of his Officers – Gen Washn in great Want of Powder & most of the Connectt Troops have left his Army – Accounts of a Skirmish in Virginia and great Preparations in England for an Invasion of Us in the Spring – We sat from 10 oCloc till the Dusk of the Evening—

[1] Richard Smith's Diary, LC.

MINUTES OF THE CONTINENTAL NAVAL COMMITTEE [1]

[Philadelphia] Dec'r 18th, 1775.

Agreed, That application be made to the Committee of Safety for as many Seamen out of the Boats as are willing to go on this cruize.[2]

[1] Hazard, *et al.,* eds., *Pennsylvania Archives,* 2nd series, I, 601.

[2] The reference is obviously to the planned cruise of the first Continental fleet under the command of Esek Hopkins.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

[Philadelphia] December 18th.

Agreeable to a Resolve of the 14th inst., Mr. John Ross, Muster Master, Reports, that there is on Board the thirteen armed Boats:

Men in pay,	477	– 54 of whom are sick.
bedding compleat,	69	
beds,	74	
blankets,	132	
Rugs,	2	

Upon application of the Pilots, employed by this Board in Piloting Vessels between this Port and Chester, that their pay might be encreased, as they find from the Expences they are oblig'd to be at, that the allowance of Six pounds per month is not sufficient for their maintenance;

And the Board taking the same into consideration, do

Resolve, that the ten Pilots, employed as aforesaid, be allowed the Sum of seven Pounds p month for their services, which pay shall commence the 21st inst.

[1] *Pennsylvania Colonial Records,* X, 430.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE [1]

Monday 18 Decemr 1775 – The Committee met —

The Committee having taken into Consideration the Defenceless State of Baltimore, and the Dangers to which it is in it's present State exposed, came to a Resolution, That until some other Measure be taken for the Defence of the Town by the Convention, or Council of Safety, The Guns which are in Town be cleaned & put in Order for Service, and that proper Carriages for mounting the same be immediately procured to be made –

Ordered, That Messrs Wm Buchanan, Jesse Hollingsworth, Isaac Griest, & Ben Griffith give Directions for cleaning the said Guns, and making suitable Carriages for them –

Ordered, That a Pilot Boat be immediately stationed at Whetstone Point; That the said Boat be armed with two swivel Guns & Six Musquets, and Manned with Six Men; That the Officers commanding the Boat bring to all Vessels, and that he do not permit any Vessel to sail out without a Permit in Writing signed by 3 Members, of this Committee, which Number will attend every Morning from 10 to 12 oClock (Sundays Excepted), where all Masters of Vessels must repair immediately after their Arrival, & report their Cargo &c, and they must bring Certificates from some Committee, Council of Safety, or Provincial Convention –

The Committee Considering the peculiar Situation of the Vessels Arming in this Port, and the Necessity, that the same should be kept as private as possible: Ordered, That where sufficient Reasons appear to the Comme that the Permission to the Vessels, trading in this Bay, will be productive of any ill Consequence, in such case the Comme detain such Vessel or Vessels from Sailing –[2]

[1] Baltimore Committee, LC.

[2] These vessels were the Continental sloop *Hornet* and the Continental schooner *Wasp,* for whose outfitting, Benjamin Harrison had been dispatched to Maryland by the Continental Congress on December 2, 1775, Volume 2, 1231.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA CONVENTION [1]

[Williamsburg] Monday, December 18, 1775.

A letter from the committee for the county of Isle of Wight, enclosing a resolution of the said committee, was presented to the Convention, and read; setting forth, that Caesar, a negro man slave belonging to Walter Gwynn, of the county of Gloucester, and pilot to a tender, was placed by the captain of the said tender on board the *Molly,* Captain Conyard, with orders to carry her to Norfolk, but that capt. Conyard, had prevailed with him, by offering him a reward, to run the said vessel into Pagan creek, in the said county of Isle of Wight, where she now lies; that they had sent the said negro Caesar to the Committee of Safety, to be dealt with as they shall think proper.

Ordered, That the said letter and resolution be referred to Mr. Richard Randolph, Mr. Benjamin Harrison [Jr.], Mr. [Burwell] Bassett, Mr. [Nathaniel] Terry, Mr. [George] Brooke, Mr. [Edmund] Berkeley, and Mr. Rootes; and they are to report the same, together wth their opinion thereupon, to the Convention.

The Convention being informed that a vessel, belonging to Messrs. Gibson & Co. was about to sail for Great Britain with naval stores,

Resolved, That it be recommended to the committee for the county of Nansemond not to permit the said vessel to proceed to sea, till the farther order of this Convention.

1. *Virginia Convention,* 68.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY[1]

In the Council of Safety, [Charleston]
Monday, Dec. 18th, 1775.

The following letter was written to Capt. Thornborough, of the *Tamar* sloop of war.

In the Council of Safety,
Dec. 18th, 1775.

Sir – We would have wished, if it had been possible, to have continued the permission which lately subsisted for supplying his majesty's ships with provision for a longer term, even until a happy reconciliation with our parent country had taken place; but the measures adopted in Rebellion-Road, which we do not impute to you, sir, of harbouring and protecting negroes, who fly from their masters to Sullivan's Island, and on board the vessels in the road, oblige us to determine to cut off all communication, until justice is done to the inhabitants, by a restitution of those negroes. There is the less reason, too, for supplying provisions at this time, when we have daily complaints from the inhabitants on the sea-coast, of robberies and depredations committed on them by white and black armed men, from on board some of the ships under your command.

By order of the Council of Safety.

Henry Laurens, President.

Capt. Edward Thornborough.

Letter to the Committee at Beaufort:

Gentlemen – Alexander Rose, esq., for himself and Mr. Torrans, is permitted to load a cargo of rice on board the scooner *Islington,* on public account, at Beaufort, in your district.

In the Council of Safety, Dec. 18th, 1775.

Henry Laurens, President.

To the Committee at Beaufort, Port Royal.

The Secretary, from the committee of observation, reported, that he had yesterday caused the four packages belonging to Lord William Campbell, that had been shipped in Capt. Mills' sloop, to be landed and placed in Mr. Gibbes' store, to be removed to Lord William's house, when the parties appointed to inspect the same can attend. And that he had also caused Mr. James Trail's trunk of books to be placed in the same store.

Ordered, That Mr. Trail's trunk of books be brought to the state house, under the care of Mr. Calvert.

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1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society,* III, 94–96.

19 Dec.

Petition of Ebenezer Parsons [1]

[Gloucester, December 19]

To the Honble the Council of the Colony of the Massachusetts Bay,

The Petition of Ebenezer Parsons of Glocester, humbly shews,

That your Petitioner has fitted out a Schooner called the *General Ward* as a Privatere, & prays your Honours to grant a Commission to Capt Matthew Kelley to command the same and your Petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray &c.

Eben Parsons

[Endorsed] In Council Decr 19th 1775

Read & ordered, that the said Mathew Kelly be commissionated for the purpose aforesaid, he, or his owner the sd Parsons, giving Bond, agreable to the Act prescribing the same –

Perez Morton Dpy Secry

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[1] Mass. Arch., vol. 164, 218.

Payment for Outfitting the Armed Brig *Washington* and the Armed Schooner *Harrison* [1]

[Cambridge] Decemr 19th 1775

Watson & Spooners accounts against the *Washington* and *Harrison* given a Warrant for £1015.16.8¾

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[1] Prizes and Captures, No. 377, LC. For the details of the accounts see Volume 2, Appendix C.

Memorandum of a Letter to Jonathan Glover [1]

Cambridge 19 Decemr 1775

ordered to deliver up the vessells sent into Marblehead by Broughton & Sillman, to their owners –[2]

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[1] Washington Papers, LC. Glover was Continental agent at Marblehead.
[2] The schooners *Prince William* and *Mary*.

James Warren to Samuel Adams [1]

[Extract] Watertown, Decr. 19, 1775

. . . you will doubtless be Informed by the General of the Military Operations, in what manner and when the Army began and advanced their works on Lechmore's Point, and of the Cannonading and Bombardment that has Ensued, and of the Success of it, of the several Prizes our Privateers have taken, and of the Loss of one of the Continental Privateers taken and carried into Boston.[2] it is said the People are sent to England. I shall therefore leave all those matters and, after Congratulating you on our Success in Canada and wishing for the Completion of our wishes in that quarter, tell you a little General Court News, and ask a little

Congress news in return. the Capital matters we are Engaged in are regulating the Militia, paying of the Soldiery, aiding and assisting the Quarter-master General in Supplying the Army with Hay and wood, two very scarce Articles, fixing out Vessels for Importing Powder, etc., promoting the Manufacture of Arms and Salt Petre, Building Powder Mills, and in short every thing else . . . we are fixing out ten Vessels for powder etc. these are all to go to the foreign W. Indies. We Conceive by your resolves we are not at Liberty to carry any produce, etc., to any other place, therefore, tho we have fine merchantable Fish we do not Ship it to Spain, where probably we might get powder, etc., with more certainty and less money. Was this intended or was it an Inadvertency. . . . May Vessels be permitted to go to the W. Indies and elsewhere in Ballast to purchase molasses, etc. I dont know that it is against any of your resolves, and those Articles may be wanted. but then all the hard money will go. what Effect that may have on our Currency, etc., may be worth Considering. do let me have your Opinion as soon as you can on this subject.

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1. *Warren-Adams Letters Being Chiefly a Correspondence among John Adams, Samuel Adams, and James Warren* . . . (Boston, 1917–1925), II, 429, 430. Hereafter cited as *Warren-Adams Letters.* Warren was speaker of the Massachusetts House of Representatives; Adams a Massachusetts delegate in the Continental Congress.
2. Washington's armed brig *Washington.*

Major General William Howe to Lord Dartmouth [1]

[Extract] Boston 19th Decr 1775

There have not arrived any Troops since my last by the *Tartar* Frigate leaving th[is] the 16th Inst, but the Store Ships as pr Margin [2] have got in with most seasonable Supplies, alth[ough] the live Stock met with worse Fate than could have been suspected from the great Care that has been taken . . .

I have also, on Consultation with the Admiral, ordered two Transports to be fitted out with the utmost Dispatch, to sail under Convoy of the *Scarborough* Man of War and two armed Schooners, with Directions to have them loaded with Rice at Savannah by the Assistance of Sir James Wright: And if in going or returning they should fall in with any Ships, having a Quantity of this Article on board, the Captain of the *Scarborough* will have Orders to seize and send them here for the Use of the Garrison, Navy, and Inhabitants. In these Ships I propose sending 200 Marines under the Command of a Field Officer, and in the whole of this Proceeding I trust I shall have your Lordship's Sanction, being guided by Motives arising from my Regard to the Interest and Necessity of His Majesty's Service.

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1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/93.
2. *Ibid.*, the *Thames,* Laird; *Friendship,* Miller; *Britannia,* White; *Generous Planter,* Calf. See Stephens to Graves, September 26, 1775, Volume 2, 735–36.

Narrative of Vice Admiral Samuel Graves [1]

[Boston] 19 [December]

The *Fowey* sailed on a Cruize, and the Admiral directed the Storekeeper to purchase three Schooners; two for armed Vessels, the other to run with Dispatches

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1. Graves's Conduct, II, 20, 21, BM.

GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE TO GEORGE WASHINGTON [1]

[Extract] Providence, Decemr 19th 1775

I have your Excellency's Letter of the 17th which I have laid before the General Committee. Should the Force sailed from Boston be destined for Rhode Island, I tremble for the Consequences, as the Colony, in its present exhausted State, cannot without Assistance defend the Island . . .

[P.S.] Capt. Wallace hath hinted to some of his Friends that he expects a Reinforcement daily.

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[1] Washington Papers, LC.

JOB HAWKINS TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE [1]

Governour Cooke East Greenwich 19th Decr 1775

Inclosed you will Recieve the Evidence of one Parker Relating the Transactions of Some of the People in Newport I am very much Surprised that So much pains is Taken to Secure the Town of Newport and the Towns on the Continnant Lef[t] out I wish you and the Rest of the People Concern'd May Not make a Seperate Bargain with that Enverite Enimy Wallis without Taking in all The Town in this Colony – only Give your Self a moment Time to Think of the Condition of many Famelies in the Colony now Stript from Every Comfut of Life and Exist only by the Charity of the People where Evir they fall in, that if Wallis is at Peace with Newport he in mene Time may Ravige the other Part of the Colony Which I Humbly Conceive will Not be Borne with wth the Suffering People in the other Parts of the Colony I am Sir [&c.]

Job Hawkins

[Enclosure]

Dec. 19, 1775.

The Deposition of James Parker of Southkingstown in the County of Kings County, Taylor, of Lawful Age and Engaged according To Law Testifieth and Saith, That I was a Minite man Inlisted on Capt Saml Babcocks Company upon my Passage from Stoningtown Harbour to Block Island about the Middle of September Last Past I was Pressed by Capt Inglish Commander of the Tender Called the *Kingfisher,* and Carried into Newport Harbour and Turned over on board, the *Swan,* James Askough Commander, and from thence went Round to Boston in the Same Vessel and then Returned back to Newport again, and Since we Returned to Newport I Have often Seen Aran Lopas, George Gibbs & Samuel Fowler Come on board the *Swan* in the Evening of Dark Nights and would stay till about three or four oClock in the Morning and then would Go on Shore Privately and when they was on board Capt Wallace Yoused to be on board the *Swan* with them and further Say That one William Naps Corwainder yoused to Come on board the *Swan* in the Night Season and bring Sheep and beef on board said Ship, Sometimes Turkeys Geese Turnips Milk and Sundry other Things for a supply of the People, and have Several Times Seen John Martin Now Deceased on board both by Day and Night and further Saith Not –

James Parker

[Endorsed] Kent ss East Greenwich December the 19th A D 1775

Personally appeared the above subscriber James Parker and Made Solemn Oath To the Truth of the above Deposition Before

H. Cooke Just Peace

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1. "Revolutionary Correspondence of Governor Nicholas Cooke," *Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society,* New Series, XXXVI, 296–97. Hereafter cited as "Nicholas Cooke Correspondence," *AAS Proceedings.*

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS [1]

Die Martis, 10 HO. A.M. Decr. 19th, 1775.

The committee appointed to plan a voyage or voyages for one or more vessels, delivered in a report which was read, and after some time spent therein and some advice given thereon, it was returned to the said committee for their further consideration.

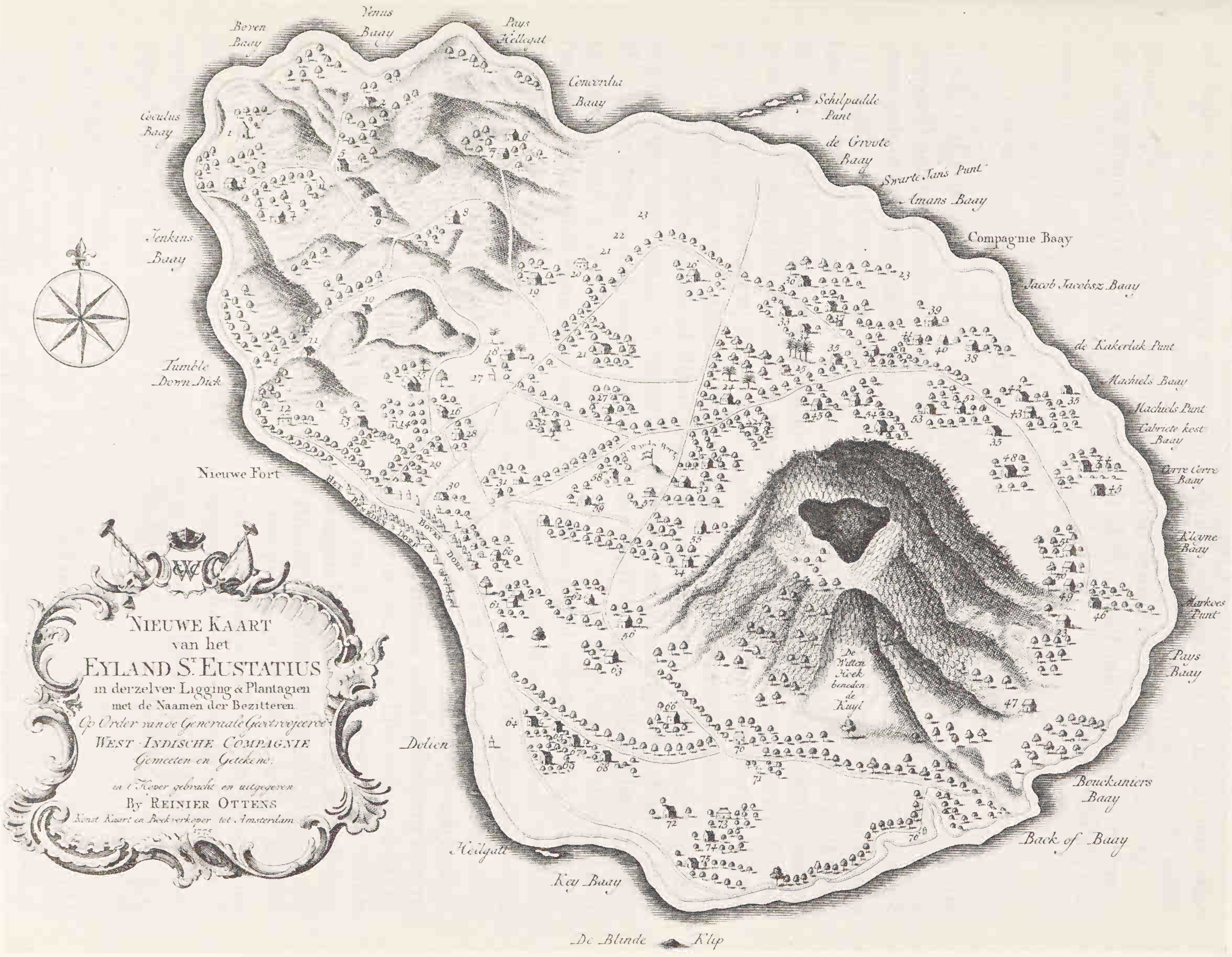
Die Martis, 3 ho. P.M. Decr. 19th, 1775.

The Committee appointed to employ two or more vessels for a voyage to Europe reported, that they think it necessary to load two vessels with wheat on account and risk of this Congress, for some port or ports in Europe on the customary freight; that the owners run the risk of the vessel out, and be allowed three pence sterling per bushel extraordinary for such risk; that the common freight of such vessels is as follows, to wit: For any port without the Straits as far as Gibraltar 13d. stg. per bushl.; to Malaga, 14d. do; to Allicant 15d do; to Barcelona, 16d. do; to Marseilles 17d. do.

That the said Committee had agreed to let one of the two vessels return with the return cargo to St. Eustatius or St. Martin's, for one hundred pounds currency; and that the said committee would give directions, that the said goods brought in return, as soon as they arrived in the West Indies be shipped on board of different vessels to bring them to the Continent; which the committee conceive to be the most advantageous method. That the committee have proposed to direct the whole property adventured to be invested in gunpowder; and if gunpowder is not to be purchased, to be invested in saltpetre; if neither saltpetre or gunpowder is to be had, then to be laid out in good muskets; and if none of the before mentioned articles are to be got, or not sufficient to expend the value of the cargoes adventured, then the property or so much thereof as shall remain unexpended in those articles, to be laid out in goods of the following kinds, vizt: Russia Drilling, ravens duck, osnaburgs, coarse linens from 12 to 15d. stg. pr yard, sheetings from 10 to 12d. do. coarse thread hose from 20s. to 25s. stg. pr doz. coarse tandem silesias from 17s. to 20s. pr piece, vittery fit for soldier's shirting, or any other articles they may think will be wanting.

The said report being read a second time and approved of, the Congress unanimously agreed that the said report stand confirmed, and that the committee carry the said report into execution. And

Resolved, That John Van Derbilt, Comfort Sands and Jacobus Van Zandt, and each and every of them shall be fully indemnified by this Congress or the Committee of Safety, or the Congress of this Colony for the time being, against any bonds which they or either of them will be under the necessity to enter into at the


Nieuwe Kaart
van het
Eyland St. Eustatius
in derzelver Ligging & Plantagien
met de Naamen der Bezitteren.
Op Order van de Generaale Geoctroyeerde
West-Indische Compagnie
Gemeeten en Geteekend,
in 't Koper gebracht en uitgegeven
By Reinier Ottens
Konst Kaart en Boekverkoper tot Amsterdam
1775
Boven Baay
Venus Baay
Pays Hellegat
Cocolus Baay
Concordia Baay
Schilpadde Punt
de Groote Baay
Swarte Jans Punt
Amans Baay
Compagnie Baay
Jacob Jacobsz Baay
de Kakerlak Punt
Machiels Baay
Machiels Punt
Cabriete kost Baay
Gorre Gorre Baay
Kleyne Baay
Harkoes Punt
Pays Baay
Jenkins Baay
Tumble Down Dick
Nieuwe Fort
Het Beneden Dorp
Boven Dorp
De Witten Hoek beneden de Kuyl
Dolion
Heilgatt
Key Baay
Bouckaniers Baay
Back of Baay
De Blinde Klip

custom house in New-York, for the said vessels and cargoes; and that in case any costs or damages shall accrue by means of entering into such bonds, that all such costs and damages as may arise, happen or accrue by means thereof, shall be borne by this Colony. And

Ordered, That the Treasurer of this Congress pay to Jacobus Van Zandt, Comfort Sands and John Van Derbilt, the sum of £5,000 in part, to enable them to load the said vessels.

1. *New York Provincial Congress,* I, 225–26.

Lord Stirling to John Hancock[1]

Sir Elizabeth Town Decemr 19: 1775

In Consequence of the New Orders published by Capt Parker of the *Phoenix,* Since his Arrival at N York, all Vessels coming from foreign Countries to that port, receive on the Coast, orders to Come into this province, and if possible to this place; Several are already arrived in Princes Bay, and in the Sound between this and Amboy, some of the Owners of them being apprehensive that the Men of War at New York may send their Cutters and Boats to Seize & Carry them off, have applied to me for protection—the Saving a Vast useful property from falling into the hands of our Enemies must be Right, and although I have no orders for it, I shall give them every protection in my power, untill I receive orders to the Contrary from the Congress. This However will most probably draw some of the Tenders and Smallest ships of War to the avenues of New Jersey on this Side. It will therefore be highly necessary to have an immediate Supply of Ammunition at this place, and if possible half a dozen Field pieces with some Round, Grape, and Canister Shot, we might then hope to make them quit any Station in Harbour, and the Season of the year will soon make them quit every other Station. This New Order of Capt Parker's in direct Violation of Act of Parliament, Alarms & Rouses the Moderate, and Sorely Vexes the Tories of New York, their being obliged to seek protection here, and in proportion as their property will be lodged among us, their pulses will beat, and their Conduct will be regulated. If this Circumstance be properly Managed, I am in hopes it will turn out a Very fortunate one.

It Just occurs to me that it may be very proper that there be an Order of Congress to Receive for the Continental Use, All the Ammunition imported in the Vessels that may Arrive in this province on paying a Moderate price for it, some small quantity may be in each, and every little helps — This Moment the party I sent out at the request of the Committee of this County, are after a March of about fifty Miles, returned with their prisoners, whom I shall keep for the examination of the Committee, – with the Highest Regards & esteem, I have the Honour to be [&c.]

Stirling

[Endorsed] Read [in Congress] December 23, 1775

1. Papers CC (Letters from General Officers), 162, II, 356, NA. William Alexander, better known as Lord Stirling, became colonel of the 1st New Jersey Regiment on November 7, 1775. A staunch patriot, he subsequently played an important role in military operations of the Revolution.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS [1]

[Philadelphia] Tuesday, December 19, 1775

Resolved, That the committee of safety for Pennsylvania be requested to supply the armed vessels, nearly ready for sailing, with four tons of gun powder, at the continental expence.

That the said committee be requested to procure and lend the said vessels as many stand of small arms as they can spare, not exceeding 400, to be repaid by the Congress either in kind or value, as the committee may desire.

Resolved, That if the powder and arms that may be supplied and lent to the Continent for the use of the said armed vessels, shall not be replaced on or before the first day of February next, the Congress engages that their whole influence and authority shall then be exerted immediately, to replace the same, by procuring powder and arms from some other part of the continent.

Resolved, That if the powder supplied and lent to the Continent by the city of New York, shall not be replaced on or before the first day of February next, the Congress engages that their whole influence and authority shall then be exerted immediately to replace the same, by providing powder from some other part of the Continent.

Agreeable to the order of the day, Congress resumed the consideration of the General's letter, and the report of the committee to whom the 2d article in the report of the Committee on the General's letters was referred, and thereupon came to the following resolution, which is to be substituted in place of the said 2d resolution.

Resolved, That all transport vessels in the same service, having on board any troops, arms, ammunition, cloathing, provisions, or military or naval stores of what kind soever, and all vessels to whomsoever belonging, that shall be employed in carrying provisions or other necessaries to the British Army or armies, or navy, that now are or shall hereafter be within any of the United Colonies, or any goods, wares, or merchandizes, for the use of such fleet and army, shall be liable to seizure, and, with their cargoes, shall be confiscated.[2]

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[1] Ford, ed., *JCC,* III, 436–37.

[2] The resolution which the foregoing replaced exempted the vessels themselves from confiscation, but the letters, found on board the ship *Concord* captured by John Manley, and which Washington enclosed with his letter of December 4, occasioned the broadening of the seizure beyond the cargo.

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH [1]

[Philadelphia] Tuesday Decr 19. agreed to request the Comee of Safety of Pennsa to lend some Powder & Stands of Arms to the Ships of War now in this Port & almost ready to sail, on an Engagement to use all Endeavors to return them by the 1st of February next . . . A Letter from Gen Washn read.[2] the Cruizers there (Massachusetts) have taken Two More of the Enemys Ships. Debates upon that Part of the Generals Letter requesting Directions how to dispose of the Captures, A report from a Comee read on that Head, an Amendment proposed by Mr. Wyth implying full Leave for any Person to seize all Ships of G Britain wherever found, was lost on a Vote 5 Colonies agt 4 & 2 divided—other Resolves were agreed to after Opposition, importing that all Vessels with their Cargoes including all Men of War, found any Way assisting the Enemy, shall be liable to confiscation—some Powder just arrived here & at Dartmouth in N England

[1] Richard Smith's Diary, LC.

[2] Washington's letter of December 11, 1775.

MINUTES OF THE CONTINENTAL NAVAL COMMITTEE [1]

Naval Committee [Philadelphia] Dec'r 19, 1775.

Agreed, That Mr. [Stephen] Hopkins be desired to wait on the Committee of Safety with the resolution of this Committee, desiring their permission to apply to the Seamen on board the Galleys for such as are willing to enter on board the Continental armed Vessels now fitting for sea in this city.

[1] Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 2nd series, I, 601.

PETITION OF WILLIAM GREEN TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

To The Honble The Committee of Safety for the County & City of Philada

The Humble Petitn of William Green; Seaman –

Sheweth

That your Petitioner has now lain Confined In this Gaol five weeks, and as he is now in a State only Burthensome to the Community, your Petitr therefore (as he is Particularly desireous of actually serving this Country) finding severall Ships & Vessells now fitting for Sea; Begs he may have the Oppertunity of Signalizing himself for the Generall Benefitt of this Country and being some real service to Society, which his present Confinement totally prevents.

Your Petitr therefore most humbly prays your Honors to take the above Cercumstances into your wise Consideration and according to usual Benevolence and Probity to enter him on Board one of those Ships, and Liberate him from this Place, and your Petitr will as in duty Bound for Ever Pray

William Green

Philadelphia Gaol Decr the 19. 1775 –

[1] Committee of Safety, Navy Papers, Pa. Arch.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

[Philadelphia] December 19th.

Robert Towers, Commissary, Reports his having Receiv'd by Capt. Bethel, on account of this Board, 15 bbls Gun powder, supposed to weigh 1500 lbs.

Resolved, That William Green, a person belonging to one of the armed Boats, confin'd by order of this Board in the Gaol of this County, be released from his confinement, provided he enter on Board one of the Vessels of War now fitting out by Congress.[2]

Resolved, That Mr. [Joseph] Reed, Mr. [Samuel] Miles, Mr. [Robert] Whyte, and Mr. [George] Clymer, be a Committee to go to Fort Island to consider and Report to this Board what further Defences may be thrown up on that, or the Province Island, for the security of the Fort, and passage through the Chevaux de Frize.

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[1] *Pennsylvania Colonial Records,* X, 431, 432.

[2] Green entered "on Board" the Continental brig *Andrew Doria.*

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE [1]

At a Meeting of the Committee – Tuesday 19 Decemr 1775

The Committee Considering the Danger that might arise by too extensive a Liberty being granted to Vessels passing & repassing to and from this Port, Do Resolve, That no Vessel whatever be permitted to proceed from this Port except upon publick Business further than to the River Patuxent on the Western Shore, and the River of Great Choptank on the Eastern Shore, till the Vessels now arming at this Port be ready to sail—[2]

The following Oath was appointed to be taken by all Masters of Vessels to and from this Port—

You A. B. Do solemnly make Oath upon the Holy Evangels of Almighty God, That the Manifest now given in is a true Accot of the Goods taken in onboard your Vessel – That you will not proceed with the Vessell now under your Command during the present Trip any lower down the Bay than Patuxent or on the Western or Great Choptank on the Eastern Shore, nor dispose or sell any of the Goods now shipped onboard your Vessell, to any Person, who you suspect, may carry the same to Lord Dunmore, the British Vessels of War, or to any other Persons whatever, with Design of conveying such Letters or Intelligence—

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[1] Baltimore Committee, LC.

[2] The Continental sloop *Hornet* and schooner *Wasp.*

Dunlap's Maryland Gazette, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1775

Baltimore, Dec. 19.

The Fleet now fitting out of the port of Philadelphia.

The *Alfred,* the greatest King ever England bred, the restorer of the fleet, before him almost lost.

The *Collumbus,* first discoverer of America.

The *Cabot,* second discoverer of ditto.

The *Andrew Doria,* the greatest Seaman ever the world bred.

I. *Black Prince.*
II. Ship *Sally.*
III. Brig *Sally.*
IV. Brig *Defiance.*[1]

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[1] While it has been generally known that the *Black Prince* became the *Alfred,* and the ship *Sally* became the *Columbus,* this is the first and only identification of the two brigs which became the *Cabot* and *Andrew Doria.* This list was dated before the sloop *Providence* was added to the fleet.

Muster Roll, Lieutenant Isaac Craig's Company of Marines[1]

Philadelphia 19th December, 1775.

Mens Names	Age	Size feet	inches	When Inlisted	Where Inlisted	What Country born	By Trade
Patrick Crawford	30	6	....	9th Decr 75	Philadelphia,	Ireland,	Labourer, on Furlough.
William Steward	19	5	9	10th Decr 1775	Philadelphia,	Philadelphia,	Breeches Maker.
Henry Javet	28	5	8¾	18th Do. Do.	Philadelphia,	Switzer Land,	Servant.
Willm Wood	24	5	8¾	10th Do. Do.	Philadelphia,	Ireland,	Labourer.
John Nortan	28	5	8	18th Do. Do.	Do.	New England,	Carpenter.
Thoms Byrnes	19	5	8	9th Do. Do.	Philadelphia,	Ireland,	Doctor.
Saml Johnson	24	5	7¼	9th Do. Do.	Philadelphia,	Chester County,	Brass founder.
Patk Kenney	23	5	7	18th Do. Do.	Do.	Ireland,	Brick Layer.
Henry Frazier	40	5	6½	10th Do. Do.	Do.	Holland,	House Carpenter.
Saml Harvey	21	5	6¼	12th Do. Do.	Do.	Christien,	Cooper.
John McNeil	19	5	6¼	9th Do. Do.	Do.	Ireland,	Cooper.
John Porrett	35	5	6¼	9th Do. Do.	Do.	Britain,	Jewiler.
Simon Harwood	30	5	6¼	13th Do. Do.	Do.	Philadelphia,	Labourer.
Jams Stevenson	33	5	6	11th Do. Do.	Do.	North Britain,	Mason – Discharged 19th Decr 75.
John Collins Junr	21	5	5¾	15th Do. Do.	Willmenton,	Brandy Wine,	Cooper.
Jams Williams	18	5	5¾	13th Do. Do.	Philadelphia,	Brittain,	Labourer.
Jams Campbell	30	5	7½	18th Do. Do.	Do.	Ireland,	Do.
Isaac Dewees	25	5	5½	15th Do. Do.	Do.	Kent County, Delaware,	Cabinet Maker.
Willm Hopkins	27	5	5½	9th Do. Do.	Do.	New England,	Baker.
Andw Scott	25	5	5¼	11th Do. Do.	Do.	Ireland,	Barber.
John Collins Senr	25	5	5¼	14th Do. Do.	Do.	Do.	Labourer.

Richd Owens	22	5	5	13th Do.	Do.	Do.	Chester County,	Do.
Fredk Roughman	30	5	5	11th Do.	Do.	Do.	Germany,	Hosier.
Edwd Leo	35	5	5	15th Do.	Do.	Do.	Ireland,	Butcher.
Benjn Tate	19	5	5	10th Do.	Do.	Do.	Dover,	Taylor.
Christr Warren	26	5	4½	18th Do.	Do.	Do.	Ireland,	Weaver.
Thoms Mitchell	19	5	4½	9th Do.	Do.	Do.	Britain,	Miller.
Willm Haislop	23	5	4½	13th Do.	Do.	Do.	Do.	Painter.
Jams Kite	18	5	4½	13th Do.	Do.	Do.	Do.	Do.
David Clarke	24	5	4½	9th Do.	Do.	Do.	Ireland,	Wool comber.
Willm Lock	20	5	3¼	12th Do.	Do.	Do.	Britain,	Taylor.
Fredk Bowman	32	5	5¼	11th Do.	Do.	Do.	Germany,	Carpenter.
Willm Skinnell	30	5	3½	9th Do.	Do.	Do.	Ireland.	Brick Layer.
John Bohman	25	5	3¾	19th Do.	Do.	Do.	Do.	Barber.
John Fraycie								
Michl Goodman								
John Thomson		33 Effective						
James Magrady		11	Dotto	22d Decr				
Archld Neilson		—						
Thoms Macaualy		44[2]						
Thoms Saltter								

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1. *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, XII, 351. Craig came to Pennsylvania from Ireland in 1765. He was appointed a Continental Marine officer in November 1775, and served in the brig *Andrew Doria*, Captain Nicholas Biddle.

2. The actual count of the muster roll is 41, not 44. The names of three men enlisted between December 19 and 22 appear to have been omitted.

LETTER FROM NORFOLK [1]

[Extract] Norfolk, Dec. 19, 1775

Yesterday the two men of war, and a large sloop, stood up to their former station, and sent a flag of truce with the following message: "Capt. Squire's compliments to cols. Howe and Woodford, acquaint them that the brig laden with salt, along side the wharf, is a prize belonging to the king, and taken by the *Otter*. Capt. Squire requests she may be immediately delivered up, and proposes sending a boat to take her away. Should any shot be fired at the people, he will most assuredly fire on the town." To which we returned this answer: "Col. Howe and col. Woodford's compliments to capt. Squire, and return him for answer, that the brig in question fell into our hands the other night, and we shall give orders to fire upon any boat that attempts to take her away." They have never yet made the attempt, and our parties are ready to oppose the taking the vessel.

Our out-scouts inform, that a 36 gun frigate, with a brig, are below this, at the Pleasure House. She is believed to be the *Liverpool* frigate, with a storeship.[2] We have parties watching her motions.

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1. Purdie's *Virginia Gazette,* December 22, 1775.
2. The *Maria.* See Stephens to Graves, September 6, 1775, Volume 2, 704–06.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

In the Council of Safety [Charleston],
Tuesday, Dec. 19th, 1775.

Ordered, That the colony powder-receiver do deliver twelve barrels of cannon powder out of the public magazine, to the order of Hon. W. H. Drayton and Doct. Oliphant, or either of them, for the use of the battery to be erected upon Haddrel's Point.

In the Council of Safety,
Dec. 19th, 1775.

To the Hon. Wm Henry Drayton and David Oliphant Esq.:

Whereas, by our resolve of the 2d inst., you were authorized to erect a battery at Haddrel's Point, and to make the necessary disposition for the conveyance of troops and stores for that service, and by our letter to Col. Moultrie of the 17th instant, he was ordered to prepare a body of troops for, and to confer with you relative to the same. You are now hereby ordered forthwith to conduct all the necessary troops and stores for the said service, and to erect the said battery on Haddrel's Point, to repel all opposition you may meet with. And the commanding officer of the detachment, who is hereby required to do it, will give you all due aid and assistance.

By order of the Council of Safety.

Henry Laurens, President.

The Council issued orders on the treasury for the payment of the following sums:

To Jacob Waldron, on account of hire of pilot boat,	£200	00	0
Bryan Foskey, on account of hire of pilot boat,	200	00	0
Edward Blake, balance due him for sundries for the marine service,	1, 769	06	3
Hon. Wm. Henry Drayton, to pay bounties to seamen, for ship *Prosper*	350	00	0

Read a letter from Edward and John Blake, 16th December, 1775, requesting leave to attach the effects of William Beith, a debtor to them, who had absconded from Charles-Town to one of the king's ships of war.

Ordered, That the colony armed vessels, *Prosper* and *Defence,* be forthwith removed to proper places in Charles-Town harbour.

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1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society,* III, 96–100.

Georgia Council of Safety to the South Carolina Council of Safety [1]

Savannah, December 19, 1775.

Gentlemen, – We received your letter of the 14th instant,[2] respecting exportation, and as two of our Continental delegates had just arrived, we thought proper to defer giving you an answer until we had consulted them in Council. This we have done, and have deemed it expedient to send Stephen Drayton and William Ewen, Esqrs., two of this Board, to explain those things to you, in order that all unfavourable mistakes, jealousies and animosities may be removed. By order of the Board [&c.]

George Walton, President.

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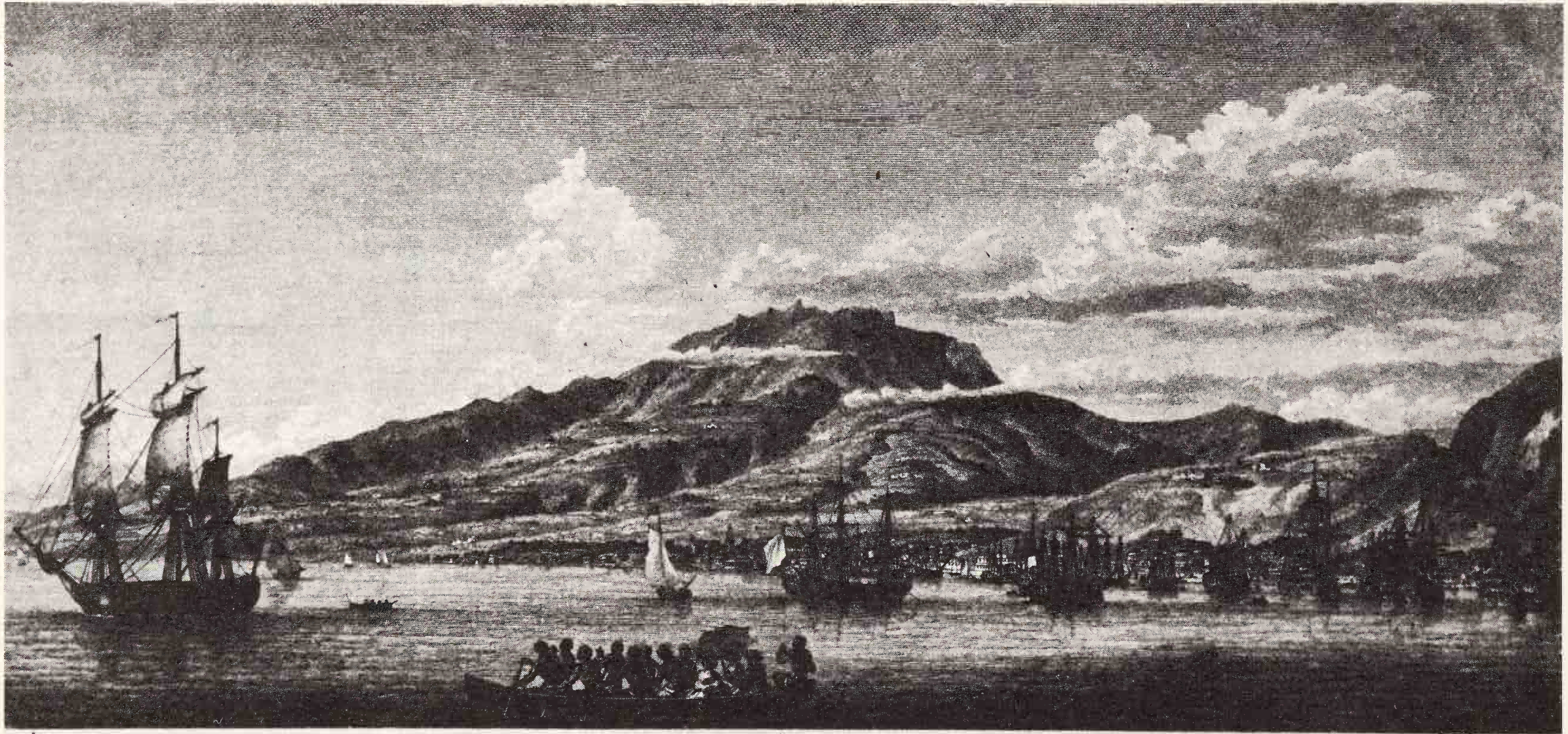
1. George White, ed., *Historical Collections of Georgia*: . . . (New York, 1855), 87.
2. See Journal of the South Carolina Council of Safety, December 14, 1775.

Captain de Bausset, French Frigate *Oiseau,* to Gabriel de Sartine [1]

[Extract] Roadstead of St. Pierre of Martinique
1st Letter 19 December 1775.

During my first 48 hour call at St. Pierre an English frigate of 16 nine pounders, called *Pomona,* arrived there.[2] She was commanded by Mr. [William] Young, a very young captain, son of Admiral Young in command of the squadron stationed in these Isles who resides at Antigua.[3] This Captain told me that this squadron was composed of 5 warships; they have been there for six months and will stay three years according to the practice in the English navy. This frigate which had been cruising off the roadstead for two days and which I had observed chasing the ships sailing out of it, came and dropped anchor on the eve of my departure. The Captain told me that he would get under way the next day, as I would. I effectively set sail, but he remained. The purpose of his call was to find out if there were any vessels from New England for which they make a rigorous search in these seas, especially since they are suspected of coming to these colonies in order to buy arms and war ammunition. He might also have come here for the illicit purpose of buying wine: we are accustomed here to see them engage in this business, and wherever I encountered warships of this nation I found that they were in the habit of drinking it.



N. Ozanne del.

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LE FORT St. PIERRE DANS L'ISLE DE LA MARTINIQUE

Vu du Mouillage.

Tiré d'un Receuil de differents Ports des Isles Antilles dessinés en 1780.

Réunis à la Collection des Ports de France, gravés par le Sr. Gouaz.

A Paris chez le Gouaz Graveur rue St. Hyacinte la 1re. porte a gauche par la place St. Michel.

4

During the 24 hours that we spent laying at anchor off the coast of Marie Galante, I had another chance to see an English frigate of 22 guns which passed within our range and which, after having recognized us, ran up her ensign, veered and sailed away. On my arrival at basseterre, I learned that on the same day another frigate of this nation had been sighted; she was suspected to mount 40 guns and had taken a vessel from new england. Yesterday, as we were on our way to bring M. le Cte. de Nozieres here, I sighted another frigate to leeward which was tacking to the North; I judged that she was the same one which had called at St. Pierre while I was there.

Second letter.

The English ships in this sea cruise against the vessels from new england with the utmost rigor and station their cruise opposite our roads. It seems to me that they conduct themselves with a kind of insolence that ought to be repressed. They come on our forts daily and jibe without even hoisting their colours in order to be recognised. They chase vessels almost under the muzzles of our guns and fire on our French ships in order to make them come aboard, which interrupts the cabotage. I have not yet been in a position to witness such indecent conduct towards the possession and vessels of His Majesty. I have even noticed that they immediately retire from the area where I arrive. M. de Nozieres whom I asked what I was to do in such circumstances refused to give me a positive answer. I believe however that it would be necessary that the Commandant of the King's Ships issue decisive instructions on this subject, especially because the circumstance of this civil war may last and the English may cruise a long time in this area against the new england trade which is as considerable as it is necessary and which cannot stop without inflicting great losses to our Colonies.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 513, LC Photocopy. Sartine was French Naval Minister.
2. *Pomona* was a ship of 18 gunls; not 16.
3. Young relieved Captain Henry Bryne as commanding officer of H.M.S. *Pomona* in the general shuffling of officers that followed the court martial and conviction of Captain Francis Gordon, commanding officer of H.M.S. *Argo*. . See Young to Stephens, November 26, 1775, Volume 2, 1150.

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20 Dec.

GOVERNOR FRANCIS LEGGE TO LORD DARTMOUTH [1]

No 54 Halifax Decembr 20th 1775

My Lord Since my last to your Lordship No 53, I have had certain Information, of two Armd Schooners having been at Cape Sables, and landed several Parties among the Inhabitants there, and have seiz'd and carried off several of the Militia Officers, whom I had lately Commission'd, to raise two Companies of light Infantry for the defence of that part of the Country, at the same time acquainted the Inhabitants, that if they wou'd remain quiet, and not oppose them, they shoud not be molested; These proceedings has excited so much terror among these people, that they have transmitted a Memorial requesting in effect, that they may be absolv'd from their Duty as Subjects, by having Liberty to remain Neuter or remove as your Lordship will see by their Memorial herewith Inclos'd.

I did thereupon lay the Memorial before the Council, who were unanimously of Opinion, that the request and proposition, coud not be receiv'd or Admitted, a Neutrality being utterly absurd and inconsistant with the Duty of Subjects, who are always bound by the Laws to take Arms in defence of Government, and oppose and Repel all hostile attempts and Invasions; That the Duty they owe as Subjects cannot be dispens'd with, and that they must be obedient to the Laws of the Province: In the mean time every possible measure to be taken for their Aid and Assistance.

In Consequence of this I have wrote both to the Admiral and General, informing them of the whole Circumstances, requesting Aid and Assistance, apprehending it will be of Dangerous Consequence to leave this Coast Expos'd to the depredations of these Pirates.

I am inform'd five Arm'd Vessels have been fitted out, to cruise on these Coasts, and am apprehensive, the whole supply of the Fleet and Army from this Province, will be interrupted, and all our little Trade ruin'd, unless a timely remedy be pursued: I am also inform'd, that they are building and fitting out many Arm's Vessels in their several Ports to be ready early in the Spring.

By Persons from New England, I am also inform'd, That the Congress, had allotted out five thousand Men for the Attack of this Province; That the Small pox at Halifax, and the Frigates in the Bay of Fundy had hitherto prevented them, but it was their determin'd intent to have this Province in their possession, or to destroy it, that it shoud be of no use either to the Army or Navy.

I have been also inform'd that these Cruisers had it in special Charge, that if they coud find an oppertunity by all means to seize me, and others who have been pointed out to them. The arrival of the Troops, and the Ships since Station'd here, I dare say has defeated their measure, and prevented their landing any where near Halifax.

I have transmitted to your Lordship, a State of the King's Forces, within this Province by which you will perceive that the whole number amounts to Nine hundred & eighty, but by reason of Sickness, New Recruits, and others absent, there remains no more than four hundred and forty six Men fit for duty.

I have the honor to be with the greatest Respect My Lord [&c.]

Fran^{s} Legge

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1. PRO, Colonial Office, 217/52, 47–50.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Senegal*, CAPTAIN WILLIAM DUDDINGSTON [1]

Decemr 1775 Cape Sable E25[E] Dist 45 Lgs

Wednesday 20 At 5 AM hove Short, at 9 weighed & came to Sail, Saw a Schooner to the Etard & gave her Chace –
at 2 PM set Studding sails, Blowing hard, at 3 Lost the Lower Fore studding sail, the halld.
Breakg the Sail Catching the water – at 4 fired a Gun & brought to the Chace, at 5 took the People out, & Left the Schooner, found her from Salem to C. Codd

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1. PRO, Admiralty 51/885.

THE UNITED COLONIES IN ACCOUNT WITH RICHARD JAMES [1]

The United Colonies to Richd James Dr

1775	To taken Charge and Delivring the Brig *Littel Hannah* Cargo taken by Capt Manly in, the Privatetear Schooner *Lee* 10 days at 2/8 p day	1. 6. 8
	To 1 Night Stood Century on Board 2/8	0. 2. 8
	To Diating 10 days at 2/p day	1. 0. 0
		£2. 9. 4

Beverly Decmber 20th 1775 Richard James

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[1] Bartlett Papers, No. 5751, BHS.

WILLIAM BARTLETT TO GEORGE WASHINGTON [1]

Sir

Beverly 20th Decer 1775 –

I hereby Acknolidge the receipt of yours pr Collo Glover togeather with the Two Thousand Dollers also Sundry Letters since Concerning Giving to the Prisoners their Private Property which Orders Your Excellency may depend on Shall be Punctually Obey'd with Pleasure for it allways hes ben Very disagreable to me that any thing Should be taken from them and have done my Utmost to Prevent it but it hes ben Impracticable which I hope Your Excellency hes heard from differant hands to Your Satisfaction Also your Order with regard to the Corn and Oats on board the Sloop *Betsy* together with Thos Mifflin Esqrs Order for the same. Collo Glover is Sence Arrived here who informs me that Mr Mifflin will not Give so much as the Cargo will sell for here and that your Excellency is willing I shoud dispose of it at this place I shall therefore wait your Excellencys Orders

I have Onloaded the Brign [*Little*] *Hannah* & stovd hir Cargo at Salem Bridge. The Coals Out of the *Concord* Goes of[f] Very Slow on Acct of the Price of Teams The Butter taken Out of her would Sell Exceeding well here if Your Excellency would Think proper to Give me Orders to dispose of it The Porter on board the Ship *Jenny* is of an inferior Quallity desire your Excellencys Orders Concerning it Am in Hast with the Gratest Respect Your Excellency [&c.]

William Bartlett

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[1] Washington Papers, LC.

BRIGADIER GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE TO JACOB GREENE [1]

[Extract]

Prospect-Hill, December 20, 1775.

[James] Wallace, I hear, continues a thorn in your side; burning and destroying wherever he can get an opportunity. It is to me a most astonishing thing that the Committee of Newport are desirous of nourishing such a serpent in the bosom of the country. If his depredations were to cease in all parts of the country, there might be some small reason for listening to his propositions. But, for him to obtain his supplies, and grant an indemnity only to the town of Newport, is sacrificing the rest of the Province to the benefit of that town only; for he will be continually committing piracies upon all the islands and shores that he can get footing upon. I think Wallace's conduct has been such, from the insults and abuses he has offered to Government, that it is highly dishonourable to have any further intercourse or commerce with him. Besides, these separate treaties weaken the chain of connection and injure the general interests of the Continent. We must expect to make partial sacrifices for the publick good. I love the Colony of Rhode-Island, and have ever had a very great affection for the town of Newport; but I am not so attached to either as to be willing to injure the common cause for their particular benefit.

It is a very great unhappiness that such a division of sentiment in political matters prevails in the Colony; it distracts her councils and weakens her exertions. The Committee in the town of Newport, you say, seem inclined to counteract the prevailing sentiment in the Government. It is astonishing that ancient prejudices and selfish motives should prevail, at a time when every thing that is dear and valuable is at stake. I hear some of the inhabitants of Newport are very jealous of the views of the town of Providence; fearing that the latter has in view the destruction of Newport, for their own private advantage. I cannot harbour a thought so derogatory to the patriotism of the people of Newport, as to suppose that such a fear can have any real existance. Can the inhabitants of Newport suppose that the Legislature of the Colony acts upon such absurd principles as to make a sacrifice of one town for the benefit of another?

1. Force, comp., *American Archives,* 4th, IV, 367.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE [1]

Sir Cambridge Decr 20. 1775

The Letter accompanying this, was wrote before your favour of the 19 p Express came to hand. – Under my present Instructions, and more especially in my present situation, I could not justifye the Sending a Regiment from these Lines to you, Unless there was an apparent design of Landing a body of Ministerial Troops on Rhode Island; At present I do not think this is to be apprehended, as a Deserter out of Boston since my last, is particular in declaring that only four Companies amounting to little more than 100 men Imbarked, as was said for Hallifax; agreing with others that Invalids & the officers of the 18 & 59 Regimts who are going Home to recruit, had saild for England –

The Intention of my last containing the Information as It was received, was only designed to put you upon your guard, not that I expected a visit was Intended you – If any small body of Troops move from hence, Southerly, I have no expectation of their Stopping short of Virginia, unless It should be on a pillaging party – To conclude Sir, when I inform you that I have been Obliged to call in 5,000 Militia to supply the deficiency of the Connecticut Regiments & those absent upon Furlow, you will do me the justice to beleive, that not a want of Inclination but of Ability prevents me from complying with your request; Unless as is before Observed, I had some Obvious reasons to beleive the visit of more men than we are well assured are Imbarked was Intended for your Governmt Sir I am with very great esteem & regard – Sir &c.

G W

[1] Washington Papers, LC.

Journal of the Massachusetts General Court[1]

In the House of Representatives Decr 20. 1775 –

Resolved that the Vessel mentiond in the Memorial of Jacob Boardman[2] belonging to Newbury Port be permittd to proceed on a Voyage to any part of Europe, the Dominions of Great Brittain Excepted for the Purpose of procuring Gun Powder & other Military Stores for the Service of this Colony; Provided the Owners of the Vessel enter into Bonds with Sufficient suretys in the sum of [A] Four Hundred Pounds to be taken by the Committee of Safety of Newbury Port in the name of the Treasurer of this Colony that sd Vessel Shall Proceed upon sd Voyage with all possable dispatch & bring nothing back Except Gun Powder & other millitary Stores and to Land same in some port of this Colony Boston and Nantucket [Excptd] and that sd Vessel shall proceed in Ballast without any other Loadings; And this Colony engages to take all the Powder brought in sd Vessel giving for the same at the rate of five shillings pr pound he [B] delivering the same [C] to the commissary of this colony.

Sent up for Concurrence
William Cooper Speakr Pro Tem

In Council Decr 20th

Read & concurred with the Amendments at A B & C vizt at A "four hundred" & insert "two thousand" at B dele "he delivering" & at C insert "being delivered" – sent down for Concurrence

Perez Morton Dpy Secry

[Endorsed] In the House of Representatives Decr 21. 1775.

Read & concurred – Sent up

J Warren Spkr

[1] Mass. Arch., vol. 180, 249a.

[2] See Boardman's petition, December 15, 1775.

Journal of the Massachusetts House of Representatives[1]

[Watertown] Wednesday, December 20, 1775

Upon a Motion,

Resolved, That Capt. William Johnson, of the Schooner *Britannia,* be and hereby is directed forthwith to deliver Richard Devans, Esq; Commissary of this Colony, the neat Proceeds of a Cargo consigned him by Order of the late Committee of Supplies, being per his Accounts, Three Hundred and Sixty-four Fire-Arms, Five Hundred and Twenty-nine and an Half Pounds of Powder (Leward Weight), Two Thousand Flints, Seventy-five weight Ball, and Twelve Cutlasses, excepting so many of said Articles as by Receipts shall appear to have been delivered agreable to the Order of this Court.

And be it further directed to adjust his Accounts as soon as may be with Col. Orne, and Mr. Gerry, a Committee appointed for that Purpose; also that he deliver 12 Swivel Guns to the Committee of Safety of Newbury Port, to be improved by them in the Defence of said Town, until the further Order of this Court.

Ordered, That Mr. Cross send a Copy of the foregoing Resolve to Captain Johnson.

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1. Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch.

Resolution of Newport Town Meeting [1]

At A Town Meeting Newport December 20th 1775

Voted that the Thanks of this meeting be given to the Honourable Committee appointed to act During the Recess of the General Assembly for their generous and Publick Spirited Resolution of the 18th Instant in granting permission to the Worshipful town Council of this town to Supply the Ships of War in this harbour with Fresh provision &c Whereby they have Manifested an affectionate attatchment to the peace and Welfare of this town and preserved its Numerous Inhabitants from that Ruin and Destruction in Which they Otherwise Must have Been Involved and that the town Clerk transmit a Copy of this Vote to all the members of the General assembly And also requests their further attention to the Interest and preservation of this town at next session Voted and past –

By order

W^{m} Coddington Town Clerk

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1. Rhode Island Miscellaneous Manuscripts, vol. XII, 112, RIHS.

Journal of the New York Provincial Congress [1]

[New York] Die Mercurii, 3 ho. P.M. Decr. 20th, 1775.

The Congress then took into consideration the necessity and advantage of a small armed vessel to be maintained in the East river or sound, to prevent persons inimical to the liberties of the American Colonies, supplying the Ministeral army and navy with provisions.

Ordered, That Col. [Alexander] McDougall and Capt. [Anthony] Rutgers be and hereby are appointed a committee to purchase a proper vessel for that purpose, and to have her properly armed and fitted out. And,

Ordered, That those gentlemen do not expend on the purchase and outfit of such vessel more than the sum of six hundred pounds.

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1. *New York Provincial Congress,* I, 228.

Journal of the Continental Congress [1]

[Philadelphia] Wednesday, December 20, 1775

The Congress took into consideration the report of the committee on the petition of David Beveridge, which was agreed to as follows:

Resolved, That the said petition is unreasonable:

Resolved, nevertheless, that for the more speedy arming these colonies, the said David Beveridge be permitted to export a cargo of the produce of America (live stock and lumber excepted) to any part of the world, except Great Britain, the British Island[s], Ireland, or the British West Indies, on his giving bond, with sufficient security, in double the amount of the said cargo, to the chairman of the committee of inspection of Philadelphia, or to such persons as said committee shall appoint, that he will import, into these colonies, by the first day of June next, the amount of the proceeds of the said cargo, in arms, ammunition, or salt petre, and shall dispose of the same to the Congress, for the use of the United Colonies, at such reasonable prices, as by the committee of inspection of the place in which the vessel shall arrive, shall be ascertained and determined.

Agreeable to the order of the day, the Congress resumed the consideration of the General's letters, and thereupon came to the following resolution:

Resolved, That the several vessels heretofore taken and carried into Massachusetts bay, by the armed vessels in the service of the United Colonies, be proceeded against by the rules of the law of Nations, and libelled in the courts of admiralty erected in said colony.

[1] Ford, ed., *JCC,* III, 438–40.

CONTINENTAL NAVAL COMMITTEE TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

[Philadelphia] Decr 20, 1775.

The Committee for Naval Affairs present their Compliments to the Committee of Safety for the Province of Pennsylvania, and acknowledge that they have been supplied by them with many important articles, which they could no where else procure, and are now brought to the necessity to beg the said Committee to supply the principal Surgeon of the American Fleet [2] with thirty-six pounds of Salt-Petre, which they can no where else obtain, and is absolutely necessary for the service they have to execute.

By order of the Committee,

F. Matlack, Clk.

[1] Hazard, *et al.,* eds., *Pennsylvania Archives,* 1st series, IV, 692.

[2] Dr. Joseph Harrison of the Continental ship *Alfred.*

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

[Philadelphia] Wednesday, December 20th.

Governor [Stephen] Hopkins this day deliver'd the following Resolve of Congress to the Board

[Resolves of 19 December, 1775, requesting powder and arms]

The Board having taken the above Resolves into Consideration, and after some time spent thereon, Do

Resolve, That they spare to Congress all the Powder now in store, except the Battle powder, & that which is made into Cartridges

That this Board will immediate Collect all the Arms belonging to this Province, and will spare to the Committee of Naval Affairs all that they can, consistent with the safety of this Province.

That this Committee do agree that the Naval Committee may enlist from on Board the Armed Boats, any Number of Seamen not exceeding one hundred.

Resolved, That Capt. Dougherty order all the armed Boats up to this city, that the officers and men may go into Barracks, except the three Eldest Captains and crews, who are to continue at the Island 'til relievd by three other Boats, agreeable to a Resolve of the 13th.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records,* X, 433, 434.

John Jay to Colonel Alexander McDougall [1]

Dear Colonel Nothing worth communicating to you having occurred I have hitherto declined troubling you with a Letter – In order to convince you however that I wish our Correspondence may be punctual & frequent I enclose you a Letter which was designed to have gone by Capt Shea, but he was unluckily on his Journey before the Letter was sent to his House.

A Report is now circulating that some Men of War are at the Capes. This occasions Speculation. Coll. [Benjamin] Harrison is returned he has fitted out two Vessels of some Force, one a remarkable good Bermudian – There is no Doubt of their being useful [2] We have recd a Letter from Gen. Washington confirming the Acct of Manley's having taken two more Prizes with Cargoes of Porter Cheese Rum &c.[3]

The Virginians with the Assistance of their Neighbours have made it convenient for Lord Dunmore to retire to his Fleet. Norfolk is again in their Possession. This News is just come to town, and I suppose it to be true –[4] Be so kind as to present my Compts to all your good Family I am dear Coll. [&c.]

Philadelphia 20 Decr 1775 –

John Jay –

[1] André de Coppet Autograph Collection, PUL. Jay was a New York delegate in the Continental Congress.

[2] The Continental schooner *Wasp* and sloop *Hornet,* outfitted at Baltimore.

[3] Washington's letter of December 11, 1775, read in Congress December 19, reported the capture of the ship *Jenny* and brig *Little Hannah,* taken December 8, 1775.

[4] See Dixon & Hunter's *Virginia Gazette,* December 23, 1775, for an account of Dunmore's evacuation of Norfolk.

B. P. to Lord Dartmouth [1]

[Extract] Maryland, December 20, 1775.

Their [the American] harbours by the spring will swarm with privateers. An Admiral is appointed, a court established, and the 3d instant, the Continental flag on board the *Black Prince,* opposite Philadelphia, was hoisted. Many of the Captains of those vessels, in the last war, proved their intrepidity to the world by their prizes, and some of them have already taken many valuable prizes which Government had ordered to Boston, and thereby must have much distressed the troops; all which the prints will particularize.

And, my Lord, how is it possible for all store-ships to escape a fleet so large, which at this time, I firmly believe, is composed of fifty sail, and by next spring I shall not marvel if their fleet be doubled.

The ship-carpenters are very busy in getting the rest of the privateers ready, and also other hands to equip them wholly for sailing.

Some harbours are blocked up, batteries before others erected as abovementioned, and when the icy impediments are dissolved in their harbours, no marvel, my Lord, if some of the British armament, as well as transports or storeships, be taken. About an hundred privateers, with the most intrepid marines, and those persons who last natural war immortalized their names, again chosen for captains, are, touching their schemes, no contemptible enemy by sea.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives,* 4th, IV, 358–63.

Letter to John Pinkney[1]

[Williamsburg, December 20, 1775]

Mr. Pinkney, From officers, who have arrived in town from colonel Woodford's camp since the battle of the Great Bridge, I have, I think, collected a more particular account of that action than any which has yet been communicated to the public. You will therefore oblige me by publishing it, and perhaps afford, at the same time, no disagreeable entertainment to our countrymen. As the scene of action is but little known to the generality of people, it may be necessary to give some description of it, that the relation may be more clear and satisfactory. The Great Bridge is built over what is called the Southern Branch of Elizabeth river, twelve miles above Norfolk. The land on each side is marshy to a considerable distance from the river, except at the two extremities of the bridge, where are two pieces of firm land, which may not improperly be called islands, being surrounded entirely by water and marsh, and joined to the main land by causeways. On the little piece of firm ground on the farther, or Norfolk side, lord Dunmore had erected his fort, in such a manner that his cannon commanded the causeway on his own side, and the bridge between him and us, with the marshes around him. The island on this side of the river contained six or seven houses, some of which were burnt down (the nearest to the bridge) by the enemy, after the arrival of our troops; in the others, adjoining the causeway on each side, were stationed a guard every night by colonel Woodford, but withdrawn before day, that they might not be exposed to the fire of the enemy's fort in recrossing the causeway to our camp, this causeway being also commanded by their cannon. The causeway on our side was in length about one hundred and sixty yards, and on the hither extremity our breast work was thrown up. From the breast work ran a street, gradually ascending, about the length of four hundred yards, to a church, where our main body were encamped. The great trade to Norfolk in shingles, tar, pitch, and turpentine, from the country back of this, had occasioned so many houses to be built here, whence these articles were conveyed to Norfolk by water. But this by the bye. Such is the nature of the place as described to me, and such were our situation, and that of the enemy. On Saturday the 9th instant, after reveille beating, two or three great guns, and some musquetry were discharged from the enemy's fort, which, as it was not an unusual thing, was but little regarded by colonel Woodford. However, soon afterwards he heard a call to the soldiers to stand to their arms; upon which, with all expedition, he made the proper dispositions to receive the enemy. In the mean time the enemy had crossed the bridge, fired the remaining houses upon the island, and some large piles of shingles, and attacked our guard in the breast work. Our men returned the fire, and threw them into some confusion, but they were instantly rallied by a captain [Charles] Fordyce, and advanced along the causeway with great resolution, keeping up a constant and heavy fire as they approached. Two field pieces, which had been brought across the bridge; and planted on the edge of the island, facing the left of our breast-work, played briskly at the same time upon us. Lieutenant [Edward] Travis, who commanded in the breast-work, ordered his men to reserve their fire till the enemy came within the distance of fifty yards, and then they gave it to them with terrible execution. The brave Fordyce exerted himself to keep up their spirits, reminded them of their ancient glory, and waving his hat over his head, encouragingly told them *the day was their own*. Thus pressing forward, he fell within fifteen steps of the breast-work. His wounds were many, and his death would have been that of an hero, had he met it in a better cause. The progress of the enemy was now at an end; they retreated over the causeway with precipitation, and were dreadfully galled in their rear. Hitherto, on our side only, the guard, consisting of twenty five, and some others, upon the whole, amounting to not more than ninety, had been engaged. Only the regulars of the 14th regiment, in number one hundred and twenty, had advanced upon the causeway; and about two hundred and thirty tories and negroes had, after crossing the bridge, continued upon the island. The regulars, after retreating along the causeway, were again rallied by captain Leslie, and the two field pieces continued to play upon our men. It was at this time that colonel Woodford was advancing down the street to the breast-work with the main body, and against him was now directed the whole fire of the enemy. Never were cannon better served; but yet in the face of them and the musquetry, which kept up a continual blaze, our men marched on with the utmost intrepidity. Colonel [Edward] Stevens, of the Culpeper battalion, was sent round to the left to flank the enemy, which was done with such activity and spirit that a rout immediately ensued. The enemy fled into their forts, leaving behind them the two field pieces, which, however, they took care to spike up with nails. Many were killed and wounded in the flight, but colonel Woodford very prudently restrained his troops from urging their pursuit too far. From the beginning of the attack till the repulse from the breast work might be about fourteen or fifteen minutes; till the total defeat upwards of half an hour. It is said that some of the enemy preferred death to captivity, from a fear of being scalped, which lord Dunmore inhumanly told them would be their fate should they be taken alive. Thirty one, killed and wounded, fell into our hands, and the number borne off was much greater. Through the whole of the engagement every officer and soldier behaved with the greatest courage and calmness. The conduct of our sentinels I cannot pass over in silence. Before they quitted their stations they fired at least three rounds as the enemy were crossing the bridge, and one of them, who was posted behind some shingles, kept his ground till he had fired eight times, and after receiving a whole platoon, made his escape over the causeway into our breast works. The scene was closed with as much humanity as it had been conducted with bravery. The work of death being over, every one's attention was directed to the succour of the unhappy sufferers, and it is an undoubted fact, that captain Leslie was so affected with the tenderness of our troops towards those who were yet capable of assistance, that he gave signs from the fort of his thankfulness for it. What is not to be paralleled in history, and will scarcely appear credible, except to such as acknowledge a providence over human affairs, this victory was gained at the expence of no more than a slight wound in a soldier's hand; and one circumstance, which renders it still more amazing is, that the field pieces raked the whole length of the street, and absolutely threw double-headed shot as far as the church, and afterwards, as our troops approached, cannonaded them heavily with grapeshot.

1. Pinkney's *Virginia Gazette,* December 20, 1775. John Pinkney was the printer of Pinkney's *Virginia Gazette.*

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Kingsfisher,* CAPTAIN JAMES MONTAGU [1]

Decr 1775 Moored in Elizbth River Virginia Abreast the Town of Norfolk

Wednesday 20 At 3 PM Arrived here H:M:S: *Liverpool* from England

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/506.

JOURNAL OF THE NORTH CAROLINA PROVINCIAL CONGRESS [1]

[Johnston County Court House] Wednesday 20th December 1775

Resolved, That it be recommended to the Committees of Wilmington and Brunswick and to the commanding Officer of the detachment stationed on Cape fear River to use their utmost endeavours to cut off all manner of personal Communication between His Excellency Governor Martin and the Officers of the Ships of War with the Inhabitants of this Province on any pretext whatever; and that the utmost Caution be used in supplying the Ships of War with Provisions that they be conveyed in such Manner as to prevent any intelligence from being disclosed by the persons conveying the said Provisions.

Provided, That nothing in the above Resolve shall be construed to prevent any person corresponding by Letter with Governor Martin or the Ships of War, such Letters being first laid before the Committees of the said Towns, or either of them, or the Commanding Officer aforesaid and approved by them

Provided nevertheless, That the Committee of Safety for the district of Wilmington should they think it necessary, are hereby impowered to cut off all supplies of Provisions to any of the Ships of War lying in Cape fear River.

1. Secretary of State Papers (Provincial Conventions and Congresses/Councils 1774–1776), NCDAH.

Minutes of the South Carolina Council of Safety[1]

In the Council of Safety [Charleston],
Wednesday, December 20th, 1775.

Mr. President laid the following copies of letters, which he had been desired to write, before the board

Charles-Town, Dec. 19th, 1775.

Gentlemen – Your several dispatches of the 14th came to hand last night, and were considered at our meeting this morning.

There is no resolution of the Continental Congress against vessels going away in ballast, and no doubt but that such may be permitted to clear out at the custom house. The resolution respecting the clearing vessels in Georgia, North-Carolina, &c., commonly termed privileged colonies, extends only to *vessels with cargoes.* Ellis' case seems therefore to be settled. You were nevertheless extremely right in prohibiting the exportation of stores beyond a sufficient and necessary quantity for the intended voyage; nor is there any resolution forbidding the exportation of cash to purchase salt, the importation of which is allowed, and as the shipping produce is prohibited, there is no other way of procuring necessaries, (arms and ammunition excepted) but by cash or bills. A colony trade, with the licence of committees of inspection, is allowed for the purpose of supplying some of the colonies with the produce of others. We presume the papers which you speak of, brought by the Gloucester vessel, give a good character of the master, and assurances that he had given security to deliver his cargo at a proper port. If you have a good opportunity and time, we desire you will transmit those papers to us for inspection and approbation. We cannot in our present circumstances be too watchful against attempts to elude and violate the resolutions of Congress, which ought to be held sacred.

We desire likewise to be informed, if Mr. Scott's scooner was, or is now actually loaded. It is true he has applied to us for permission to load on the public account, but he did not apprize us of his having first attempted to commit a fraud.

Your letter to the committee of intelligence of the same date as above, came also before us. We are ignorant of the writer's character; and his application to you, on the back of one for the same purpose to us, gives no encouragement to advance him a sum of money, which we would readily do to a man in whom we could confide, for the services which he seems to have entered into as a volunteer. His first pretensions were to procure seamen in your port, and to conduct them to Charles-Town, for which, the business being actually performed, he was to be properly paid. We know not what were his motives for going further off without acquainting us.

By order of the Council of Safety.

Henry Laurens, President.

The Committee at George-Town.

Charles-Town, Dec. 19th, 1775.

Lord Dunmore had set up the king's standard in Virginia, near the county of Currituck in North-Carolina; received and armed all negroes who would come in to him; had skirmished with some of the Virginia troops, without any considerable effect on either side. Lord William Campbell had gone great lengths in harbouring and protecting negroes on Sullivan's Island, from whence those villains made nightly sallies, and committed robberies and depredations on the sea-coast of Christ-Church. This alarming evil received such a check yesterday morning, as will serve to humble our negroes in general, and perhaps to mortify his Lordship not a little.

The company of foot rangers, or fifty-four of them, under the command of Lieut. [William R.] Withers, made a descent on that island, burnt the house in which the banditti were often lodged, brought off four negroes, killed three or four, and also took white prisoners, four men, three women, and three children, destroyed many things which had been useful to those wretches in the houses, men of war's water casks, a great loss to them, exchanged a few shot with some of the men of war's men, and came off unhurt.

We learn from Georgia, where some daring attempts had been made to violate the Continental Association, by loading ships with rice and indigo, that the spirit of our friends being roused, had put a stop to such proceedings, by obliging the concerned to unload one ship, and deterring our enemies from taking such pernicious steps in the future.

By order of the Council of Safety.

Henry Laurens, President.

Col. [Richard] Richardson.

Mr. Clegg, from the Indian company of Rovers reported, that they had yesterday morning made a descent upon Sullivan's Island; that they had burnt the pest-house there, exchanged a few shots with some of the men of war's men, without hurt, destroying a quantity of water casks, brought off four white men, four women, three children, and four negroes, among them John Swann, a mulatto, and Peter, the property of George Powell, shipwright; and that they had killed three or four negroes.

Ordered, That John Banks and William Chambers, who were taken going clandestinely to the men of war in Rebellion-Road, on the 15th, be now discharged, being properly cautioned not to offend again in like manner.

A petition of Sarah Mitchell was presented and read, praying for the discharge of two negroes belonging to her, which had been taken going to the *Cherokee* armed ship, with Banks and Chambers aforesaid, and committed to the work-house.

The prayer of the said petition being taken into consideration,

A question was put, whether the said negroes be discharged, Mrs. Mitchell paying the fees.

And it was resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered, That the warden of the work-house do discharge the two negroes in his custody, belonging to Mrs. Sarah Mitchell, upon her paying the fees.

Ordered, That John Swann, the free mulatto, and Peter, a slave belonging to George Powell, taken upon Sullivan's Island and last night committed to the work-house, be brought before the Council this afternoon at 5 o'clock, in order to be examined.

In the Council of Safety,
Wednesday Evening, Dec. 20th, 1775.

John Swann, and Peter, were according to order, brought before the Council and examined, and after examination, remanded to the custody of the warden of the work-house.

Ordered, That John Coram, Esq., do, as soon as may be, call another magistrate to associate with him, and summon five free-holders, to proceed upon the trial of John Swann, a free mulatto taken off Sullivan's Island in the morning of the 19th instant; and that Michael Bates, overseer to Mr. John Ash, Mr. William Coats, Mrs. Robinson, Mrs. Farrow and Mrs. Walker, be summoned for examination in relation to some robberies lately committed upon Haddrel's Point, wherein the said Swann is said so [to] have been a party.

Mrs. Walker, wife of George Walker, late gunner of Fort Johnson; Mrs. Farrow, wife of William Farrow, pilot; Mrs. Robinson, wife of Robinson, who had the care of the pest-house on Sullivan's Island, and William Carrington, a lad, son to the carpenter of the *Tamar* sloop of war, four of the persons taken by Capt. [John] Allston's company of Rovers upon Sullivan's Island, were brought before the Council and examined.

After having been severally examined, they were discharged.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society,* III, 100–05.

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21 Dec.

William Bartlett to Major Thomas Mifflin [1]

Sir Beverly 21 Decr 1775

I would Acknolidge the receipt of Yours p Yesterday wherein you desire Me to forward the Corn and Oats on board the Sloop *Betsey* to You which I should Comply'd with, with Pleasure but Collo Glover coming here today informs me that you would not Give So much as it would Sell for here if so must Out of duty to the Captures dispose of it [2]

The Corn will fetch ¾ p Busl & the Oates [from] 2/6 to 2/8 pr without any Expence if you Chuse to have it at the Above Prices You will please to let me know imediately Although it is Very much Wanted here Yet will Give the prefference to you not Only to Serve the Continental Army but Mr Mifflin who I had Formerly the Honour to be Acquainted with at Philadelphia.

After my Best Regards would Beg Leave to Subscribe my Self [&c.]

William Bartlett

if you have any Good Blue Broad Cloath in Your Store Should be Glad you would Send me 3 Yards with Triming for Coat & Jacket of Such as is Generally wore in Camp.

Thomas Mifflin Esqr Quarter Master Generall
At Head Qurts Cambridge

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1. Washington Papers, LC.
2. Captain John Manley and the crew of Washington's armed schooner *Lee*.

New England Chronicle, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14 TO THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1775

Cambridge, Dec. 21.

Captain Martindale, in one of our privateers, was lately decoyed near to one of the enemy's ships of war, in the Bay, and was unhappily taken, and carried into Boston.

Captain Manly has, within a few days past, taken another valuable prize, a sloop from Virginia bound to Boston, loaded with corn and oats; fitted out and sent by Lord Dunmore.[1]

Last Friday night [December 15] seven American masters of vessels, who had, at different times, been taken by the enemy and carried into Boston, made their escape from that place. From one of them we have obtained the following intelligence, viz . . . That Capt. Martindale, mentioned above, with his officers and men, were sent to England.

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1. The *Betsey*.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES [1]

[Watertown] Thursday, December 21, 1775.

A Memorial of William Powell, of Salem, setting forth that he has a Schooner at Beverly Harbour ready to sail, and that he designs to export Cash and import Powder only, and praying liberty to proceed on his intended Voyage.

Read and committed to Mr. [Joseph] Wheeler, Col. [Joseph] Cushing, and Major [Ichabod] Goodwin.

Michael Farley, Esq; brought down a Petition of the Delegates of the several Towns in the County of Cumberland, met in Convention at Falmouth on the 8th of November last, relative to the defenless and distressed Situation of the said Town of Falmouth in particular, and the County in general, and of the Importance of securing the Harbour of Falmouth, and praying relief.

Read, and committed to the Committee appointed to consider a Letter from General [Joseph] Fry on the same subject.

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1. Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch.

MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HOWE TO GEORGE WASHINGTON [1]

Sir Boston, December 21st 1775.

In answer to your letter of the 18th inst I am to acquaint you That my command does not extend to Canada, nor having received any Accounts wherein the name of [Ethan] Allen is mentioned, I cannot give you the smallest Satisfaction upon the subject of your letter; But trusting Major General Carleton's conduct will never incur censure upon any occasion, I am to conclude in the instance of your enquiry that he has not forfeited his past pretensions to decency & humanity.

It is with regret, considering the character you have always maintained among your friends as a Gentleman of the strictest honor and delicacy, That I find cause to resent a sentence in the conclusion of your letter big with Invective against my Superiors, and insulting to myself, which Should obstruct any farther intercourse between us. I am sir [&c.]

W Howe

1. Washington Papers, LC.

Letter from an Officer at Boston [1]

[Extract] December 21, 1775

The Rebels, for some days past, have been erecting a battery at Phipps Farm, which, it is said, will soon be opened. The new constructed mortar taken on board the Ordnance brig, we are told, will be mounted upon it; and we expect a warm salute from the shells, another part of that vessel's cargo; so that in spite of her capture, we are likely to be complimented with the contents of her lading: for all this we will be indebted to our worthy Admiral. This vigilent officer, instead of sending his squadron to protect the store-ships and transports from England, has, with the utmost prudence, ordered the ships of war in this harbour to be secured with bombs [booms] all round, to prevent their being boarded and taken by the Rebel whale-boats; and for some time past he has never sent a single ship to cruise off Cape Ann, because the Rebels have had some cannon mounted upon it: no doubt the Parliament will thank him on his glorious return for so effectually preserving his Majesty's ships. In town the General acts quite in a different manner: he seems to think it his duty to annoy the enemy. When we discovered the Rebels at work on their new battery, another was immediately raised against them of twenty-four pounders, and some mortars at Barton's Point. From this battery we have fired upon them for some days incessantly, apparently with good effect, though not sufficiently to make them discountenance their work . . .

If the Rebels can compleat their battery, this town will be on fire about our ears a few hours after; all our buildings being of wood, or a mixture of brick and wood-work. Had the Rebels erected their battery on the other side of the town at Dorchester, the Admiral and all his booms would have made the first blaze, and the burning of the town would have followed. If we cannot destroy the Rebel battery with our guns, we must march out and take it sword in hand.

1. *Morning Post and Daily Advertiser,* London, February 13, 1776.

Diary of Dr. Ezra Stiles [1]

[Newport, December] 21.

Yesterday News fr. G. Wash. that Transports with about 1000 Troops & three Compa of Horse sailed from Boston for somewhere. This day 2 Compa of Minute Men arrived here & more are coming. . . . Two French Gentlemen from W.

Indies landed at Dartmo a week or 2 since & went to G. Washington. This Week they returned to providence, recommended by G. Washg to Gov Cooke to be sent forward by Gov Trumbull, & so without Expence or Delay to be forwarded to the Cont Congress.

[1] Diary of Ezra Stiles, YUL.

THOMAS MUMFORD TO SILAS DEANE [1]

[Extract] New Haven, 21st Decemr 1775.

You desire my sentiments whether a Frigate of about 700 tons can be built in this Colony, and by what time.[2] I think we have one Carpenter at least in this Colony, capable of building such a ship; I mean Mr. Goddard, and I think she may be built with safety either in Norwich or Connecticut Rivers; but I believe, tho' carpenters are plenty, it will require five months to complete her.

My hearty service to Capt. [Dudley] Saltonstall and all friends with you.

[1] *Collections of the Connecticut Historical Society,* II, 344, 345.

[2] Deane was soliciting opinion regarding the building of the Continental ship *Trumbull,* a 28 gun frigate.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO JOHN HANCOCK [1]

[Extract] Albany 21st December 1775.

I do myself the Honour to enclose you a Return of the Military Stores that were at Ticonderoga Landing and Crown point on the 2d Instant – The Cannon Mortars and other Stores sent for by General Washington are happily arrived at Fort George, from whence they will be moved to the place of their Destination as soon as we are favoured with the Fall of Snow, and that the Ice in the River will be strong enough to bear the heavy Cannon.

A post which arrived here on the 18th and who left Montreal on the 4h brought me no Letters either from General Montgomerie or General Wooster – I enquired of the Men who could inform me Nothing of the former but that he was gone towards Quebec – The Frost here is so intense that the River is frozen over and I expect will be passable with Horses in a Day or two.

[1] Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, I, 366, 369, NA.

PETER VANDERVOORT TO NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.[1]

Dear Sir New York Decemr 21. 1775

This Serves Just to hand you Invoice of 54 Barl fine flower (I shipt you p the Sloop *Betsey* Capt Cooper) amounting to £110.5.10 wich I hope wi'll come saif to hand, for wich your Accot is Debited, as booth the *Asia* & *Phenix* [*Phoenix*] now lay in our east River, I am fearfull they will Intercept our Navigation to the Eastern Colonies, Capt Cooper left this Tuesday night [December 19] & hope he is now saif with you with Respect I am [&c.]

Peter Vandervoort

[1] Shaw Papers, NLCHS.

Journal of H.M.S. *Asia*, Captain George Vandeput [1]

December 1775	Moor'd in the East River
Wednesdy 20	AM Clear'd Hawse Unmoor'd & hove short. Recd some Provision Do [Fresh Gales] & Clear PM Weighed & came to Sail, run into the East River & Moor'd
Thursday 21	AM Unbent the Sails & Unreev'd the running Rigging, when Moor'd the Old English Church W N W the Battery W S W ½ W Long Island ferry S E Do Wr PM Stowed the running Rigging & Sails in the fore Hold

[1] PRO, Admiralty 51/67.

Journal of H.M.S. *Phoenix*, Captain Hyde Parker, Jr.[1]

December 1775	Moor'd in East River Abreast of the Town of New York
Wednesdy 20th	AM Recd two turns of water by the Longboat Recd 1510 Lbs of Beef Modt Breezes & Cloudy. Employed Watering Payed the Lower Masts. PM Anchord here the *Asia* & *Dutchess of Gordon*
Thursday 21st	Modt Breezes & clear Wear PM at 1 Saluted Governor Tryon wth 11 Guns on his Coming onbd & wth the same No on his Leaving the Ship. Exercized Great Guns. Small Arms

[1] PRO, Admiralty 51/693.

Josiah Bartlett to the New Hampshire Committee of Safety [1]

[Extract] Philadelphia December 21st 1775

The Congress have Determined to Build at Continental Expence a number of Ships of war in the united Colonies to be ready for sea if possible by the last of march next: Have agreed that one, of the Inclosed Dementions, to Cary 32 guns, be Built in our Colony.[2] It is proposed that one or 2 persons well skilled in ship building, of approved Integrity, be forthwith appointed to provide the Materials, Employ workmen, oversee the Business, to keep Exact & Regular accounts of the whole to Draw on the Marine Committe of Congress for money to Cary on the Business, and to be accountable to said Committee; for all which they will be handsomely Rewarded.

As the Ship Building business is out of my Sphere I am unwilling to nominate the said overseers: I am therefore Directed by said Committe to Desire you immediately to Consider of proper overseers also of a proper place for Building Said vessel, both for Safety & Convenience of materials & workmen: She will be about 700 tons; an Exact Draught will be sent forward in a few Days; In the mean time it will be necessary for the overseers to Buy up without Loss of time, Every necessary for Building & fitting out [sai]d Ship, and what Cant be had in our Colony must [be n]otified to the Marine Committe at Philadelphia [so] they may provide it.[3]

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1. Bartlett Correspondence, DCL.
2. See Vote of the Continental Marine Committee, December 16, 1775. The Continental ship *Raleigh* was built at Portsmouth under the general supervision of John Langdon. The actual construction work was undertaken by James Hackett, James Hill, and Stephen Paul, with Thomas Thompson as superintendent.
3. On a separate sheet of paper enclosed with the foregoing letter the following postscript appeared: "This was Wrote to [be] sent to the Comtte before Mr Langdons arrival from Ticonderoga on his return before sending off the letter at his Request I appointed him to build the Ship and he returned home for that purpose." Bartlett Correspondence, DCL.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA CONVENTION[1]

[Williamsburg] Thursday, December 21, 1775.

A petition of Archibald Govan was presented to the Convention, and read; setting forth, that he loaded and cleared out the sloop *Christian* and cargo agreeably to the terms of the association; that she had been prevented proceeding on her voyage by being brought into Hampton by the soldiery stationed there;[2] and as there is no market in this country at present but for the army, he would be glad the cargo, amounting to near two thousand five hundred bushels of wheat, might be taken for the use of the troops, at such a price as shall be thought reasonable; that he has been told this House are in want of some vessels for the service of the country, for which purpose he begs leave to offer his sloop, which is a well found vessel and fast sailer, and little more than three years old; that, from the candour and justice of this Convention, he hopes, as he has not in any instance infringed the association, and as the letters wrote by himself, and found on board the said sloop, were fraught with sentiments friendly to this country, no degree of guilt will be imputed to him on account of the many unfriendly letters found in the said vessel.

Ordered, That the said petition be referred to the committee on the state of the colony.

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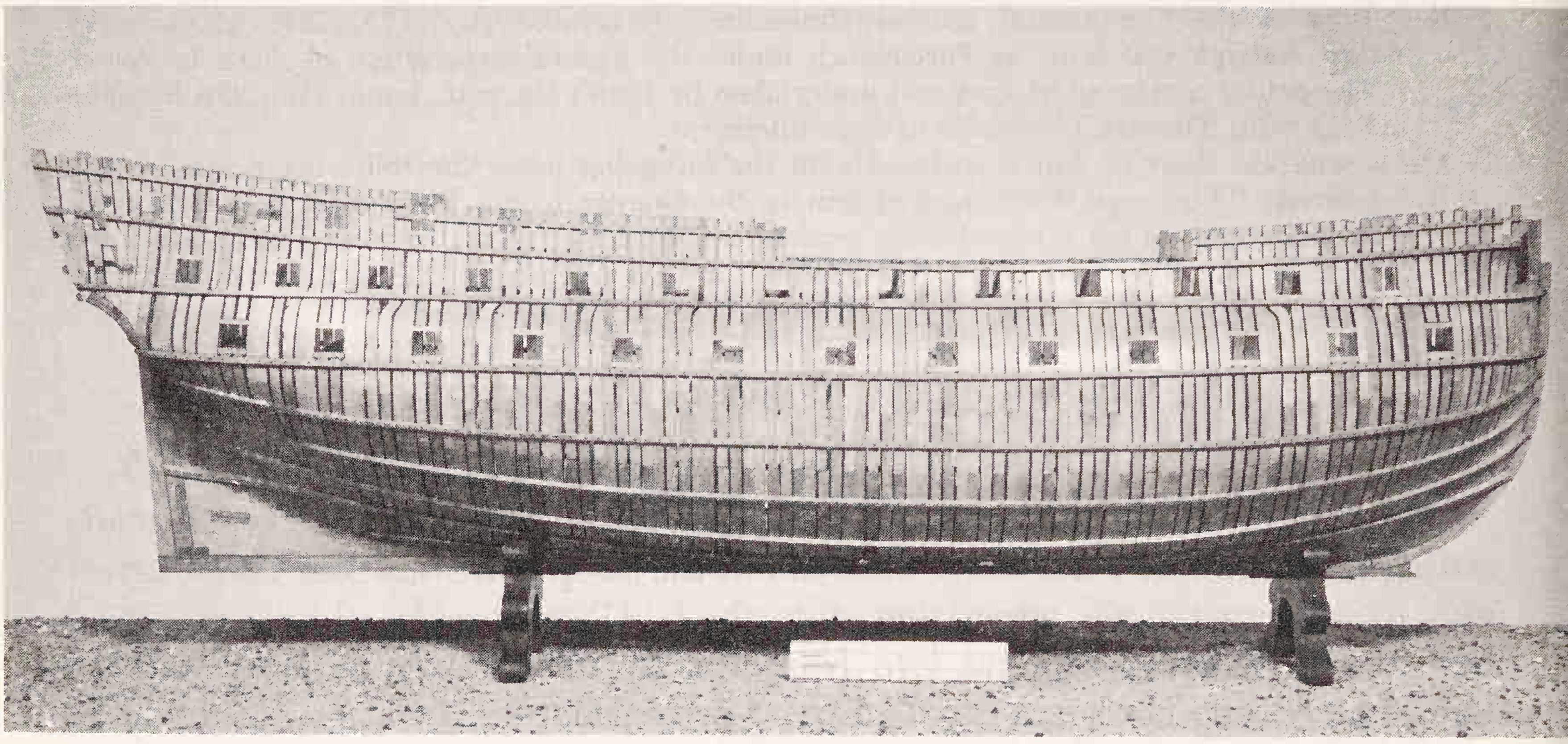
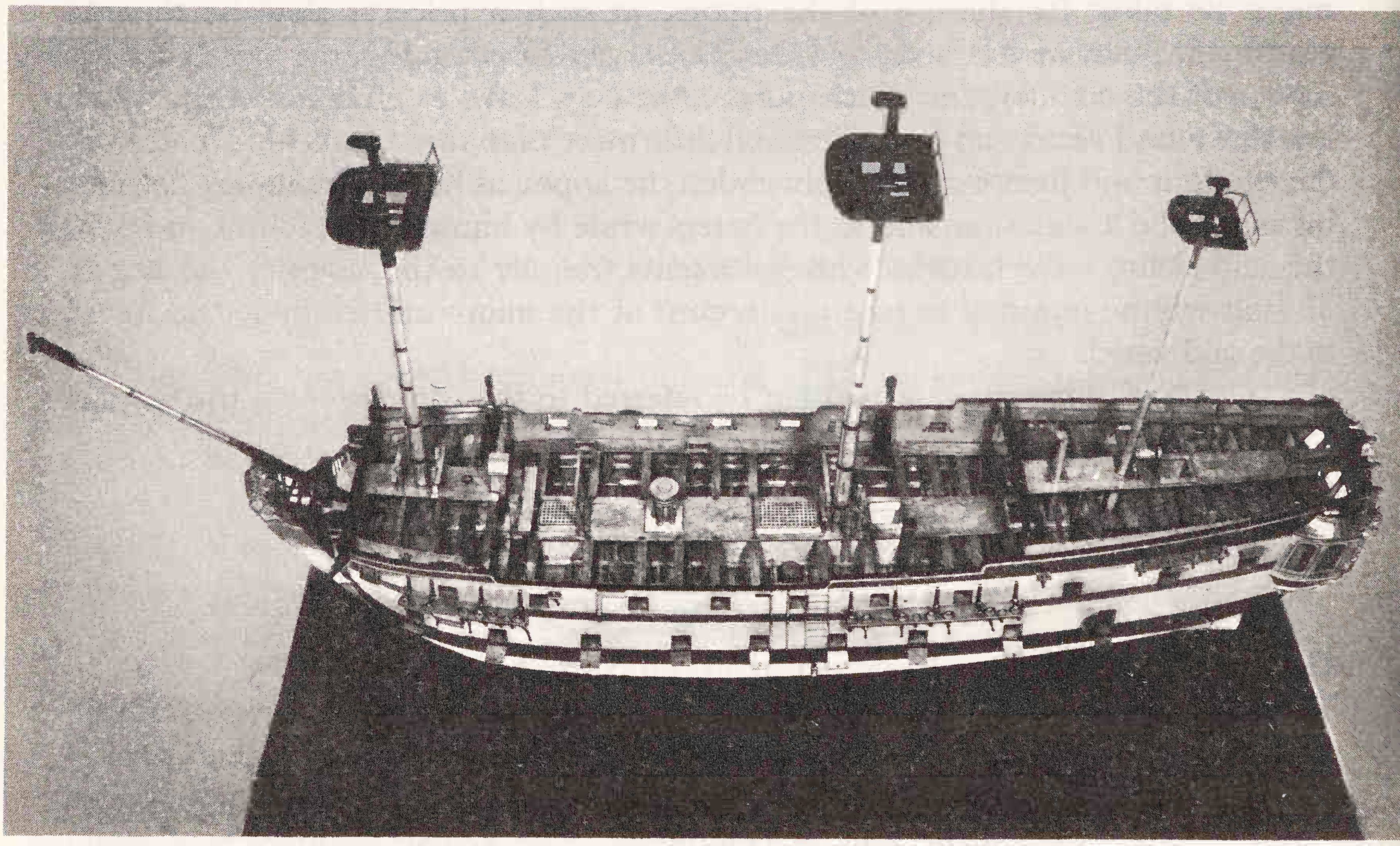
1. *Virginia Convention,* 72.
2. See Purdie's *Virginia Gazette,* December 15, 1775.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Otter,* CAPTAIN MATTHEW SQUIRE[1]

Decemr 1775	Elizabeth River [off Norfolk]
Thursday 14	AM Received Bread on board. Sailed hence the small Craft. Moderate & fair Weather. The Rebels came into the Town of Norfolk. at 7 PM they fired several Rifles at the Ship. Sailed [ ]a the Earl of Dunmore. The People at quarters all night
Friday 15	First & middle parts fine Weather latter little Wind PM anchor'd here the *Kings Fisher*. Exercised great Guns & small Arms.
Saturday 16	AM hove short on the Best Bower. Sent a Flag of Truce on shore; at Noon it returnd. at same time sent a boat on board of [the] Salt Brig with some People in order to get her under Way Variable Weather at ½ past 4 came to sail. Boats employd towing down Elizabeth River at ½ past six anchord off the





(*Top*) *British ship-of-the-line,* Intrepid, *c. 1771.* (*Bottom*) *British fire ship,* Firebrand, *1777.*

watering place with the Best Bower in 4 fathom water Veered to ⅓ of a Cable.

Sunday 17 at 10 AM the Rebels fired at a boat going up the River. Fired 2 Six pounders which made them desist from firing. Received water on board

Squally Weather Employd setting up the Rigging Received water on board—

Monday 18 Sailed hence the *Kings Fisher* for Crany Island Squally Weather at 3 PM came to sail at 4 anchor'd a'breast of the Town [of] Norfolk as did the *Betsey* armed Sloop Veered away & moored Best Bower to the Nd small to the Sd sent our boats & cut away a Ship from the Wharf sent a Flag of Truce on shore to the Rebels. made the signal to [call] in all Cruizers at 5 Anchord here the *Kings Fisher*. The Flag of Truce return'd, cleard Ship. All hands at quarters.

Tuesday 19 Hove taught our Spring & brot our Broadside to bear on the Town.

Variable Weather.

Wednesday 20 AM Received 3 Puncheons of water on board. Sailed hence the *Betsey* Tender with a Pilot for the *Liverpool* Frigate which had just [Arri]v'd from England with an Ordnance Brig for this place —

Fresh Breezes & cloudy Weather.

Thursday 21 AM Received Wood & Water on board. Anchord here his Majestys Ship *Liverpool* with an Ordnance Vessel

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1. PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

Journal of the North Carolina Provincial Council [1]

[Johnston County Court House]
Thursday 21st December 1775.

This Council taking into Consideration the necessity of fitting out Armed Vessels for the protection of the Trade of this Province, that there be three Armed Vessels fitted out with all dispatch, to wit, one at Cape Fear, one at New Bern and one at Edenton, do Resolve, That Mr President, Samuel Ashe, Richard Quince, Robert Ellis Esquires, and Captain John Forster or any three of them are appointed Commissioners at Port Brunswick; Abner Nash, James Coor, Joseph Leech, James Davis, Richard Ellis, Esquires, and Messrs John Green, David Baron and John Wright Stanley or a Majority of them, are appointed Commissioners at port Beaufort and Samuel Johnston, Thomas Jones, Joseph Montfort, Robert Hardy, Robert Smith Esquires and Mr John Norcomb or a Majority of them, are appointed Commissioners at Port Roanoke, and that the said Commissioners do immediately purchase, arm, man and victual in a sufficient manner at each of the above mentioned ports one good and substantial Vessel, and to recommend proper Officers to this Council and to station them at such place or places as they may think proper prudent and necessary in order to protect the

Trade and Commerce of this Province the whole under the Controul of the provincial Congress and Council.

Resolved That the Commissioners appointed for each of the ports mentioned by the above resolve or a Majority of them, are hereby impowered to draw on either of the Treasurers of this Province for all necessary sums of Money to answer the above purposes, who shall be allowed the same in their Accounts with the Public.

Resolved, That Abner Nash and James Coor Esquires or either of them be impowered to charter one or more Vessels and agree with Masters and Seamen at the port of New Bern, and load the same to such parts as they may judge expedient, and with such Articles as they may think proper not exceeding the sum of five hundred pounds proclamation Money, in Order to procure Arms and Ammunition for the use and protection of this province the same to be at the hazard risk and expence of this province.

Resolved That Mr President, Richard Quince, Senr and John Foster, Esquires or either of them be impowered to charter one or more Vessels, and agree with Masters and Seamen at the port of Wilmington and load the same to such parts as they shall judge expedient and with such articles as they may think proper not exceeding the sum of five hundred pounds in order to procure Arms and Ammunition for the use and protection of this province the same to be at the hazard risk and Expence of this province.

Resolved That Whitmill Hill Esquire be impowered to charter one or more Vessels and agree with Masters and Seamen at the port of Edenton and load the same to such Parts as he shall judge expedient and with such Articles as he may think proper not exceeding the sum of Five hundred pounds proclamation money in order to procure Arms and Ammunition for the use and protection of this province, the same to be at the hazard, Risk and Expence of this Province

It appearing to this Council that John Simpson, Edward Salter and Robert Salter Esquires in behalf of the Committee of Pitt County, had agreed and executed Bonds with a certain paul White for a Quantity of powder and lead, and at the same time undertook to indemnify the said Paul White in his Vessel during the Completion of the Voyage. And whereas the said Vessel on her Arrival at Occacock [Ocracocke] Bar, was taken by a Cutter belonging to some of His Majesty's Ships of War and detained as a prize but the Ammunition saved by taking out the same at Sea.

Resolved, That John Simpson, Edward Salter and Robert Salter be allowed the sum of eight hundred and sixty pounds four shillings and eight pence, to enable them to comply with their Contract with the said Paul White; and that the Treasurers or either of them pay them the same and be allowed in their Accounts with the Public.

1. Secretary of State Papers (Provincial Conventions and Congresses/Councils 1774–1776), NCDAH.

SAMUEL JOHNSTON TO JOSEPH HEWES [1]

[Extract] Johnston Court-House 21 December 1775

Dear Sir Your Express found us here last night in Council, so there was no time lost in laying your dispatch before them. They were well pleased with having an Express from you and with the intelligence he brought, many of the things recommended by you were under their Contemplation and they are endeavouring to take some steps to protect our Inlets from Tenders with which they have of late [been] infested, for this purpose they have ordered three armed Vessells to be fitted out, one at Cape Fear one at New Bern and a third at Edenton under the direction of Commissioners at each of these places the two at Edenton and New Bern to act in conjunction at Peacock [Ocracocke] and we hope if properly conducted they will be sufficient to keep off anything that can come over our Bar –

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[1] Samuel Johnston Papers, Hayes Manuscripts, NCDAH. Letter continued December 22, 1775. Johnston was president of the North Carolina Provincial Congress.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

In the Council of Safety, [Charleston]
Thursday, Dec. 21st, 1775.

Mr. [John] Rutledge moved, that it should be taken into consideration to send a proper person to New-England, to engage seamen there, to man the naval armament of this colony.

Ordered, That the said motion be taken into consideration tomorrow morning.

Ordered, That a vessel now lying at George-Town, belonging to Gloucester, in New-England, be stopped from proceeding on her return, until further orders; and that an express be sent thither for that purpose.

The following letter was accordingly written:

> Charles-Town, Dec. 21st, 1775.
>
> Gentlemen – We wrote you the 19th by Vivien, who went from hence yesterday afternoon; since which, a plan of vast importance to the colony has been suggested to this board, which we shall take under consideration to-morrow. In the meantime, we think it necessary to detain the Gloucester New-England vessel in your port. We therefore desire you will prevent her sailing, until further direction. The bearer of this will present you with a good opportunity for sending that vessel's papers.
>
> By order of the Council of Safety.
>
> Henry Laurens, President.
>
> Committee at George-Town

Ordered, That Capt. [Benjamin] Stone be desired to drive off all the live stock from Morris Island to James Island; to seize John Morgridge, if he should be found there, and any negroes not belonging to Mr. Morris; and that Mr. John Morris be desired to remove immediately to Charles-Town, with his own slaves.

In the Council of Safety, Dec. 21st, 1775.

Sir – You are desired to employ proper persons immediately, and order all the live stock of every kind to be driven or brought from Morris' Island to James Island. An inventory to be made of numbers, quality, and whose property, to be transmitted to this board.

Mr. Morris, if on the island, to be ordered immediately to Charles-Town; and if John Morgridge is there, and can be taken, you are to send him under a guard to Charles-Town, or deliver him to the commanding officer at Fort Johnson, to be sent by the first opportunity. Take also any negroes not Mr. Morris's property, and order such as are to come away with him.

By order of the Council of Safety.

Henry Laurens, President.

Capt. Benjamin Stone

Ordered, That Capt. [Richard] Shubrick be desired to cause all the live stock to be driven off (his) Bull's Island.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society,* III, 105–07.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Tamar,* CAPTAIN EDWARD THORNBROUGH [1]

1775 In Rebellion Road So Carolina

December 18 AM Sailed his Majs Sloop *Scorpion, Palliser* Transport with two Sloops & a Schooner which were Seized Do the Longboat a Watering

19 At 7 AM a Party of Rebells sett fire to the House on Sullivans Island & took prisiners two Men belonging to the *Cherokee* & a boy belonging to this Ship –
First pt fresh gales & Clear Middle & latter little wind at 2 PM Weighed & Shifted our Birth do Brot up in 10 fm Water Veered to ½ a Cable Cumming's Point bore SE½E the Chimney on Sullivan's Isld NEBE½E off Shore ⅓ of a Mile

20 First & midle pt mode & Clear latter hazey Empld Occasionally

21 Observed the Rebells throwing up an Entrenchment to the Noward of the Road the Rebells return'd the Aforementioned Boy
PM fired 2 Guns as a Signal to a Ship in the Offing Longboat watering

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/968.

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22 Dec.

AN ANONYMOUS LETTER TO MAJOR GENERAL RICHARD MONTGOMERY [1]

Sir Montreal the 22d Decr 1775.

Altho' we have not the Honour to be known to you, we find it very necessary to acquaint you with what passes here, to the End that you may not in future fall a Victim to the Humanity which has been your chief Guide since your arrival at this City – Humanity and Generosity are qualities inestimable to Man, but in certain Circumstances the Situation of the person ought to be considered to the End that Care may be taken that such Generosity may not be used to serve other purposes – Many of the Citizens are surprised that all the Place-Men, that were made prisoners in the eleven Vessels taken near Sorrel have not been sent down to the neighbouring Colonies, as those persons go in and out of almost every House in the City, holding a Conversation big with the most inhuman Sentiments and the most disadvantageous to the Cause of Liberty. There are also in Town, those who held Commissions under Government who hold very indecent & indiscreet Conversations and who grow insolent & insupportable It is therefore to be hoped that as soon as the Rivers are taken and that the Roads are passable that you will send all those who were taken in the eleven Vessels down to the other Colonies on the Continent. It is the only Method to silence those who have any bad Designs and to procure peace and Tranquillity to those who have nothing more at Heart than your Welfare & Success and who desire to assure you that they are with true Sincerity and Respect Sir [&c.]

The faithful Union with Liberty

[Endorsed] The above is a Translation of an original Letter sent from Montreal to Genl Montgomery at the Camp before Quebec by some Friend to the Cause.

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, I, 468, NA.

GOVERNOR FRANCIS LEGGE TO LORD DARTMOUTH [1]

No 55

My Lord Halifax, Nova Scotia 22 December 1775

I have the honor to receive the public despatches of the 16th October last No 20 (Signed by the Earl of Suffolk in Your Lordship's absence) by the Packet which arrived here the 20th Instant.

I have in my several letters herewith transmitted, wrote you fully on all the material circumstances, which have happened since my last and would observe, that as the Winter is already set in very severely, the Navigation in the Bay of Fundy will soon become hazardous and dangerous, and that it is improbable any further attempt will be made on that part of the Province this winter, the most that may be expected is the infesting the Coasts and interrupting the communication between this Port and Boston, and I am in hopes from the full and frequent informations I have given the Admiral he will take care to prevent even that.

It gives me inexpressible pleasure that His Majesty has been pleased to make the preservation of His Province of Nova Scotia, the object of his attention and care.

The importance of it in so critical situation of American Affairs will become more evident when it is considered that it is the only settled Province on the Sea Coasts, which has preserved itself from the madness and contagion which has overspread all the other of His Majesty's Colonies, and I am in hopes I shall be able to preserve them in their loyalty and fidelity, and which will greatly depend on a sufficient number of Troops stationed in the most defensible parts of the Province, where the Emigrants from America are the most numerous and the danger of the Incursions of the Rebels into those parts the most probable, which may be effected by the number of Troops at present stationed here and to be raised.

His Majesty's Orders and Instructions to me for the raising a Regiment under my command for the defence of Nova Scotia, I shall immediately put into execution, in the manner directed and shall exert every possible method to levy and complete the Regiment. I beg leave to repeat to your Lordship the great difficulty every department of Government labours under, upon account of the great scarcity of money at present, both in Boston and here so that Money has not been procured, but under the disadvantageous loss to Government of Ten and sometimes fifteen P cent discount; to remedy this I would humbly propose to your Lordship that, for the pay of this Regiment, money might be sent from home, by some Man of War for its security; as it is probable the rebels will have cruisers early in the Spring on these Coasts; and I am also obliged to repeat the scarcity of Provisions and the impossibility of purchasing any Quantity for that purpose, and the necessary [necessity] there will be of sending the supplies from home, for if it could have been got here I should long ere this have embodied a detachment of the Militia of this Province of at least Five hundred men, but the impossibility of procuring Provision defeated the design.

As to disarming those who are disaffected it cannot be done, but at a time when His Majesty's Troops are so disposed in Quarters, as to prevent any ill consequence which might ensue thereon but they are at present in a manner disarmed for they have neither Powder nor Ball in most of these settlements of American and I do propose when detachments are sent to those outsettlements that ammunition will of course be sent with them, and that those persons well affected to Government, shall be supplied and none others; I have Persons of Fidelity in every settlement from whom I am informed of every transaction of any moment, and all matters are at present quiet and peacable, and the proclaiming martial law, and the speedy punishment of rebellious proceedings will have a tendency to keep them so.

I hope your Lordship will be satisfied after the perusal of the public acts and other public papers herewith transmitted, I have not omitted to press every thing for the public service and to preserve this Province in its due allegiance and promote its true interest and welfare; and it would have given me the most singular pleasure to have had all His Majesty's Servants concurring with me in so necessary measures, at so alarming and critical a time when our utmost efforts conjointly would scarcely be sufficient to preserve the public peace and tranquillity.

As many persons have come from the Colonies since these troubles, of a suspicious conduct, I thought it necessary, that besides the usual State oaths, a particular test of their due submission to the King and Parliament and their authority should be acknowledged with their detestation of the proceedings of the rebellious Colonists, and a Form of such test was part of the late Act for the ready admission of the Inhabitants but rejected by the Assembly, a copy of which is herewith transmitted to your Lordship; and tho' it has not passed the Assembly

I think it will be necessary to oblige those who apply either for Provision or Land, to take and subscribe the same. I have &c.

Signed Francis Legge

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[1] Letters to Secretary of State, October 2, 1775, to September 30, 1783, N.S. Arch.

MINUTES OF THE CONNECTICUT COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

New Haven, Friday 22d December, 1775.

On motion &c. voted, That an order be drawn on the Pay-Table in favor of Cap. Robt Niles of the armed schooner *Spy,* for the sum of £100, to be by him accounted for on settlement of his account, and in so far payment of the wages &c. of his hands on board said schooner. *And order drawn and delivered him next morning.*

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[1] Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut Records,* XV, 221.

COLONEL GOLD SELLECK SILLIMAN TO REVEREND JOSEPH FISH, STONINGTON [1]

[Extract] New Haven Decemr 22d 1775

As to News I dont think of any thing I can tell You that will be so to You, unless it be that we have an American Fleet, at Philadelphia that is to be ready for Sea by Monday next; consisting of One Ship of 36 Guns, One of 30 Guns, two large Brigs of 16 Guns each, and one of Ten Guns, this Fleet tho not sufficient to meet the Enemy's large Ships, will nevertheless prevent the Depredations which they may hereafter attempt to committ and oblige their small Ships & Sloops of Warr as well as their Tenders to keep within a narrower Compass. This Colony I am told have determined to put two more Vessels of Warr into Commission, one a large Brigt of 140 Tons to mount 16 Guns they have purchased this Week; and they are looking out for another and intend to have them both equipt as soon as possible, which aded to the two already in Commission, I am in Hopes will be a great Protection to our own Co[a]sts.

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[1] Trumbull and other Assorted Papers, YUL.

DAVID WATERBURY TO THE CONNECTICUT COMMITTEE OF THE PAY TABLE [1]

Gentm Greenwich Decbr 22d 1775

Pursuant to a Resolve of the Genrll Assembly of this Colony holden by Spetial order of his Honr the Governor at New Haven the 4th Day of Decembr 1775 I have Purchased the B[r]igantine *Lilly Ann* [2] of Capt John Grigg of Greenwich with her Riging Sails & appertinances for the Sum of one Thousand Pounds Lawfull money for the Govr & Company of this Colony, You are therefore Order[e]d to Pay unto sd John Grigg the said Sum of one Thousand Pounds Lawfull Money by order of Gentm [&c.]

David Waterbery pr Commity

To the Comtte of the Pay Table Heartford

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[1] Conn. Arch., 1st Series, IX, 52a, ConnSL.

[2] Subsequently named the *Defence.*

Journal of the New York Provincial Congress[1]

[New York] Die Veneris, 9 HO. A.M. December 22d, 1775.

Mr. [Comfort] Sands from the committee appointed to plan and report a voyage to the West Indies to obtain ammunition, delivered in a report of such voyage, which was read and filed, and in the words following, to wit:

The sub-committee appointed to employ a sloop for the Island of Martinico Gaudeloupe or St. Eustatia, Report:

> That they think it necessary to load her with provisions on account and risk of this Congress, and proceed first to said French islands in order to get permission to sell her cargo there. If no permission should be granted at any of the French islands, he proposes to dispose of said cargo at St. Eustatia, or any other Dutch, Danish or French port. We also report that a vessel can be had on the following conditions, vizt:

A vessel that will carry about 40 tons provisions, is entitled for common freight,	£150
Insurance on a vessel valued at £700, at 10 per ct. including allowance for common risk,	70
1 mo's. hire in going from island to island to dispose of her cargo and to obtain the powder,	60
	£280

We further report in case this powder is to be had, and this vessel is to return with the same, that she be allowed for her common freight home, the sum of	£100
Insurance on said vessel to run all risks of vessel, valued £700, at 20 per cent,	140
	£240

> We further propose, in case there should be opportunity, to ship the said powder in any other fast sailing vessel, that privilege be granted for the same, and the above vessel be discharged: this plan we conceive will be much to the Congress's advantage – as it may be freighted home for less than half what must be paid this vessel for; but in case there should not be an opportunity to ship it home in another vessel, that then this vessel agrees to bring it for the above sum of £240.

Resolved, That this Congress does agree to the above report, and direct the said committee to carry the same into execution at the risk and on the behalf of the Congress of this Colony; and the Congress agree to allow the sum of £280 for the outward bound voyage of the said vessel, or so much thereof as shall become due – and £240 for her freight and insurance back to this Colony, if she should return with arms and ammunition.

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[1] *New York Provincial Congress,* I, 231–32.

CAPTAIN WILLIAM LOWTHER TO JOSEPH HEWES [1]

Dear Sir I Left Edenton the 26th Novr and Arrived at Sandy hook the 16th Inst where I was Stopt and Detained by Capt Parker of His Majesties Ship *Phoenix*,[2] and all our Chests Searched for Letters, I happened to have a great Number which were all taken and Carried on Board the Man of War where about one half of them were opened when they were Returned to me next Day, one only was Detained which was from Mr [Samuel] Johnston for you the Capt told me it gave a very Particular Account of the usage Mr Pollock met with at Edenton & that he was Resolved to Shew it to governor Tryon as he understood Mr Pollock was in the Circle of His Acquaintance, that it did Honor to Mr Johnston and he hoped would be of Service to him at a future day – they Still Detain my Sloop & Cargo and the Capt Says She must be sent to Boston. I Delivered the Acct of [Hew]es & Smith to Mr. [Robert] Smith at Edenton the Ballance due one [hund]red fifty two pounds [n]ine Shillings 5½, Say 152..9..5½ which he had no means of paying me but Desired me to write you and he hoped you would [b]e Able to Remit me the Ballance [at 10] for Insurance of Mr Bakers Brig and a Bill Mr Smith Drue in favour of Kelly Lott & Co I am Realy Straitned for Cash & if you can Remit me that Sum it will greatly oblidg me the Brig was arrived & at the upper end of the Swash when we came out the 6th Inst. your Brig was not got Down She was at Nixonlon, Both Mr Berry & Andrew Knox were Dead at Newbern. Mr Smith came home from Newbern the night before we came away and had not time to write, Perhaps you may not Know that the Soldiers at Edenton Tar'd Mr Pollock & Burnt his Carriage about the 25th Novr I am [&c.]

Newyork Decr 22d 1775 Wm Lowther

[P.S.] Mrs Bondfield was Dead some days before we Left Edenton

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[1] Hayes Manuscripts, NCDAH.

[2] The stopping of Lowther's vessel was not considered an important event by the keeper of H.M.S. *Phoenix*'s journal, the only mention being: "fir'd 3 Shot at different times to bring Vessels too coming in," PRO, Admiralty 51/693.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS [1]

[Philadelphia] Friday, December 22, 1775

The Committee appointed to fit out armed vessels, laid before Congress a list of the officers by them appointed, agreeable to the resolutions of Congress, viz.

Esek Hopkins, Esqr commander in chief of the fleet.

Captains

Dudley Saltonstall, Esqr, of the *Alfred*.
Abraham Whipple, Esqr, of the *Columbus*.
Nicholas Biddle, Esqr, of the *Andrew Doria*.
John Burrows Hopkins, Esqr, of the *Cabot*.

1st lieutenants

John Paul Jones,
Rhodes Arnold,
[Richard] Stansbury,
Hersted [Hoysteed] Hacker,
Jonathan Pitcher.

2d lieutenants

Benjamin Seabury,
Joseph Olney,
Elisha Warner,
Thomas Weaver,
[John] M'Dougal.

3 lieutenants

John Fanning,
Ezekiel Burroughs,[2]
Daniel Vaughan.

Resolved, That the pay of the commander in chief of the Fleet be 125 dollars per calendar month.

Resolved, That commissions be granted to the above officers agreeable to their rank in the above appointment.

Resolved, That the Committee for fitting out armed vessels, issue warrants to all officers employed in the fleet under the rank of 3d lieutenants.

Resolved, That the Committee for fitting out armed vessels be directed (as a secret committee) to give such instructions to the commander of the fleet, touching the operations of the ships under his command, as shall appear to the said committee most conducive to the defence of the United Colonies, and [to] the distress of the enemy's naval forces and vessels bringing supplies to their fleets and armies, and lay such instructions before the Congress when called for.

Resolved, That the said Committee be directed to consider how the shares of the prizes allotted to the captors ought to be divided between the officers and men, and report to Congress.

The Committee of Claims reported that there is due,

To Benjamin Harrison, Esqr for his expences in his late journey to Maryland, amounting to £27.3.2 – 72.4 dollars.[3]

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1. Ford, ed., *JCC,* III, 443–45.
2. This list is incomplete and imperfect. While it assigns the captains to their respective vessels, the lieutenants are merely grouped by rank. They can be further identified as follows:

1st Lieutenants	date of entry	name of vessel
John Paul Jones	Dec. 7, 1775	*Alfred*
Rhodes Arnold	Nov. 20, 1775	*Columbus*
Richard Stansbury	Did not accept a commission	
Hoysteed Hacker	Nov. 20, 1775	*Cabot*
Jonathan Pitcher	Nov. 20, 1775	*Alfred*

2d Lieutenants	date of entry	name of vessel
Benjamin Seabury	Nov. 20, 1775	*Alfred*
Joseph Olney	Nov. 20, 1775	*Columbus*
Elisha Warner		*Andrew Doria*
Thomas Weaver		*Cabot*
John M'Dougal		*Andrew Doria*

3d Lieutenants	date of entry	name of vessel
John Fanning	Nov. 25, 1775	*Alfred*
Ezekiel Burroughs	Nov. 20, 1775	*Columbus*
Daniel Vaughan	No record of him	*Cabot*

3. Harrison was sent to Maryland to help outfit two or three armed vessels on the Continental account. See Journal of the Continental Congress, December 2, 1775; Volume 2, 1231–33.

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH [1]

[Philadelphia] Friday Decr 22. Esek Hopkins Esqr of Rhode Island (the same that commanded their Forces in Quality of Brig. General) appointed Commander in Chief of the American Fleet, he is to sail with the Ships of War now fitting out In the Port of Philadelphia and his Pay was voted to be 125 Dollars p Month 6 Colonies to 4 – the latter thought the Pay too high — the Captains, Lieuts & Warrant officers as appointed by our Comee for Naval Affairs, were ordered to be Commissioned, the Question was put Whether any Allowance shall be made to the Admiral for Table Expences & negatived by a large Majority—Mr. Hopkins had very generously offered to serve without any Pay — Col. [Richard Henry] Lee & others gave Him a high Character . . . Col [Benjamin] Harrison the Delegate's Expences ordered to be paid for going lately to Maryland to promote the Equipment of some Frigates there

[1] Richard Smith's Diary, LC.

JOHN HANCOCK TO GEORGE WASHINGTON [1]

[Extract] Philada Decr 22d. 1775. –

The Congress receive, with great satisfaction, your congratulations on the success of Capt Manly. By the enclosed resolves you will perceive their determination on the captures already made, as well as those what may be made hereafter.[2] It is expected the several colonies will erect courts of admiralty, and that the judges in those courts will regulate their decisions by the law of nations, except where it is relaxed by the enclosed resolutions.

I am further directed to inform you, that the Congress approve your taking such of the articles found on board the *Concord,* as are necessary for the army. The necessity of the case will, they apprehend, justify the measure, even though the vessel, upon trial, should, contrary to their expectation, be acquitted.

[1] Washington Papers, LC.
[2] See Journal of the Continental Congress, December 19 and 20, 1775.

SAMUEL ADAMS TO JOHN ADAMS [1]

[Extract] Philada Decr 22 1775

Since you left us, our Colony has sometimes been divided, on Questions that appeard to me to be important – Mr C [Thomas Cushing] has no doubt a Right to speak his opinions whenever he can form one; and you must agree with him, that it was highly reasonable, the Consideration of such Letters as you have often heard read, which had been assigned for the Day, should, merely for the Sake of order, have the Preference to so trifling Business as the raising an American Navy – I know it give you great Pleasure to be informd that this Congress have orderd the Building of thirteen Ships of War, viz five of 32 Guns, five of 28 and three of 24 – I own I wishd for double or treble the Number, but I am taught the Rule of Prudence, to let the fruit hang till it is ripe, otherwise those Fermemtations and morbid Acrimonies might be producd in the political which the like Error is said to produce in the natural Body – Our Colony is to build two of these Ships [2] – We may want Duck – I have been told that this Article is manufacturd in the Counties of Hampshire & Berkshire – you may think this worth your Enquiry.—

Our Fleet which has been preparing here will be ready to put to Sea in two or three days, and it is left to the Board of Admiraltey[3] to order its Destination – May Heaven succeed the Undertaking – Hopkins is appointed Commander in Chiefe – I dare promise that he will on all Occasions distinguish his Bravery, as he always has, and do honor to the American Flag—

1. Adams Papers, MassHS.
2. The frigates *Hancock* and *Boston*.
3. Samuel Adams' term for the Naval Committee.

PURDIE'S *Virginia Gazette,* FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1775

Williamsburg, December 22.

Last night col. [Patrick] Henry received an express from Hampton, with the agreeable intelligence that capt. [James] Barron, in a small pilot boat which he had fitted out, has taken and brought in there two vessels with Salt to the amount of 4600 bushels; that he had likewise taken a vessel going to the Eastern Shore for provisions for the ministerial gentry that have lately been expelled from Norfolk, which had on board 15 blacks commanded by capt. Collett; and, when the express left Hampton, was in pursuit of another craft, supposed to be a tender. The *Liverpool* frigate, gone up to Norfolk, mounts 28 guns, and the brig with her is a storeship, laden with arms and ammunition. Between them, they have 400 men on board, none of them soldiers except the usual complement of marines. This late acquisition of strength has much elated lord Dunmore and his party, we hear: and Norfolk, Hampton, and all the river settlements, are threatened with fire and sword.

SAMUEL JOHNSTON TO JOSEPH HEWES[1]

[Extract] [Johnston Court-House] 22nd [December]

Our Governor has sailed for some time from Cape Fear it is thought for Charles Town he had some of the Council to meet on board the *Cruizer* the 20th but we have not yet heard of his return, he has by some means or other kept up a Communication with the Regulators to the Westward they are very Insolent in the County of Chatham no one will accept any command in the Militia the Committees below here have been too Remiss, This Council have Ordered that no personal Communication be had with Governor Martin or the Officers of the Men of War and any person in this Province on any pretext and that no letters be sent to him till they are inspected by some Committee this with the Defeat which some people of the same stamp have lately received in South Carolina added to Ld Dunmores Disgrace in Virginia we hope will damp their Spirits a little but I am not without apprehensions from that Quarter should they receive any considerable Encouragement or Assistance from Government.

I wrote you and Hooper not less than five Letters by different conveyances I am much afraid they [have] fallen into bad hands – my last went by the way of New York by Lowther [2]

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1. Samuel Johnston Papers, Hayes Manuscripts, NCDAH. Continuation of December 21 letter.
2. See William Lowther's letter of December 22, 1775 for confirmation of Johnston's fears.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

In the Council of Safety, [Charleston]
Friday Dec. 22nd, 1775.

Mr. President laid before the board copies of two letters he had written last night, which were approved of, and are as follows:

> Charles-Town, Dec. 21, 1775.
>
> Sir – A ship appears in the offing; it is thought, by the best judges, she is the expected packet. Expedition on our own part will enable you to reconnoitre, and if practicable, take possession of her, and conduct her into a place of safety; from whence intelligence may be given to the Council of Safety, and their orders waited for. Lose no time. I am sure you will act with fortitude and discretion. I am, sir, Your obedient servant,
>
> Henry Laurens.
>
> Capt. Vesey.

> Charles-Town, Dec. 21, 1775.
>
> Sir – I desire you will send the enclosed letter without one moment's delay, by a good opportunity, to Capt. Vesey. And whatever expence attends the conveyance, will be paid by the Council of Safety. I entreat you to lose no time, and send this letter by a good hand. I am, sir, [&c.]
>
> Henry Laurens.
>
> Capt. Benj. Stone.

Read a letter from Mr. Alexander Gillon, dated Beaufort, 19th December, 1775.

Read a letter from John Raven Bedon, to Mr. Thomas Corbett, dated Cape Francois, 23rd November, 1775, inclosing invoice of sundry muskets and parcels of gunpowder purchased and sent by him.

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1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society,* III, 107–09.

23 Dec.

GOVERNOR FRANCIS LEGGE TO LORD SUFFOLK [1]

My Lord Halifax, Nova Scotia 23rd December 1775

I have the honor to receive the public despatches of October 16th last No 20 with his Majesty's Instructions for forming a Regiment for the defence of Nova Scotia, signed by your Lordship. I shall exert myself to the utmost of my ability to carry the same into execution.

The great care and attention his Majesty has expressed, for the preservation of this Province, must fill the minds of every friend to His Majesty and Government with the greatest gratitude. From information I have received from every Quarter, the destruction of the Province has most certainly been the meditated design of the rebels, and five thousand men have been allotted by the Congress for that purpose, but providentially the small pox in the Town of Halifax and the Ships of War as Convoy to the Transports loading at the Ports in the Bay of Fundy has been the means of delaying their intended expedition hitherto and I am in hopes, the Winter being now set in and the navigation of the Bay at such a season extremely hazardous and dangerous, will prevent any attempt this Winter. The arrival of the twenty seventh Regiment, with the Recruits of Gorham's and McLean's Regiment, has greatly altered the Military appearance in this Province and I hope will tend to insure its safety. I have &c

Signed/ Francis Legge

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[1] Letters to Secretary of State, October 2, 1775, to September 30, 1783, N.S. Arch.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS [1]

[Exeter] December 23d 1775.

Voted, that Capt. Pierce Long, Samuel Cutts, & Samuel Sherburne Esq. be paid out of the Treasury a sum sufficient to make up to them the Two Thousand pounds Lawful money voted them by the late Congress to Lay out in Cargoes for the Foreign West Indies to procure Arms, Ammunition &c. for this Colony.

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[1] Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire,* VII, 695.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M. SLOOP *Nautilus* [1]

Decembr 1775 Thatchers Island WSW, 2 or 3 Miles,

Saturday 23d [A.M.] out 3d & 2d reeft Topsails [at 10] Sett Steering sails Fresh gales & Clear Wr

at 2 [P.M.] saw several sail to the Wtard, gave Chace to them, at 3 down Steering sails, and hawld the wind, at 4 wore & stood for the Light House being well up the Bay, fir'd 3 shott at a schooner to Leeward, supposing her to be arm'd

at ½ past 6, came too in Nantasket road wth the Bt Bower in 6 fathm water, vear'd ½ a Cable found Lying here several of his Majs ship[s] & some Transports,

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 52/1884.

CAPTAIN FRANCIS HUTCHESON TO MAJOR GENERAL FREDERICK HALDIMAND [1]

[Extract] Boston, December 23d 1775 –

I wrote you several Letters last week by the Ships that sailed the 15th Inst for England . . .

The day after the Ships Sailed from Hence for England, the *Scarborough,* Man of War of 20 Guns lying at Bartons Point, began firing at a New Work the Rebells are Erecting at Phipsses farm – soon after the Salute was returned from

2 Guns they have in the Redoubt on Coblers or Mil[l]ers hill Just below Mount Pisgea; the Sixth Shot they fired hit the Ship, and she was soon after ordered to fall down opposite to Charlestown Ferry, where she now Rides in Safety – We have fired Many Shot & Shells from our Batterys at Charlestown & Bartons Point, these 3 days past on this new work of theirs, which we apprehend is intended to disturb us in our Quarters, which it certainly will, if we are not able to Silence it by a Superior fire. they threw an 18 pound Shot last Monday [December 18] from Coblers hill into Lord [Hugh] Percys Garden, & we Dayly Expect a Salute from the Morter they took in the Ordnance Brig they got from us, which on being brought to Cambridge was made use of as a Punch bowl, out of which it is reported they drank good health to Admiral Gs [Graves] – Our Sea Morters are Mounted & yesterday there was a Shell thrown out of one of them from Charlestown to Cambridge, you know the distance –

But four of the thirty Sail of provision fuel & Store Ships are as yet arrived from England, One said to be the *Spy* was taken last Sunday Morning and carried into Salem her Cargo is Chiefly Coal, an Article we much want, there is now about 800 Chalderen [chaldron] arrived and our Consumption is 214 Chaldren P Week. last Week there was orders for pulling down the useless houses and breaking up the Wharfs, to form Magazines of fuel in the different destricks of the Regiments; they had been at Work two days, but on the arrival of the Ships with Coal that order was Countermanded however I fear we must fall to Work again very soon unless more Coal arrives; the *Renown* Man of War got on shore at the back of the lighthouse on Sunday night, but has got off again without much Damage, the Sheep and Hogs Shiped on board, the four Ships already arrived have almost all died, one Ship that Sailed with 1400 Sheep has landed only 18, and the others in the same proportion; the Potatoes are a good deal damaged, but the Porter is in good order Shou'd all these Ships arrive safe here it will be a Very seasonable & welcom Support to us, but shou'd We loose it all, its a great Satisfaction to find that Government has so Generous an attention to our Wants, and has taken much pain's to Supply us –

Colonel Massey the other day appointed in orders a Brigadr with Mr Stodham a Gentleman he brought with him his Major of Brigade, is arrived at Halifax, with the 27th Regt and the remaining Six Companys of the 17th Regt the 65th Regt was as far down as Nantasket on board a transport for that place, when the news of their arrival came here, on which they were ordered back and disembarked this day – the 55th Regt its said is ordered to this place, and the 20th & 46th to Quebec, if the news we received from a flag of truce at the lines last Tuesday be true, they will be prisoners if they go there; as its said the Rebels had the night before an Express from Canada of the Surrender of Quebec and all that Province to them, and that Brigr General Prescot was prisoner; they go so far as to say, that General Carleton is prisoner, but you may depend on Prescots being taken; in short that Country is now intirely lost to us, and must cost us a Campaign to regain it.[2]

Its a long time since we heard from New York or the Southern Provinces. The Rebell Admirals OBryan, and Hopkins Reign triumphant or'e the deep, the former has lately Vissited the Island of St Johns with a Ship of 20 Guns and two

Armed Sloops, and have taken off the President of the Council from that Island & 14 Sail of Vessells along the Cost –[3]

Captn Wallace of the *Rose* – Stationed at Rhode Island continues to act wth his usual Spirit, he landed lately at Connanicut in that Government, burnt 70 houses and brought of[f] Eight prisoners, its said that Hopkins is fiting out three Ships at Philadelphia 1 of 28 & two of 20 Guns Each, to come and atack Wallace who will be glad to see them, as he has his own Ship of 20 Guns the *Glasgow* of 20 Guns and the *Swan* of 16 Guns to receive them. Captn Vandeput in the *Asia* is gone to Virginia, and the *Phenix* [*Phoenix*] with the *Viper* are Stationed at New York –[4] We are dayly sending out the People who incline to go from hence and shall have shortly none of the inhabitants remaining with us, but the few friends to Government who dare not go among the Rebells – . . . the Torys in this place, (tho' they are in some measure the innocent cause of the Misfortunes of it, by not Exarting themselves in proper time) are realy to be pittied, many familys with whome you were acquainted last Winter, & had their Seven or Eight fires in their Houses, are now reduced to one, to Cook and sit by it, with their Servants – In short we are Caught in the Toil, and it will be some time before we shall be able to work our way out of it. The Yankies will have fine pelting at us with Shot & Shells this Winter, the[y] have left no place un Occupied round us but Dorchester Neck

1. Haldimand Papers, BM.
2. A false rumor regarding the capture of Quebec.
3. Hutcheson had received a garbled account of the exploits of O'Brien and Washington's two captains, Broughton and Selman.
4. H.M.S. *Asia* did not go to Virginia, but remained at New York with H.M.S. *Phoenix*. H.M. Sloop *Viper* never arrived at New York, being forced to run south in heavy weather. See the journal of the *Viper* for December 3 to 10 under the latter date.

William Watson to George Washington [1]

Sir Plymouth December 23. 1775

The bearer Capt Samuel Jackson comes with six pr[i]soners, a Midshipman & five Sailors put by Capt [George] Talbot of the *Niger* Frigate on board the Brigantne *Peter,* which Brigtn was taken by sd Frigate about 18 days ago, near the Island of Barmudas and orderd into Boston – This Brigantine was Retaken last Wednesday [December 20] by our people, and was bra't into this Port – Capt Jackson the Bearer of this will acquaint your Excellency with the particulars, as he had a principal hand in retakeing her – This Mr Jackson is a Zealous, Active, Worthy Friend to his Country, and has been principal in takeing all the prizes which have been brought into this Port by private Vessels – Jacob Taylor a friend & relative of this Mr Jackson was mate on board Capt Martindale who was taken by the Enemy some time since (for which I am sincer[e]ly sorry) has a Large Family & in poor circumstances which must suffer much unless some way can be devised for his Redemption – I am very unwilling to give your Excellency Trouble, and must ask your pardon, when I at the very earnest request of Taylors Friends & unhappy Family, ask your Excelly whether it an't possible to exchange

Mr Curtis the Midshipman for Taylor, and when I entreat your Excellency to interpose in behalf of this miserable Family & of an unhappy man, who has conducted with Dignity, & has been very active in the noble cause in which we are engaged, from the begining—I am your Excellencys much obliged [&c.]

William Watson

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1. Washington Papers, LC.

Providence Gazette, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1775

Providence, December 23.

Thursday Se'nnight [December 14] died at Conanicut, of the Wound he received in Capt. Wallace's late Expedition to that Island, Capt. John Martin, aged 77 Years.

Saturday last [December 16] the Bomb Brig and some Tenders landed a Number of Men at Brenton's Neck, in Quest of Hay; but a Party of our Men approaching to attack them, they thought proper to re-embark rather hastily, without accomplishing their Design.

Last Sunday Afternoon the *Swan,* Capt. Ayscough, the Bomb Brig, and several Tenders, came up the Bay, and anchored near Dyer's Island, from whence they took some Hay, burnt a considerable Quantity, and killed two Horses.

GURDON SALTONSTALL TO THE CONNECTICUT COMMITTEE OF THE PAY TABLE [1]

[Extract] New London Decr 23d 1775.

Genmn My Son Gilbert Saltonstall attended at Hartford the 9th and 11th Inst but you were gone to the Camp . . . Business still prevents my waiting on you and is more pressing than before, as Capt Dudley Saltonstall is gone to Phladelphia and I do not expect he'l return before the Fleet of 2 Ships 2 Briggs and 1 Sloop make a Cruize,[2] and the Business of Shipping Seamen, Officers &c and dispatching them lays on me, the Fleet was expected to be ready by 25th Inst Seamen excepted—Capt D. Saltonstall is Honrd with the Command of the first Ship in the Navy, called the *Alfred* (I conclude in Honour to King Alfred, who formed the British Navy) She was heretofore called the *Black Prince,* mounts 32 Guns, and on Board the *Alfred,* Commodore Hopkins hoists his Flagg – I am with Esteem [&c.]

G. Saltonstall

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[1] Conn. Arch., 1st Series, IX, 593a, 593b, ConnSL.

[2] The first Continental fleet.

MINUTES OF THE CONNECTICUT COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

Met again at N.H. [New Haven] next evening [December 23] and did several things. Consulted Cap. [Isaac] Sears &c. about Todd's brig &c., and desired him to take care of the brig bo't of Cap. Gregg [John Griggs] [2] into N.H. &c., and prepare an estimate of stores &c. for the same, &c.

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[1] Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut Records,* XV, 222.

[2] Griggs' *Lily Ann* became the Connecticut armed brig *Defence.* Todd's brig was not purchased.

Journal of the Continental Congress [1]

[Philadelphia] Saturday, December 23, 1775

A letter from Lord Stirling 19 December, being received, was read.[2]

Mr. Langdon, one of the committee appointed to repair to Ticonderoga, and confer with General Schuyler, being returned, laid before Congress a report of their proceedings, which was read.

The Committee appointed to consider the petition of Peter Berton brought in their report, which being read, was agreed to, as follows:

That they have taken the petition into consideration, and after mature deliberation had thereon, they are of opinion that it is not advisable or proper for the Congress to grant the prayer of the said petition.

The committee appointed to examine the journal, &c. laid before Congress a list of the several matters therein, which are yet unfinished.

the report of the Committee on the vessel taken in New Hampshire is on the table
the report of the Committee appointed to repair to Ticonderoga and confer with gen Schuyler is on the table.

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1. Ford, ed., *JCC,* III, 445, 446, 454, 456.
2. See Stirling to Hancock, December 19, 1775.

Minutes of the Pennsylvania Committee of Safety [1]

[Philadelphia] December 23rd.

Upon application of the Navy Committee of Congress, By order of the Board, Robert Towers, Commissary, was directed to deliver 36lbs. Salt Petre & 100 Muskets and Bayonets, to them or their order.

Resolved, That Mr. Towers take the Powder belonging to the Armed Boats as they come up to town and put it into Store, and deliver it to those whose Tour of Duty it is to go to their Stations at Fort Island.

Upon application from the Committee of Naval Affairs by Colo. Gaddesden [Christopher Gadsden], that General Hopkins of the *Alfred,* or any other Commander of the Continental Ships of War, be permitted to search any outward bound Vessels for Seamen or others belonging to any of the above vessels.

Resolved, That such permission be chearfully granted, but this Committee recommend a Discreet Exercise of this Power, so as to occasion as little delay as possible to the outward bound Vessels, and that an officer whose prudence may be depended on, may be sent on this Service.

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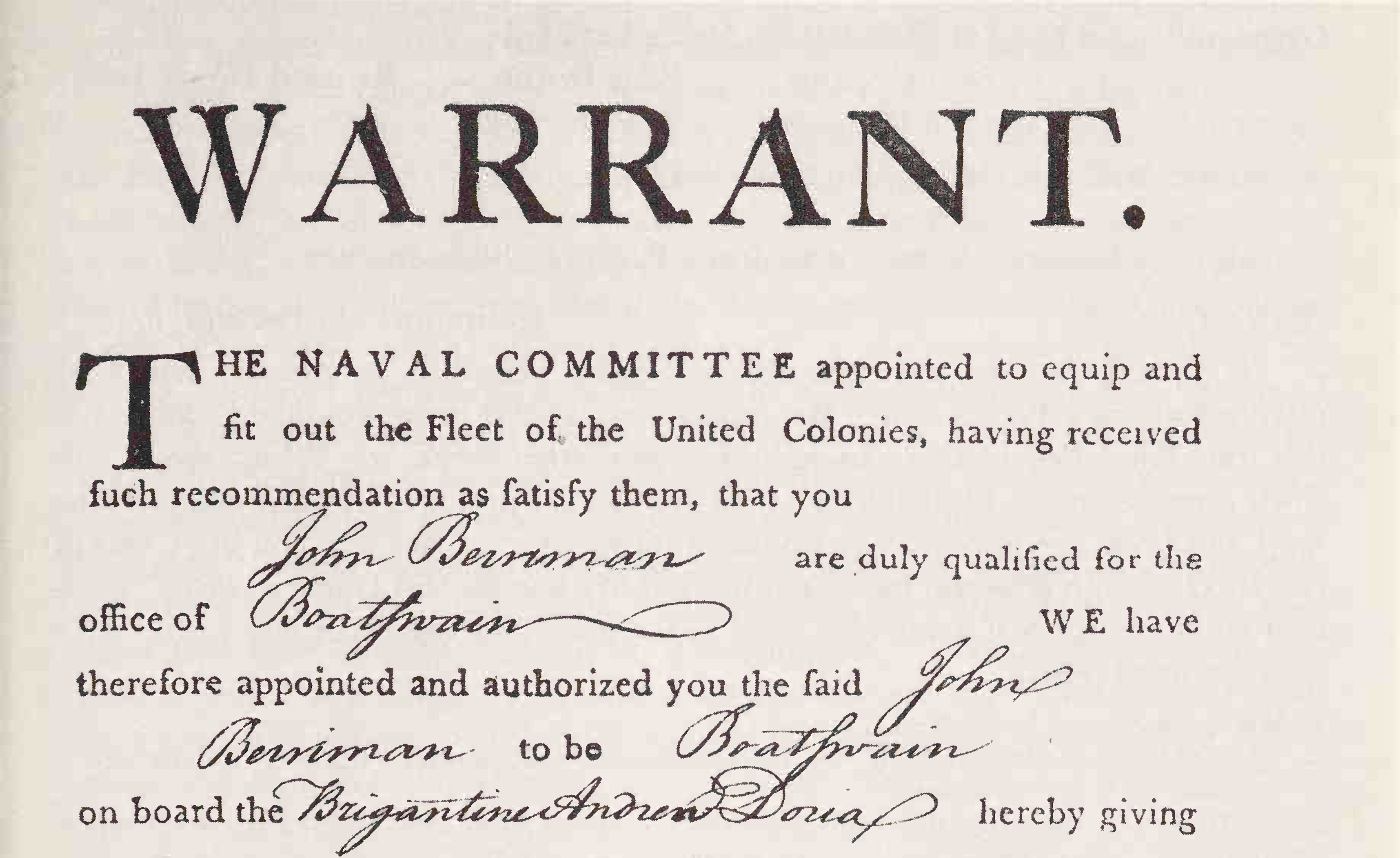
1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records,* X, 435.

Warrant of John Berriman [1]

Warrant.

The Naval Committee appointed to equip and fit out the Fleet of the United Colonies, having received such recommendation as satisfy them, that you John Berriman are duly qualified for the office of Boatswain We have therefore appointed and authorized you the said John Berriman to be Boatswain on board the Brigantine *Andrew Doria* hereby giving you full power to execute the office afore-



WARRANT.

THE NAVAL COMMITTEE appointed to equip and fit out the Fleet of the United Colonies, having received ſuch recommendation as ſatisfy them, that you *John Berriman* are duly qualified for the office of *Boatſwain* WE have therefore appointed and authorized you the ſaid *John Berriman* to be *Boatſwain* on board the *Brigantine Andrew Doria* hereby giving you full power to execute the office aforeſaid, agreeable to the rules and regulations of the ſea ſervice, and ſuch orders as you may receive from your ſuperior officers. And for your ſo doing, this ſhall be your ſufficient Warrant. *Given under our hands at Philadelphia December 23. 1775.*

Step Hopkins
Chris Gadsden
Silas Deane
Joseph Hewes
Richard Henry Lee

said, agreeable to the rules and regulations of the sea service, and such orders as you may receive from your superior officers. And for your so doing, this shall be your sufficient Warrant.

Given under our hand at Philadelphia December 23. 1775.

Step Hopkins Silas Deane Richard Henry Lee
Christ Gadsden Joseph Hewes

[1] US Navy, Misc. Mss. (1775–1804), LC Facsimile.

GEORGE WOOLSEY TO JOHN PRINGLE, PHILADELPHIA [1]

[Extract] Baltimore 23 Decemr 1775

if Lord Dunmore had been able to Send a vessell of 14 guns up which he intended about 4 Weeks Since, We suppose our Whole town woud be in ashes Ere this, but Kind Providence Cut him out some other work, for Which we in this town have reason to be thankful as we are not yet prepared for any thing of the kind, but hope Ere Spring to be prepared for them . . . we sent you Six Casks of rice by Galbraith & would have Sent more if Mr Russell had Come in time however we hope [to] Sell Some of it Soon as there are two vessells of war fitting out [2] & troops to be raised.

[1] Woolsey & Salmon Letter Book, LC.

[2] The Continental schooner *Wasp* and the Continental sloop *Hornet*, outfitting in Baltimore to join the Continental fleet.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA CONVENTION [1]

[Williamsburg] Saturday, December 23, 1775.

Resolved unanimously, That the thanks of this Convention are justly due to Col. [Thomas] Elliott, and the officers and soldiers under his command, to Messrs. James and Richard Barron, and to the inhabitants of Hampton, for their spirited and successful exertions in defeating the designs of our enemies; and that the President be desired to transmit the same, and to inform them the Convention will take an early opportunity of rewarding their merit.

[1] *Virginia Convention*, 75.

EDMUND PENDLETON TO COLONEL PATRICK HENRY [1]

[Williamsburg] December 23, 1775

I laid yr. Favr. of this morning before the Commee of Safety who desire you will order a proper Escort from hence to bring up all the Prisoners from Hampton as soon as may be, as to the Salt they suspend directg. the unlading it 'til the Convention shall determine whether it may be proper to risque it round to & up York River. They approve of continuing in the service Latimers Vessell you engaged when at Hampton of which you'l please to inform Capt. [James] Barron, The Commee mean to send a Reinforcement as soon as the Pr. Wm. Batallion arrives, who are expected tomorrow . . .

[1] *Rare American Historical Autographs. The Collection of the late Frederick S. Peck* (Philadelphia, 1947), No. 60.

Thomas Ludwell Lee to Richard Henry Lee [1]

[Extract]

My Dear Brother I congratulate you on the honor of Virginia being fully restored, by the desastrous attempt of Dunmores troops on our lines at the [Great] bridge. He, & his maimed ragged crew, find no safety for themselves but by skulking on board the ships. The tories of Norfolk & inhabitants of Princess Anne [&] Norfolk have forsworn their allegiance to Dunmore; many of them, after petitioning, & acknowledging the authority of convention, are now under the examination of a committee; amongst these are the two Messrs Moselies, a Doctor Campbell, & Mat. Phrip. An express from Hampton this morning informs that Capt Barron of that place, who commands an armed vessel in the service of the colony, has taken a tender of Dunmores with 16 men, & a vessel belonging to a couple of Tories in Norfolk with 2400 bushels of salt on board. Some other vessels belonging to these gentry, with the same commodity, were taken before; by which you see that our infant attempts on the water have been also crowned with success. We have already provided a respectable little navy for James river, & are proceeding to take care of the other rivers. Most of the objects recommended in your letters have been already attended to, & encouraged. A Test is now before convention, which will oblige all those to decamp who are the objects of its rigour. Since writing to you on the subject of a naval assistance from your way, the *Liverpool,* a frigate pierced for 36 guns, but mounting only 28, has arrived at Norfolk, together with a brig laden with naval & military stores, out three months & upwards from England. The intelligence reports them to have 400 men; – I suppose meaning seamen & marines – . . . Yr Afft

Tho^{s} Lud: Lee

Wmsburg December 23d 1775.

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[1] Lee Papers, UVL.

Dixon and Hunter's *Virginia Gazette,* Saturday, December 23, 1775

Williamsburg, Dec. 23.

Our most implacable enemy, Lord Dunmore, to his great grief and disappointment, through the intrepidity of our troops, has been obliged to retire to the shipping, with many of the inhabitants of Norfolk, and some Negroes. His diabolical scheme (which will perpetually disgrace him) being frustrated, and finding all attempts in vain to accomplish his designs, our troops were suffered to enter the town without opposition from the men of war. In a message to Col. Woodford, his Lordship assured him, that if his Majesty's ships should not be fired upon by those under his command, no injury would be offered to the town; and it seems, by this appearance of a peaceable disposition on the part of his Lordship, as if he thought the riflemen were rather too near him!

We have just heard that Capt. Barron, with a party of men, yesterday took a tender with several slaves on board; she was in pursuit of a vessel just arrived with salt, which Capt. Barron also took possession of, and carried both safe to Hampton.

The *Liverpool* frigate, of 36 guns, is said to be arrived, in order to take Governor Dunmore to England.

PINKNEY'S *Virginia Gazette,* SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1775

Williamsburg [December 23].

On Wednesday the 13th instant a sloop belonging to captain Mallory, and a schooner belonging to captain Brown, bound to Smithfield, from sea, were taken by a tender, which put a midshipman, two sailors, and a negro pilot on board, with orders to carry them to Norfolk; but last night the captains of the vessels, by a promise of 43 dollars and a passage back, prevailed on them to join them in retaking the vessels, which they accordingly did, and have now got them within the creek, with two thousand bushels of salt on board.

Whilst captain Morgan Alexander was at Fredericksburg with his company of riflemen, several of them were enticed on board a small vessel in the river, treated with grog and oysters, and invited by the skipper, one Dow, a Scotchman, to enlist under lord Dunmore. He promised them a free passage, and told them that the regulars had 4 white shirts a year, and 3s. 6d. sterling a week, and to intimidate them, told them there were coming over immediately 40,000 Hanoverians, Russians, and English. The soldiers soon appeared discontented, and almost mutinied; two deserted, and upon enquiry, the author of the mischief was found out, the men satisfied, and the villain confined, and sent down, under their custody, to the con[v]ention, to be dealt with according to his deserts. This is a fresh instance of the activity of our arch enemy, lord Dunmore.

Colonel Howe and colonel Woodford have entered Norfolk with their forces. Lord Dunmore had abandoned the town, and several of the tories had fled on board their vessels, with all their effects; others of them are applying for forgiveness to their injured countrymen.

We learn, by an express, that captain Baron had yesterday taken two vessels loaded with salt, one containing 2400 bushels and the other 1200; that there had likewise been taken a tender, with 17 men on board.

A correspondent, upon whose information we may depend, informs us that our soldiers shewed the greatest humanity and tenderness to the wounded prisoners. Several of them ran through a hot fire to lift up and bring in some that were bleeding, and who they feared would die, if not speedily assisted by the surgeon. The prisoners expected to be scalped, and called out, For God's Sake, Do Not Murder Us. One of them, who was unable to walk, calling out in this manner to one of our men, was answered by him, put your arm about my neck, and I'll shew you what I intend to do. Then taking him, with his arm over his neck, he walked slowly along, bearing him up with great tenderness to the breast-work. Captain [Samuel] Leslie seeing two of our soldiers tenderly removing a wounded regular from the bridge, on which he lay, stepped up on the platform of the fort, and bowing with great respect, thanked them for their kindness. These are instances of a noble disposition of foul Men who can act thus must be invincible.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Otter,* CAPTAIN MATTHEW SQUIRE [1]

Decemr 1775	Elizabeth River [off Norfolk]
Friday 22	Fresh Breezes throughout. at 5 P M saw a boat passing over from Norfolk to Ferry Point. Fired several shot which obligd them to jump overboard.

Saturday 23 A M Reced water on board.
Variable Weather at 8 P M Row'd Guard between the Ship & the Town were fired at by the Rebels. we returned several shot.

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1. PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

In the Council of Safety, [Charleston]
Saturday, Dec. 23rd, 1775.

Mr. President laid before the Council an inventory returned to him by Fenwick Bull, esq., begun to be taken the 19th, and finished the 22nd, of the effects of Lord William Campbell, in his house in Charles-Town, and of four trunks, and one bag of wearing apparel belonging to Lady William and her children, which he had sealed and directed to her Ladyship.

Read a letter from John Sigell, his Lordship's steward, dated this day, requesting permission to send Lady William, in addition to the trunk and bag aforesaid, some necessaries mentioned in a list inclosed, and to go down in order to settle his concerns with Lord William.

Ordered, that Mr. Sigell's request be granted; he accompanying the messenger when he shall go to deliver Lady William her goods.

Ordered, That Capt. Robert Cochran do deliver to the order of the Hon. Captain [William Henry] Drayton, four barrels of common powder, and such cannon shot of different kinds as he shall require, for the use of the colony ship *Prosper.*

In the Council of Safety,
Dec. 23rd, 1775,

Sir – The Council of Safety request that you will examine a boat now in the possession of Mr. John Waring, and report as soon as may be, its value and fitness, in your judgment, for the public service; if the boat is not at present in town, Mr. Waring, if you will let him know of our intention to purchase, will inform you where she is. I am, sir, [&c.]

Henry Laurens,
President of the Council of Safety.

Capt. Edward Blake.

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1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society,* III, 109–11.

HENRY LAURENS TO COLONEL STEPHEN BULL [1]

Sir – Charles-Town, 23d Dec., 1775.

We wrote to you the 18th instant . . . At present we can add nothing on the subject of gunpowder; the iron shot, lead, and flints shall be sent to Beaufort by Mr. [Tunes] Tebout; and we hope to receive more gunpowder than Fort Lyttleton will want, before the quantity, which you mention, is consumed. We are all well pleased to learn that the fort is in such forwardness of repair. The *Scorpion,* we believe, is gone to North-Carolina; be that as it may, we cannot be too watchful against her and others who will annoy us when they can. We had the subject of saving the cannon, mortar, and military stores at Frederica in contemplation when your letter came before us; but it ought to be kept a profound secret. We desire you will confer with Capt. [John] Joiner, and know if he will undertake an expedition to Frederica for that purpose. We think we will be able to accomplish the business by an embarkation from our port in a few days; and that we can promise him considerable assistance upon the spot. An answer to this immediately will be acceptable; and the more so, if it comes by Capt. Joiner's hands, with his resolution to execute the plan. The cannon at Cockspur lie more particularly under the eye of the Council of Safety for Georgia; and we hope they will soon pay some attention to them.

We have too long heard, with great concern, of the illicit, we may say, destructive trade, carried on between the southern parts of our colony and Georgia. Surely your Committee will now exert themselves to check it effectually; and, we are persuaded, that nothing in your power will be wanting to prompt them to a vigorous and spirited execution of their duty – on which the honour of this colony, and perhaps the welfare and happiness of all the colonies may depend. Break one link of the chain, and others will soon be marred. Why should not North Carolina and Georgia export naval stores, essential to the power of the British navy, if South-Carolina and Georgia ship off their rice and indico? Let every honest man, at all hazards, join to crush the growing evil, and to punish the violators of our association.

By order of the Council of Safety.
Henry Laurens, President.

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1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society,* III, 116–17.

Henry Laurens to Captain Alexander Gillon, Beaufort [1]

Sir
Charles-Town, 23d Dec, 1775.

We have fully considered the contents of your letter of the 19th instant, which came by the hands of Mr. Cripps, and it is our opinion, that you ought to persevere in your endeavours to carry your contract with the Secret Committee at Philadelphia into execution; consequently we have encouraged Mr. Cripps to take every means for obtaining vessels for that purpose, and not to despond; and we are glad to learn that he has a better prospect of success than you expected.

If you cannot accomplish all that the Committee had in view, and within the precise limit of time, we recommend to you to do all that can be done, even to the 15th of January. We do not assume a power of relaxing the terms of your engagement. We mean only to say, that, all circumstances considered, we believe that the Committee at Philadelphia will rather commend you for striving to serve the public cause, by complying with those terms as closely as the state of affairs will admit of – on the other hand, we would not be understood as if we meant to encourage you to such a departure from your agreement as might frustrate the schemes of the Congress.

If you cannot, with an assurance of safety and success, send the whole intended quantity of gunpowder to this Province, you will send us as large a part as you can; and you may add 2,000 stands of good muskets with bayonets, 1,000 good gunlocks, and 4 brass field pieces, six pounders; on the cost of which we will allow you the rate of profit stipulated in the contract between you and the Secret Committee at Philadelphia.

We desire you will remit to us as much of the continental currency as you may have occasion to dispose of here for your intended purchases, in lieu of which we will return you our currency out of the treasury This will best please our planters; and that will best serve our purposes of recruiting and other services in North-Carolina.

We have lately written such a letter to the Committee at Beaufort, as we hope will induce them to put a stop, as far as may be in their power, to those illicit and pernicious purchases and shipments which you allude to.

By order of the Council of Safety.

Henry Laurens, President.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society,* III, 117–18.

HENRY LAURENS TO THE GEORGETOWN COMMITTEE [1]

Gentlemen – Charles-Town, 23d Dec., 1775.

We have received information, that Mr. Philip Tidyman is privately loading a scooner, or other vessel, with rice, in Santee river, or in some of the inlets northward of Charles-Town. We request you to be attentive to give us the earliest intelligence, and to exercise your own authority, as it is very ample, to put a stop to such proceedings.

By order of the Council of Safety.

Henry Laurens, President.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society,* III, 118.

INTELLIGENCE FROM A JAMAICA NEWSPAPER PRINTED IN THE *Pennsylvania Evening Post* [1]

Kingston (Jamaica) December 23.

On Thursday afternoon the sloop *Dove,* Capt. [Nathan] Bull, belonging to Rhode-Island, was brought into Port-Royal harbour. This vessel had loaded at Cape Nichola Mole with French produce, and on her passage homeward was met by his Majesty's ship *Maidstone,* Allan Gardiner, Esq; commander, who seized her. We are informed that the *Maidstone* was then in chase of a brigantine and sloop, the latter laden with gunpowder, and came out of Cape Francois, which was yesterday sent in.

1. *Pennsylvania Evening Post,* April 18, 1776.

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24 Dec. (Sunday)

PHILLIP CALLBECK TO GEORGE WASHINGTON [1]

Province Massachusets Bay Winter Harbor 24th Decr 1775 –

Sir, I should but ill deserve the generous treatment Your Excellency has been pleased to shew me had I not gratitude to acknowledge so great a favor – I cannot ascribe any part of it to my own merit but must impute the whole to the philanthropy and humane disposition that so truly characterizes General Washington – Be so obliging therefore to accept of the only return in my power that of my most gratefull thanks and be assured my conduct shall bear so strictly in unison with that of the Gentleman so as at all times to secure to myself the Honor I now embrace of subscribing myself—With great respect – Your Excellency's [&c.]

Phil^{lp} Callbeck

Fearfull I should encroach on Your Excellency's time I have declined giving You a detail of the continued distress and persecution that has attended me since I had the Honor of taking leave – I have made my Friend Major [John Gizzard] Frazer partly acquainted with it and requested him to watch a convenient opportunity –

[1] Washington Papers, LC.

MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HOWE TO VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG, ANTIGUA [1]

Sir. Boston 24th December 1775. –

From the low State of our Magazine of Provisions for the Army here, and the Hazards which Ships run in coming upon this Coast with Supplies when the Winter Season is so far advanced, I have judg[ed] it expedient to send two Transports,[2] one of them Armed Commanded by Lieut. [John] Bourmaster, an Agent in that Serv[ice,] with Captain [Benjamin] Payne of the 18th Regiment of Foot, to purchase provisions in the West Indies, understanding the markets there to be very full at this time.

Captain Payne will have the Honor to deliver this Letter to you with his Instructions,[3] and I am to request your assistance by giving us a Supply from your Naval Stores, if it can be spared without endangering the want of it to your Squadron: But if the quantities you can furnish, and what can be otherwise procured, should not be sufficient to fill both Ships, Captain Payne has directions to lade the smallest, and to send her off immediately for this Place, after having provided Seamen and Guns for her Protection on her Return; and if these cannot be had, I am to beg you will be pleased to send a Ship of War to convoy her to this Port, as the early arrival of a Vessel with Provisions may be of the last Consequence to His Majesty's Service in this Quarter: The larger Transport will in this Case proceed with Captain Payne to St Eustatia, where she may Complete her Lading.

I beg leave to add, that should there be any of our Victualing Ships in the West Indies upon the arrival of these Transports at your Station, I humbly entreat you will send a Convoy with them here without suffering them to delay their Voyage, and my Transports will return with them after taking in Rum as mentioned in my Instructions.

I flatter myself the necessity of the Service may plead my Excuse to you for this Requisition and Trouble. I have the Honor to be Sir [&c.]

W Howe.

[1] PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

[2] The transports were the *Empress of Russia,* armed, and the *Diana,* unarmed. However, on December 28, Howe wrote to Young: "A Circumstance intervening has occasioned Lieutenant William Chads of His Majesty's Navy, Agent of Transports, to supply the place of Lieutenant Bourmaster and he will sail in the Ship *Hartfield* invested with the same powers," *ibid.*

[3] See Howe to Payne, December 25, 1775.

Colonel Alexander McDougall to John Jay[1]

[Extract] New York Decr 24th 1775.

Dear Sir As this day has given me some respite, from the Hurry of Public business, I embrace the favorable moment to give you some intelligence on our common Concern . . .

I am well informed, that Colonel [William] Dalrymple is on board the *Phenix*. As there are no Vessels here bound to England, I suspect his business here, is to examine and reconitre the State of this Colony, to enable the ministry or the General to form the opperations against it in the Spring, or to head the adherents of the ministerial party, if they should dare to hold up their heads, or to command the Regiment And the Three Companies of Light Horse lately embarked at Boston, probably destined for Queens County, for the Purpose of securing fresh provisions for the army at Boston, For as Nassau Island is so distant from the main, but where they command, they may think, and with too much reason, that the experiment may be tried without any great risque in that County. If they succeed in any degree, it will amply pay them in their disstressed state for fresh provisions; if not as they command at sea, they can easily embark in the Sound under the Protection of three or Four Frigates. It is Probable, the fears of their Creatures in that county has induced them to promise them more Success, than they can Secure to them, in order to tempt the army there for their protection. We shall do the best we can, to prepare our Friends in that county & Suffolk against such an event. But a certain necessary article is long a coming. Should not that part of New England, nearest to that county, have some intimation to be ready to give aid, if the Troops should land in Queen's?

I am very anxious to hear what is determined in your cabinet, with respect to canada, for the next Campaign. Colonel [Rudolphus] Ritzema, and Captain [William] Goforth, both write me from Montreal that 10,000 men will be necessary to secure the Colony and engage the Canadians heartily in the Cause. They also urge very much, the Sending the Troops from hence on the Ice, over the lakes to be ready in the Spring. This does not indicate any Zeal in the Canadians. If my memory serves me, General [James] Murray, gave it as his opinion, that it would require 6,000 men to man the works of Quebec, which he assigned as the reason for Hazarding the Battle of April 1760. I think this has been the received opinion. As our Enemies have the command of the Sea, and very little Provisions are salted in Canada, Suppose Quebec now in our Possession, how is it to be furnished with Salt Provisions during the next Summer, in case it should be Blockaded by Sea, and by Land? Remember that Ships of the Line, got by Quebec in the Seige of 1759; and some of the Frigates went a Considerable distance up above it.

We are in Suspence here about the destination of your Fleet. If they go to Virginia, I fear they will be ruffly handled, as some Ships of Warr have been dispatched there from Boston. The americans individuly considered, know the use of a musket better than the best of the King's Troops; to this in a great degree is to be ascribd the advantages, the former have gained over the Latter, when Secured against their discipline. But the Saylors we have picked up for our Vessels, do not understand the use of Cannon, equal to those who are continually exercised with them on board the King's Ships, nor are they so attached to the Country, from connexions as our Soldiers are, besides many of the Saylors have been taught, the Superiority of the British Navy officers, to all others in [the] world. Sir, There is no entrenching, or covering behind Trees at Sea. Superior Force or address only must determine the Victory, if the engagement once commences. You are not to measure your expectations of the Success of this Fleet, against the men of war, by the Success of our Troops against the King's, or the Success of our Cruizers against Transports. you may be now ready to ask me, are we then never to send our armed Vessels against the men of war, because they have been Superior to all the world with equal Force at Sea. Yes. But the first experiment, should not be made, where there is danger of the force being near equal, before your officers and men are practised in Sea engagements. If it is, our american Fleet I fear will not be long in our Posesion. I know that so much depends on address, & preparation founded on experience, that I tremble for the Consequences. A small omition determines the fate of a Sea engagement. I speak with confidence, because it is from experience. It has been the business of my life. A Superior force at Sea, divided in different Bottoms, is not equal to two thirds of it in fewer, because if one or two of the Small Vessels, on which the force is estimated should be disabled, the disparity against that side becomes instantly great. I have seen this Position exemplified, at the age of 14, when one Million of Dollars was depending, and Since cast about for the principle. Three things must be attended to in equiping this Fleet, if they are designed to act against the Enemy on this Coast, at this Stormy Season. They must be able to carry a stiff sail. This does not depend so much on their being deep loaded, as on the Center of Gravity being properly placed, in stowing them, for they may be deep in the water, and Yet carry but a small sail, owing to the Center of gravity being too high. They must not be loaded deep, for if they are, they will not be able to come up with a weak Enemy, in good Sailing Trim, nor escape from a stronger one. The officers, mariners and marines should be exercised in their Stations, with the Cannon and musketry with Powder, before they quit the river; as they may soon expect the enemy, and stormy weather may deprive them of that advantage, before they engage. One Ton of Powder however scarce it may be, properly expended in this way, will save Five in an engagement, if not save the Fleet. New and hasty sea armaments meet cruizing Ships, of near their Force on very unequal ground. The former is generally all confusion and not properly aranged; the Latter in order, and ready for action.[2] Hence it was that the Privateers fitted out of France the last warr fell so easy a Prey to our Frigates, altho the Ships of the Former were Superior in size, men and Guns to ours. The same thing frequently happened to their Cruzers in the West Indies, when they came out of Port, Expresly to take ours Cruizing in their Sight. I have wrote you in the confidence of Friendship, and from an anxiety for the Cause of our bleeding Country; and not with any intention the [*sic* to] lessen the merit of any of the Gentlemen, who command these Vessels. I am in Haste [&c.]

Alex^{r} M^{c}dougall

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1. Jay Papers, CUL.
2. A prophetic comment in view of the subsequent encounter between the Continental fleet and H.M.S. *Glasgow* in April 1776.

ARCHIBALD CARY TO RICHARD HENRY LEE [1]

Dear Sir Williamsburg 24th December 1775

I thank you for your favor of the 11th Inst: & hope 'ere this you are informed of the reduction of Quebec. Colo. Arnold's Success there will have decisive Consequences. The loss of a province which Cost the people of Engld 70 Millions in the acquisition will make them feel a truth, which it has long been the business of administration to conceal from them. In the very uncertain State of our business, Military as well as Civil it was impossible you coud receive any Material information from us by the last post. We have Since that experienced a Very agreeable change in our Scituation – Lord Dunmore with a rashness which has marked his whole conduct, has exposed the 14th Regt to disgrace and ruin – the Accot wch you will see in the Papers of the action at the Great Bridge, is very exact – the consequences of that Action have been Such as our most Sanguine wishes wou'd have pointed out a dispersion of those people in the Counties adjacent to Norfolk, who were unfriendly to our Cause, and a certain Security to our well wishers – We have in Town Several of those inhabitants of Norfolk & Princess Ann who had joined the Governor – particularly Messrs Phripp, Mosely, (Father & Son) & Dr Campbell the conduct of the former appears to have been the consequence of their fears. the last mentioned seems to have acted from very different motives – he is as artful as Vicious. The great cordiality which Subsists between Colonels Howe & Woodford promises us good effects from their junction – The Vigilance of the two Captains [James and Samuel] Barron (Brothers) at Hampton has produced most essential advantages – they have secured about 4500 bushels (Salt.) in different Vessels – 2400 of which was the property of two of Ld D[unmore]'s Norfolk friends, McCallester & Brown, who were promoted by him to the rank of Captains in his Regiment of Sables; this regiment is now Dispersed and the poor deluded wretches are daily brought in to our Camp in great numbers – it is not yet determined how they shall be disposed of – Barron took a few days since, a tender with one White & 16 blacks, bound to the Eastern Shore, on a foraging business – the good Services of Barron, have been acknowledged by the house. When he is properly equipped we have much to expect from his deligence & abilities. Our present force at Norfolk may amount to 1500 Men including the Carolinians – You will hear before this that Six Regiments are Voted in addition to the other two. As it seems probable that these Troops will be employed on Services not local, it is hoped they will be put upon the general Continental establishment – The field officers will be named next Week, & a list sent to the Congress for their approbation, – you will find in it Some names which you may not have expected, particularly the Gentleman who commanded one of our Regiments – he has made an offer of his Services, and we are well assured his appointment will engage great numbers, officers as well as Soldiers, who served under him in the last war. The Proclamation from Ld D has had a most extensive good consequence – Men of all ranks resent the pointing a dagger to their throats, thro the hands of their Slaves – nothing cou'd be more unwise than a declaration of that nature which involved his friends as well as others in the general danger – We have, however, no apprehensions on that Score – yet proper precautions will not be neglected. The Naval force at Norfolk consists of the *Liverpool* a very fine frigate of 36 Guns – the *Otter* & the *King-Fisher* Sloops of War, the *William*, a pressd Ship belonging to Eilbeck Ross & Co pierced for 22 Guns, & a Variety of Tenders & Small Craft. The whole addition to the force there by the arrival of the *Liverpool* & a Store Ship with her, may amount to 400 Men, including the Ships Companys & Marines – As there are not more than 100 Men of the 14th Regt remaining, I cannot Suppose that there is of every denomination above Seven or 8 hundred under Lord D's direction.

Most of the Council, resenting the late proclamation, are determined upon an immediate answer to it, and from the language of the President & some others who have been in Town – we may expect they will give the deluded publisher a Rowland for his Oliver. This business, will shew, if there be any amongst that Body, Weak or Wicked enough to remain unmoved by such Conduct if such there are you shall hear by the next Post. As the Weather has been very Severe for Some days past it is not supposed any of the larger Vessels will move from Norfolk – doubtless the Tenders & Small Craft will be pushed out in search of provision and fuel which we have reason to believe is exceedingly Scarce with the fleet &c our Troops prevent their receiving any Supplies from Norfolk. The business of the Convention goes on as usual, slowly, the great Variety of it will of course take a good deal of time, and tho we are well agreed, as to what shou'd be done, we cannot adjust immediately the manner of doing it. The ordinance for encreasing the Army has been once read in the House & is now in its Passage for the Second time (before the Committee); if nothing unforeseen happens I expect we may rise by the last of the month. I wish you health & happiness & am very respectfully Dear Sir [&c.]

Archibald Cary

My Complements to your associates – the familys of those I know are well.

[1] Lee Papers, UVL. Cary was delegate from Chesterfield County to the Virginia Convention.

Captain Henry Bellew, R.N., to Colonel Robert Howe [1]

(Copy) *Liverpool* off Norfolk 24 Decr 1775

Sir Being arrived here from England in His Majesty's ship under My command, and understanding by Captain Squire of His Majesty's Ship the *Otter*, you had resolved the Kings ships should be restricted from all supplies of Provisions; I have to request your Answer whither you still persevere in that resolution, and to take it into your consideration, what must be the consequence of it; the Power which sent me hither only can recall me, till that time I dare not move. The effusion of the Blood of the Innocent and Helpless is most distant from my desires; but the effects of Numbers of Men let loose to satisfy their hunger after fresh Provisions must be evident to every one. I am [&c.]

Henry Bellew

[1] PRO, Colonial Office, 5/1353.

Colonel Robert Howe to Captain Henry Bellew, H.M.S. *Liverpool* [1]

Sir Norfolk 24 Decr 1775.

I wish for time to consult my instructions as well as to take the opinion of some of the Officers with me, upon the Subject of your letter; an answer to which

I shall send you by ten o Clock to morrow morning. You may be assured it will not be my inclination to prevent your obtaining any supplies but such as by express orders I may find it my Duty to withhold. I am Sir, [&c.]

Rob^{t} Howe.

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[1] PRO, Colonial Office, 5/1353.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

In the Council of Safety, [Charleston]
Sunday, Dec. 24th, 1775.

Mr. President reported, that the commander at Fort Johnson had, Friday evening, sent up Doct. Mackie and a Mr. Williams, taken up, cast away, on the fort reef, and suspected of having intended to go on board one of the men-of-war in Rebellion Road. That upon some favorable representations by some of the officers who knew Mr. Williams, they were not sent down as prisoners. But that Col. [Isaac] Huger had nevertheless thought proper to order them to be taken into custody. That Mackie was accordingly taken and delivered to the militia guard, but Williams could not be found.

Ordered, That Doct. Mackie be brought before the Council.

Being brought accordingly, he declared that he went, last Thursday night, 6 o'clock, by desire of Mr. Williams, to accompany him to Mr. Begbie's at Hobcau. That he had no business there, nor much acquaintance with Williams. That in going they were driven upon the fort reef, when the boat filled, and they remained about six hours. That Williams carried with him a trunk, a mattress, and three guns, and said he intended to leave them at Begbie's, then return to town, and go to spend two or three months at George-Town. That he had no intention to go on board the man-of-war himself, nor did he know that Williams had. And that he had not seen Williams since he landed.

Being further questioned, Doct. Mackie acknowledged that he himself had removed a chest of cloaths, and a desk with drawers, to one McNeilage's near Mr. Begbie's.

He was then ordered to withdraw.

Ordered, That Doct. Mackie be returned to the charge of the militia guard – and that the chest and desk, he said he had at McNeilage's, be sent for.

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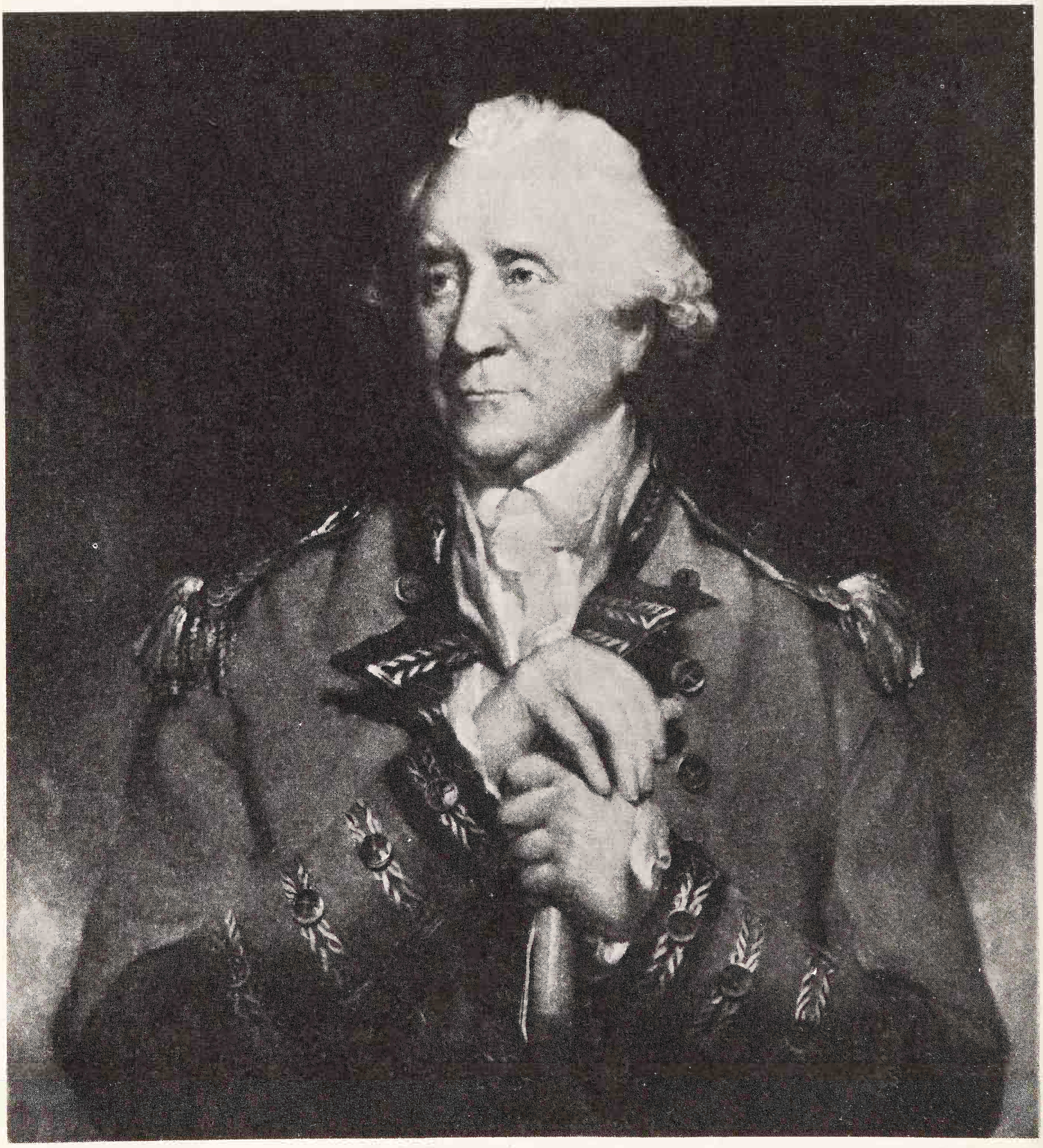
[1] *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society,* III, 111–12.

JOURNAL OF THE GEORGIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

At a special meeting of the Council of Safety [at Savannah] on Sunday, Dec. 24th, 1775.

Present:

George Walton.	Francis Henry Harris.
Edwd. Telfair.	Oliver Bowen.
Saml. Elbert.	Basil Cowper.*
John Smith.	John Martin.
Wm. Gibbons.	



Painted by M.A. Shee Esq^{r} R.A. *London, Published Sept^{r} 1. 1804, by G. Clint, Hind Court, Fleet Street.* *Engraved by G. Clint.*

GEN^{L}. TONYN.

From a Picture in the Poſseſsion of William Gilpin Esq^{r}. to whom, this Plate is Dedicated
by his most obedient Servant, G. Clint.

The President laid before the Board a letter from John Wereat, Esq., informing that several vessels loading with lumber up Sapelo and other rivers at the southward, with palpable intention of supplying the West India markets, contrary to the restraints of Congress. The Board taking the said letter into consideration, resolved that the committees from the southern parishes be required to take effectual measures to prevent such wicked and daring attempts. Ordered, that the men employed and the necessary charges and expenses attending the same be paid by the public. Ordered, that the President do write to the southern parishes, acquainting them therewith.

*Royalist.

[1] Allen D. Candler, comp., *The Revolutionary Records of the State of Georgia* (Atlanta, 1908), I, 81. Hereafter cited as Candler, comp., *Georgia Records.*

GOVERNOR PATRICK TONYN TO LORD DARTMOUTH [1]

No 35. St. Augustine 24 Decr – 75

My Lord, When I was at the meeting of the Creek Indians,[2] the Major Part of the three Companies, of the 16. Regiment arrived in the *Diligence* Packet Boat, and a small Sloop. I have the honour to enclose a Return of them; your Lordship will by it, see the very weak State of this Province, of the 68 Present, there is eleven sick, When the 14. Regiment, or rather the remains of it that are here, shall leave this Province.

A Lieutenant is left at Pensacola, and a Serjeant Corporal and twelve Private[s] for an Opportunity of a passage.

I have the honour to be with the greatest Respect, my Lord, Your Lordships [&c.]

Pat. Tonyn

[Endorsed] St Augustine 24 Decr 1775, Govr Tonyn (No 35)
R/ 3d June 1776 (1 Inclosure)

[1] PRO, Colonial Office, 5/556, 169.

[2] *Ibid.*, 141–48, Tonyn met with the Creek Indians at Picolata on December 6–8, 1775. He was away from St. Augustine three weeks prior to that date and returned to the capital December 15. See Tonyn to Lord Dartmouth, December 18, 1775.

REAR ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON TO PHILIP STEPHENS [1]

[Extract] *Antelope* Jamaica December 24th 1775

Sir/ As the arrival of the next Pacquet, from England, is very uncertain, I embrace; the Opportunity, of a Merchant Ship bound to Liverpool, to inform their Lordships, that since the Sailing of the last Pacquet, I have received; private Intelligence, from Port au Prince, in Hispaniola (from pretty good Authority) that in that Island, there are many Warlike preparations making, Seven Regiments expected Dayly, from Old France, (But the Intintion of the French Ministry; was not known,) & that they likewise; expected many Ships – Had the *Florida* Sloop, been with me, I should have instantly, sent her to England, with this Intelligence for their Lordships information, but, I am afraid, she is lost, as well; as the *Ferret,* as I expected her; to Join me, the beginning of November –

I likewise beg leave; to acquaint their Lordships, that the 14th instant, the *Amphitrite,* a French Frigate of 32 Guns, arrived here, Commanded by the Count de Grasse, she was sent, by the new Governor of Hispaniola, with Complimentary Letters, to His Excellency Sir Basil Keith, & myself, on her Passage here, she met with the Misfortune of running onshore, & came in; very Leaky, on which the Count, made application to me, for leave; to permit him to heave his Ship down, at the Kings Wharf, which I granted him & told him, that he should have every Assistance, in my Power in forwarding the same, the 26th instant, he begins to Heave his First Side out, & hope to get him away, in about a Fortnight

In regard to the Squadron, under my Command, Since the *Squirrel* & *Maidstone* have been on their Stations, where I order'd them, the *Maidstone* has sent a Rhode Island Sloop, loaden with Sugar and Molasses, (French Produce) from Cape Nichola, bound to Rhode Island—[2] as I am an entire Stranger to the Distribution, of the Money, ariseing from the Sale, of these Vessells, amongst the Officers & Company of His Majesty's Ships, I should be much obliged to you, if you'd inform me of, by the first Oppertunity, and if there's any Act of Parliament, or Order in Council from His Majesty for it, to have that at the same time. I am, with respect Sir [&c.]

Clark Gayton

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1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240.
2. The *Dove,* Bull, master.

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25 Dec.

George Washington to John Hancock [1]

[Extract] Cambridge 25 Decr 1775

Sir I had the honour to address myself to you the 19 Instant, since which I have received undoubted Information, that the genuine instructions given to Conolly, have not reached your hands, that they are very artfully concealed in the tree of his saddle & covered with Canvas so nicely, that they are scarcely discerned, that those which were found upon him, are Intended to deceive if he should be caught, you will certainly have his Saddle taken to peices in order to discover this deep laid plot –

Inclosed is a Copy of Genl Howe's Letter in Answer to the one I wrote him the 18 Instant, the Conduct I am to Observe towards Brigadier [Richard] Prescott in consequence of these Letters, the Congress will Oblige me by determining for me– The Gentlemen by whom you sent the money are arrived – the sum they brought tho large, is not Sufficient to Answer the demands for the Army, which at this time are remarkably heavy – . . .

I will take the Opportunity of the return of these Gentlemen to send Col [Moses] Kirkland to you for examination & that you may dispose of him, as to you may seem proper

A Committee from the Genl Court of this Province called on me the other day, Informing me, that they were in great want of Ordnance for defence of the Colony – That if what belonged to them, now in use here, was kept for the Continent they will be under the necessity of providing themselves with others – Of course what is kept, must be paid for – there are many of the Cannon, of very little use, But such of them as are good I cannot at present part with – perhaps when I receive the supply from New York & Canada, It may be in my power – Mr [Peleg] Wadsworth has sent in his report respecting Cape Cod Harbour, Copy of which you will receive herewith, also a letter which Col Little put into my hands from a Mr Jacob Bayley to him It contains some things that may be worthy the considera[tion] of Congress—We have made good progress in the works on Lechmore's point, they would have been ere this finished, but for the severity of the weather, which prevents our people from Working—I recd a Letter from Governor Cooke, which expresses the fears of the people of Rhode Island, lest the ships which we had Information were sailed with some troops on board, were destind for Newport, I sent Major Genl Lee there, to point out to them, such defence as he may think the place capable of – I sincerely wish he may be able to do it with effect as that place in Its present state, is an Asylum for such as are disaffected to American Liberty—Our Return, of Inlistments to this day amount to 8500 men. I have the Honor &c

1. Washington Papers, LC.

George Washington to Colonel Joseph Reed [1]

[Extract] Cambridge, December 25, 1775.

I fear the destination of the vessels from your port is so generally known, as to defeat the end. Two men-of-war (forty guns), it is said, put into New York the other day, and were instantly ordered out, supposed to be for Virginia.

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington,* IV, 184, 185.

Stephen Moylan to William Bartlett [1]

Sir Cambridge 25 Decr 1775

Your Letter of the 20 Inst is come to hand – As the Corn & Oats are wanting for the use of the Army, Colonel Mifflin must have them, he will give the price you mention for the one third belonging to the Captors, as to the other ⅔ It is of little consequence what price is fixt thereon, Coll Glover must certainly have been mistaken, when he informed you, that his Excellency was willing that the Corn & Oats should be disposed of at your place, It could not be his meaning, As he knew the want the Quarter Master Genl was in for them – I wish you would send up immediately the baggage belonging to Captain [William] Fosters people, for they are in a very dirty Condition – also for such of Captn [Robert] Adams's men as are here.[2] I dont know what directions to give you relative to the Porter, we must Order a Survey on it & judge by the report of its value, I think some Buts would Sell well at Camp, I am &c

S M

Corn 3/4 Oats 2/6

1. Washington Papers, LC.
2. Masters respectively of the ship *Jenny* and brig *Little Hannah.*

MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HOWE TO CAPTAIN BENJAMIN CHARNOCK PAYNE [1]

(a Copy) Boston 25th December 1775.

Sir, You are to embark in the *Empress of Russia* armed Transport, commanded by Lieutenant John Bourmaster, who after receiving on board one Subaltern and a Detachment of Marines, will sail from this Port under Convoy of the *Scarborough* Frigate: on a Signal from her, when got to Sea, you are with the *Diana* Transport to proceed with the utmost dispatch to the West Indies, and use your Endeavours to join the Admiral, or Officer Commanding His Majesty's Ships on the Leeward Station, presenting my letter, and communicating to him these my Instructions.

If on your arrival in the West Indies you should find any of our victualing Ships with plentifull Stores on board, you will purchase three hundred Puncheons of Rum, engage Seamen for the Transport Service, not exceeding one hundred, upon best Terms you can, procure twelve good Carriage Guns, with any thing necessary for the equipment of the *Diana,* and return with all possible Expedition to this Place, taking the Convoy of a King's Ship who may have the Victualers under her Protection. If you cannot confide in the Activity and Conduct of the Master of the *Diana,* and should succeed in getting her manned and armed, you will apply to the Admiral for a proper Officer to take the Command of her to this place.

Should you not hear any Intelligence of our Victualers, you will first apply to the Admiral, or Officer of the Navy commanding, for Provisions of all Species from the Naval Stores, as far as they can be spared without endangering the Want of it to the Squadron. If with the Supply from them, and the Rum aforementioned, you can purchase as much Salt provisions, Pease, Oatmeal, and Oil, as will lade both the Transports, you will also in that Case return immediately to Boston.

But failing in this, you will attend to the Principal Object by lading the *Diana* with what provisions you can procure from the Navy, or by Purchase, together with Rum, and Order her for this Place without loss of Time, observing that unless she can be well manned and equipped for Defence in every respect, you do apply to the Admiral, or Officer of the Navy commanding, desiring a Ship of War to see her safe into this Port, which is a request contained in my letter to him –

After taking into the *Empress of Russia* all Stores that the *Diana* cannot receive, you will proceed to St Eustatia to complete the remainder of your Commission as to the Purchase of Salt Provisions, Pease, Oatmeal, Oil, and the engaging of Seamen, for all which purpose you will receive from Captain Mackenzie Bills drawn by the Deputy Pay Master General on the Right Honble Thomas Harley and Henry Drummond Esqrs for £10,000 made payable to yourself or Order, to be accounted for on your Return as the Bills may Sell. You will also be punctual in sending advice to those Gentlemen as often as Payments are made.

You will not fail to be attentive to the behaviour of the Detachment put on board the *Empress of Russia* under your Command, and to do every thing in your Power to facilitate the Service wherewith you are charged. But above all considerations I recommend Dispatch, without which we shall reap but little advantage from your Expidition. –

I wish you a Successful Voyage, safe Return, and am with due regard, Sir, &c,

Signed W. Howe.

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1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309. Payne was an officer in His Majesty's 18th or Royal Regiment of Ireland.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, H.M.S. *Roebuck*, HALIFAX[1]

Copy/

You are hereby required and directed to use all convenient dispatch in Compleating your Provisions to Six Months of all Species and your Stores to the allowed Proportion for Twelve Months, and having so done to proceed in His Majesty's Ships under your Command without loss of time to Virginia where you are to take the Command of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels on that Station (until the Arrival of a Senior Officer) and Employ them as you shall find best for His Majesty's Service according to the Order you will herewith receive.

You are to endeavour to Guard the Entrance of the River Delaware by Cruizers until the Navigation is Open, and His Majesty's Ships can Anchor in the River when you are immediately to repair there in the *Roebuck* with a Twenty Gun Ship or Sloop leaving sufficient force in the Chesepeak Bay, And you are to use your utmost endeavours to prevent any Supplies getting to the Rebels, to annoy them by all means in your Power, and to protect and defend the persons and property of His Majesty's Loyal and Obedient Subjects wherever they can be distinguished. You are also to procure as many good Pilots as you can for the River and the Coast of the twelve United Colonies, and bear them on a Supernumerary List for Victuals only to be supplied occasionally to the Kings Ships.

Given under my hand onboard His Majesty's Ship *Preston* at Boston the 25th Decemr 1775

Sam^{l} Graves

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 1/487; copy in Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 112, BM.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, R.N.[1]

Having represented to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty the inconvenience that may arise to his Majesty's Ships and vessels proceeding to England from their several stations upon the requisition of any of the Governors of his Majesty's Colonies without order for so doing; And their Lordships having been pleased to Signify their directions to me thereupon, You are in pursuance thereof hereby required and directed at no time to proceed to England upon the requisition of the Governors of his Majesty's Colonies unless the Said Governor Certifies to you that the service is of a very pressing nature,[2] And that no vessel can be hired in which an officer may carry dispatches not safe to be trusted with the

Master. Given under my hand on board His Majesty's Ship *Preston* at Boston the 25th December 1775.

Saml Graves.

By Command of the Admiral G. Gefferina

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1. Hamond Papers, Orders received 1775–1776, UVL.
2. Apparently Graves still feared that the example set by Lord Dunmore in sending H.M. Schooner *Magdalen* to England without consulting him might be followed by other Royal Governors.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, R.N.[1]

His Majesty having been pleased by his Order in council of the 23d August 1775, a copy of which is enclosed, to revoke and make void all and every licence which has been before that time granted for the exportation and carrying coastwise of Gunpowder or any Sort of arms and amunition, You are hereby required and directed to use your best endeavours to intercept Seize and bring into Port all Ships and vessels whatsoever having on board Gunpowder or any sort of Arms or Amunition bound to any part of North America or that shall be found on the Coasts thereof excepting however such Ships and Vessels as are employed by the Master General, Lieutenant General or Principal officers of the Ordnance, and also such whose Masters shall have obtained Leave or permission, in that behalf from his Majesty or His privy Council since the said 23d August. This order to continue in force until the 30th day of June 1776, unless duly countermanded before that time. Given under my hand on board his Majesty's Ship *Preston* at Boston the 25th December 1775.

Samuel Graves

By Command of the Admiral G. Gefferina

1. Hamond Papers, Orders received 1775–1776, UVL.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, R.N.[1]

Whereas you will herewith receive Copies of Two Acts of Parliament passed this Session, Entitled, "An act to restrain the Trade and Commerce of the Province of Massachusetts Bay and New Hampshire and Colonies of Connecticut and Rhode Island and Providence Plantation in North America, to Great Britain and Ireland and the British Islands in the West Indies; And to prohibit such provinces and Colonies from carrying on any Fishery on the Banks of Newfoundland or other places therein mentioned under certain conditions and Limitations" And an act to restrain the Trade and Commerce of the Colonies of New Jersey, Pensylvania to Great Britain, Ireland, and the British Islands in the West Indies under certain conditions and Limitations. You are hereby required and commanded to cause the directions therein mentioned to be complied with as punctually as possible, as the same may depend upon you and the respective officers and company of his Majestys Ship under your command. Given under my hand on board his Majestys Ship *Preston* at Boston 25th Decemr 1775

Sam^{l} Graves

1. Hamond Papers, Orders received 1775–1776, UVL.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, R.N.[1]

Sir *Preston* at Boston 25th Decr 1775

Herewith you will receive four Press Warrants, which you are to make use of to complete your complement, and to raise supernumeraries when you have orders for that purpose. I am &ca

Samuel Graves

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[1] Hamond Papers, Orders received 1775–1776, UVL.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, R.N.[1]

Sir *Preston* Boston 25th Decemr 1775

I transmit a Copy of a Letter[2] containing some intelligence which I desire you will communicate to the Captains of His Majestys Ships serving to the Southward. I am &ca

Samuel Graves

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[1] Hamond Papers, Orders received 1775–1776, UVL.

[2] See Mowat to Graves, December 9, 1775.

CAPTAIN FRANCIS HUTCHESON TO MAJOR GENERAL FREDERICK HALDIMAND[1]

[Extract] Boston Decemr 25th 1775

Dr Sir An Easterly Wind and a heavy fall of Snow the night before last, and all day Yesterday, has Stoped Winas [Wynn's] Sailing till this Morning, having now clear Weather and a hard Norwester he will proceed, good for him, but bad for us, as we fear it will blow the London Ships off the co[a]st. Yesterday the last of the 6 Ships we Expect from the bay of Fundy with forage arrived, wch with what the London Ships that are come in, have saved by the Sheep dieng, will keep us going till the latter end of March, this Cursed Light Horse is a heavy tax upon us, and an immense Expence to government without being of the le[a]st use to us – two of this fleet that went to the Bay of Fundy for the forage are ashore in the Gut of Annapolis Royal, and its thought will be lost, the Brig *Countis of Darlington* (the Vessell you came here in) is one of them. Poor Taylor the Master & owner of her will loose his favourate; the people are all Saved – I gave him some Money to purchase me some Stock which I suppose is lost.

The Rebells have stoped-Working at the Redoubt they have been throwing up at Phippse's farm, we suppose its owing to the Weather, and that they will fall too again when it moderates. The 13 Jack Shell thrown last Week from one of our Sea Morters fell between the College and the Church at Cambridge, We put twenty Seven pound of Powder in the Morter. this shews the Rebells we can reach them at that distance when we please; we have not thrown one since. The fleet from the Bay of Fundy was chased in here by Six small privateers out of Marblehead, but it blowing fresh they Escaped. The *Fowey* Captn Montigue is sent to lye under Cat Island in the Mouth of that harbour wch will be a Cheque upon them –

I am told that Washington has wrote to General [William] Howe, that he heard that General Carleton has sent the Rebel Col. Allen (taken in Canada) in

Chains to England, if so, He will treat Brigdr Genl Prescott whom they have taken accordingly – They assert their having possession of all Canada, we have no intelligence but what we get from flags of truce, wch are too frequent—I will write you again next Week by the Ship *Julious Cesser* in which Captn Urehquart [Urquhart] of the 14th Regt. goes passenger. I am with the greatest regard [&c.]

Fran^s^ Hutcheson

I am hard at Work discharging the 4 London Ships which are all as yet got in –

1. Haldimand Papers, BM.

Captain Francis Hutcheson to Major General Frederick Haldimand [1]

Dear Sir Boston December 25th 1775

Since writing you this Morning I have heard that two Hundred Men are to Embark this day on board two transports under the Command of Major [James] Grant of the 14th Regt and to be Convoyed by the *Scarborough* Man of War. its called a Secret Expedition, but every body says they are going to Rhode Island.[2]

Ships bound in here find no want of a light now, as the lighthouse is reestablished, the Rebells have not ventured to disturb them lately the[y] know it will be now well defended – The releife for the Redoubts on Bunkers hill goes over to Morrow the last fortnights Detachment have passed their time very Quiet without any insult from the Rebells – Col [William] Nesbit Relieves Col. [James] Agnew. This day the General has ordered one Butt of Porter for Each Regt to make they Men keep Christmas day – which is a Welcome present to them at this time. I am with great Respect Dr Sir [&c.]

Fran^s^ Hutcheson

1. Haldimand Papers, BM.
2. The *Scarborough* and transports were destined for Georgia, not Rhode Island.

Nicholas Brown to Stephen Hopkins [1]

Hond Friend Providence Decem 25, 1775—

I recd yours In behalf of the Comte of Naval Affairs of the 9th Inst wch Came to hand by Capt Munrow 21st I emediately laid the same before Govr Cooke & Mr Secry [Henry] Ward, who was Zealious for getg the Men & would have got the Govrs Co[uncil] together & asked Money from the Treasry to paid the Expence & Necs[r]y Advance, Had not we tho't it best to be Advanced by Private persons whereupon Capt Nicho Power as Zeal[i]ous & suteable a person as any in The Colony readely Offerd his Servis at his Own Expence s[e]t of[f] the next Morng for Newport where we hoped to get a Number of Seam[e]n But they being Mostly Inlisted into the Artillery & other Compys in Deffence the Colony, & the Influence of the Toreys prevented his getg Any Altho' he had taken every Proper Measure for that purpose, havg retu[r]n'd & made report Accordgly & that a Number would Inlist if permited from sd Compys wch if So Orderd would be Agreed to by the Comandg Officer We Call'd together the Co[u]nc[i]l this day (Some of wch live at a distance), who upon Consideration of the Importance of Maning the Contenental fleet wch in Turn after a Short Time hoped to receive

Some emediate Benefiet by sd fleet Granted Liberty for Capt Power to return to Newport & get all the Seamen from Any the compy he Could tho' the Govermt at this Time is in the Graitest Confution, All the Minute men (in Consique[nce] of Intelligence from Genl Washington) being Ordrd on to the Island The Allarm list Includg all persons in the Collony between 16 & 60, Ordrd Call'd together & ¼ part to be hir'd Contracted with or Drafted to hold them selves in Constant readiness to March on the shortest Notice.

Genl [Charles] Lee being wrote for on the Aforesd Intellegence, has sin[ce] bin here & is gone to Newport with the Cadet Co & Minute Men & Abot 50 wch Came from the Camp As his Gard – Tho' we had Accot since from Genl Washington the Troops & Ships saild from Boston [was] supepos'd to Contain the [18] & 59 Regemts Some Inveleeds & Recrutg officers bound home – Yet we Apprehend grait Confution in The people of Newport I [know] Wallace shod fire on them Its Sd Genl Lee; with Coll: [Rufus] Putman as Ingeneer & Brother J[n]o. Brown Appotd by the Assemy will Exame the proper places on & about the Isd to fortifie Genl Lee ses its not Doubted but the Enemie has there eye on the Isd of Rhod[isd] & it Seems proved by the Conduct of the Toreys there Its realy to be feard without some Assistanc[e] in raisg a suff[icien]t Standg Army the Isds of this Colony (at lest) will be taken possesn of by the Enemie, & its tho't Many the people there will Joyn them But to return, its to be Hop'd Capt Power will get 30 or 40 seamen, As he sets of[f] for Newport for that purp[o]se a 2nd time Tomorow morng what ever Numr is to be got will be forwardd In [Clark's] Sloop as Soon as possoble we are much pleas'd wth the spirit of the Congress in Ordg a Number of Ships Built, its a Grat pitte they had Not bin Set About before, so as to bin ready Airly in The Spring, every Necesry Preperation I hope will timely be Made – Capt Power tells me he will Ingage to Make 10 or 12 Tons of Good [Saltpetre?] at the Price it Can be [bot] in these New Engd Colonys, wch if not Contracted for & agreable would be glad to know if he May depend on suppyg it

1. Nicholas Brown Papers, JCBL.

Oath Exacted by Major General Charles Lee from Newport Tories [1]

I John Bowes here in the Presence of Almighty God, as I hope for Ease, Honour, & Comfort in this World, and Happiness in the World to come, most earnestly devoutly & religiously swear neither directly or indirectly to assist the wicked Instruments of ministerial Tyranny & Villainy commonly called the Kings Troops & Navy by furnishing them with Provisions or Refreshments of any Kind, unless authorized by the Continental Congress, or the Legislature as at present established in this particular Colony of Rhode Island. I do also swear by the same tremendous & Almighty God that I will neither directly or indirectly convey any Intelligence, nor give any Advice to the afsd Enemies so described, and that I pledge myself, if I should by any Accident get the Knowledge of such Treasons, to inform immediately the Committee of Safety – And as it [is] justly allowed that when the sacred Rights and Liberties of a Nation are invaded, Neutrality is not less base & criminal, than open and avowed Hostility, I do further swear &

pledge myself as I hope for Eternal Salvation, that I will, when ever called upon by the Voice of the Continental Congress, or that of the Legislature of this particular Colony under their Authority, to take Arms & subject myself to military Discipline in Defence of the Common Rights & Liberties of America So help me God.

John Bowes.

Sworn at Newport Decr 25th 1775.

[Endorsed] Similar Depositions were taken by

John Nicoll	Joseph Wanton jr
John Nicoll junr	Nichs Letchmore
Doctr Hunter	Richd Beale
George Bissel	

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1. John Hancock Papers, II, 112, LC. A copy was sent to the British Admiralty by Admiral Graves, entitled "Affidavit, Tendered by Lee to the inhabitants of Rhode Island." It listed no names, and is in PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

Diary of Dr. Ezra Stiles [1]

[Newport] Dec. 25. Xtmas.

At IIh P.M. Gen Lee arrived in Town boldly, accompanied with his Men armed: tho' Wallace declared he would fire if any Troops came in armed. He put up at Layton's next the Court House. On the Parade G. Lee declared his Advice for all to remove out of To in ten days. The Town Council sent a Committee of seven to wait on him four Tories & 3 sons of Liberty, viz Messrs Bennot, Peas, Maudsly — Tories – & Messrs Collins, Ellery, & John Wanton – offering him all the Assistance in their power. But hypocritically.

This Eveg (25th Dec) Gen Lee called & bro't before him Eight Tories, viz Col. Jos. Wanton formerly D. Gov of this Colony, Rev. Mr Bisset the Chh Minister, Dr Hunter, Messrs Lechmere, Beal, Nicols & Son of the Customhouse, & Mr Jno Bours – and proposed to them an Oath purporting their Renunciation of Tory Principles, Fidelity to the American Cause, & that they would be ready to take Arms in its Defence when called upon by Authority from the Continental Congress. He exempted Mr Bisset as a Clergyman, & Dr Hunter as a physician, from the part respectg Taking Arms. All took the enjoyned Oath, subscribed it & were dismissed, except Messrs Wanton, Beal, & Lechmere, who were allowed while Morng to consider of it.

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1. Diary of Ezra Stiles, YUL.

Newport Mercury, Monday, December 25, 1775

Newport, December 25.

The ministerial fleet on this station, last week, cut a supply of wood on Gould Island, a little above this town.

Last Saturday, a large sloop, supposed to be that lately owned by Capt. J. L. Wynn [1] came into this port, and brought in a large double decked brig; the same day a schooner, which parted from the above vessels off our harbour's mouth, went up the East side of this Island, she is supposed to be armed.

Now in this harbour, the *Rose,* Capt. Wallace, the *Glasgow,* Capt. Howe, the *Swan,* Capt. Ayscough, the bomb-brig [*Bolton*], Capt. [Thomas] Graves, the above mentioned large sloop of 10 guns, and several tenders.

As we understand an authenticated account of the damage sustained by the inhabitants of Jamestown, on Conanicut, on Sunday the 10th instant, is collecting; we have, for the present, omitted the particular account of that matter which we mentioned in our last.

1. The sloop *Endeavour,* Jonathan Lascelles Wynne, master, from Saco, with a cargo of lumber, was taken by H.M.S. *Hope,* and condemned at Boston and sold in September 1775. Graves's Conduct, Prize List, II, 36–38, BM.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. TO JOSEPH TRUMBULL [1]

Dear Sir New London Decemr 25 1775

I hope by this you have Recover'd your Hea[l]th, so as to be able to do Business &c –

I sent you Fourteen hundd bushels of Salt to Providence, to the Care of Messrs Clark & Nightingale to be deliverd to your Order – their is now two Vessells from N York with Flower & as the River is Shutt up, shall take it in to my Store, The *Phoenix* & *Assia* Men of Warr are both hal'd into the Docks att N York & its hourly Expected that the Communication to the Other Colonys will be cut of[f], the Captn of the *Phoenix* is a Senior officer to Vanderputt, & Sevearly Reprimanded him for letting the Flower Vessells Pass – Capt Elisha Hinman, is Just Arived from Cape Francoise & says that Great Preparations for the Reception of Ten Thousand troops from France is makeing, Barracks Erecting &c. and that he see the Lists of the Regemts that were Comeing, and it was Said their was as many Expected to Martinico – also that the Merchts. Exp[e]cted large Qtys of Powder out this Winter, I Just now heard that one of my Vessells had got into the Vineyard with three thousand wt & hope Soon to have the Pleasure of hearing that the *Macaroni* has Arived –

I wish you the Complemts of the Season & am Dr Sir [&c.]

Nath[1] Shaw Junr

1. Joseph Trumbull Papers, ConnHS. Trumbull was Commissary General, Continental Army.

New-York Gazette, MONDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1775

New-York, December 25.

His Majesty's Ships the *Phoenix* and *Asia* now lie in the East River; the latter opposite Murray's Wharff; and the former near Burling's Slip.

Pennsylvania Packet, MONDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1775

Philadelphia.

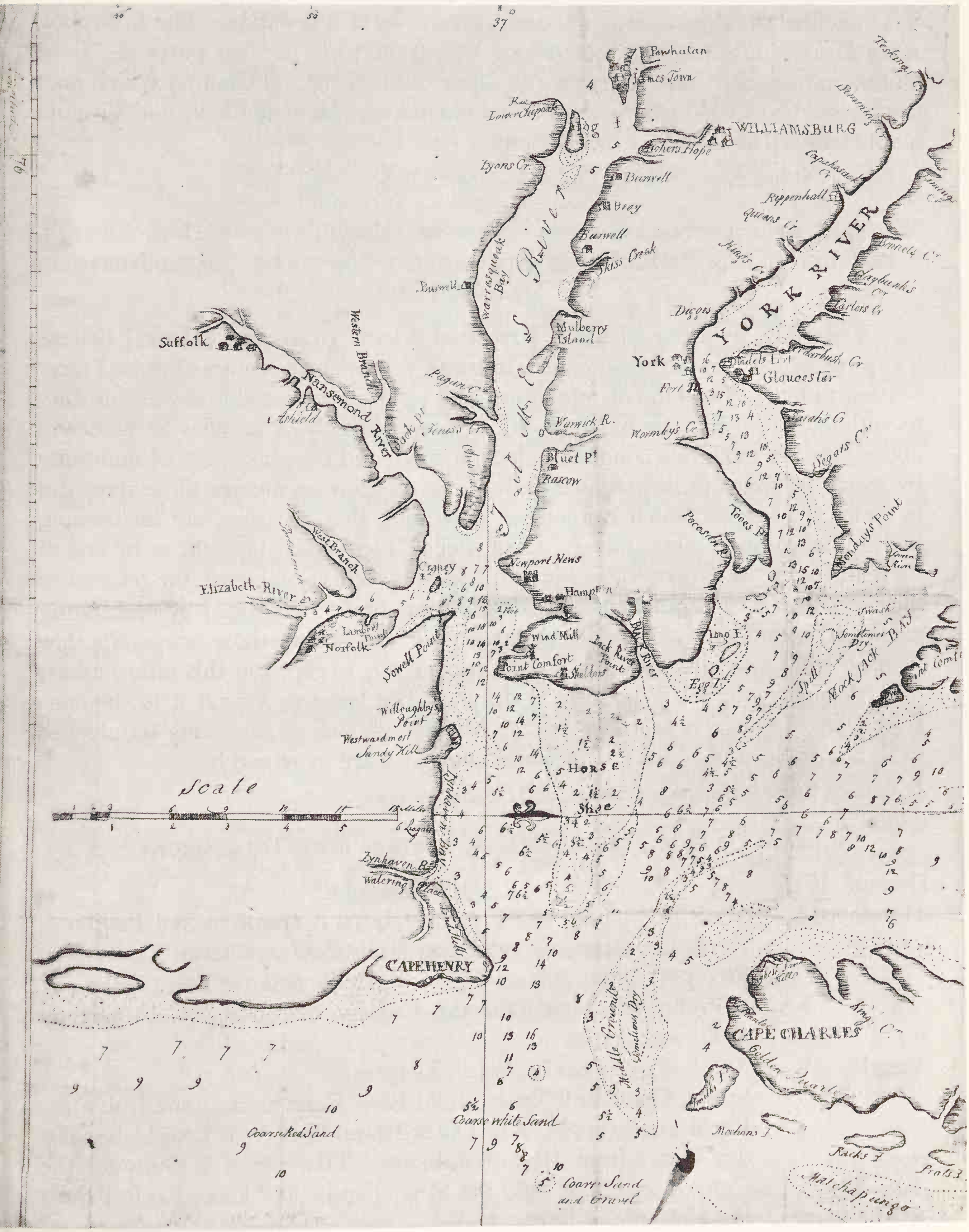
Capt. Price, from Bristol, in the beginning of October, spoke a brig, from Cork for the Grenades, the master of which informed him, that twelve [sail] of transports had sailed from Cork for Boston some time in September; that two or three days after a vessel was dispatched with orders for them to go to Halifax, but she returned without seeing them; and that five more transports afterwards sailed from Cork for Halifax.

By a letter from New York we learn, that the *Phoenix* man of war is moored off that place in the East-River, between the ferry near the Fly-market and that on Long-Island, supposed for the Winter, and that several vessels lately arrived there from the West-Indies, are in charge of the men of war.

By letters from Gen. Schuyler we learn, that Col. Easton had taken the vessels bound from Montreal for Quebec, under the command of Carlton or Prescot[t] That Carlton with four or five Canadians had landed from the fleet, and were making the best of their way to Quebec in the dress of peasants – That the brig *Gaspee,* together with 7 sloops and schooners which were [taken] as above, had on board, which are also taken, Brigadier General Prescott, Capt. William Dunbar, Major of Brigade, Capt. William Gamble, Quarter-Master General – Captains, Anstruther, Swan, Crawford and Harris; Lieutenant Cleveland – Ensigns, Camble, Leslie, M'Donald, Dr. Beaumont, and 150 privates, and most of them of the 26th regiment and the artillery – There was on board the vessels, 2 cannon of 9 and [2 of] 6 pounders; 36 cannon cartridges, and 45 ball, 3 barrels of powder, 2380 musket cartridges, 8 chests of arms, 200 pair of shoes, a quantity of intrenching tools, 760 barrels of flour, 20 of biscuit, 675 barrels of beef, and 376 firkins of butter.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM A GENTLEMAN, DATED SHIP *William,* OFF NORFOLK, VIRGINIA, DEC. 25, 1775." [1]

Lord Dunmore having certain intelligence about a month since, of a large body of the Rebel Army being on their march to destroy Norfolk, because its inhabitants had professed their loyalty to Government; in order to prevent their wicked intentions, sent a party of the 14th regiment to a narrow pass through which the Rebels were to march, and erected a Fort there about 18 miles from Norfolk. This was garrisoned with 35 men, and a few Volunteers from Norfolk. The Rebels approached, and made several unsuccessful attacks, but were always repulsed with loss; till on the 8th inst. his Lordship received information, that a party of the Rebels had got over, and proposed to attack the Fort on both sides; it was judged necessary to attack the main body, which accordingly was done early on the morning of the 9th, by a detachment of the 14th, under Capt. Lesly, about 130 in number, with a party of Marines, and some Volunteers from Norfolk, and Princess Anne, in all about 350. This small detachment made a furious attack upon the Rebels intrenchments, and after every effort which British Soldiers could do, were obliged to retreat, with the loss of the brave Captain Fordyce, two Lieutenants, and about fifteen Privates killed, and forty wounded, fifteen of which fell into the Rebels hands, including a Lieutenant. The Rebels were posted in great strength, 1100 in number; so what could our small party do, upwards of four to one against them, and strongly entrenched? The consequence of this repulse was, that we were obliged to abandon the fort, and likewise Norfolk, and take shelter on board the ships. I hope the time will soon arrive, when these rebellious Savages will be severely punished for their crimes. Some few of the Friends of Government, who fall into their hands, they treat with the greatest



37
Pawhatan
James Town
Lower Chipoak
WILLIAMSBURG
Archers Hope
Lyons Cr.
Burwell
Bray
Burwell
Skiss Creek
Rippenhall
Queens Cr.
Capahosack
YORK RIVER
Carters Cr.
Burwell
Warrasqueak Bay
Mulberry Island
Western Branch
Suffolk
Nansemond River
Pagan Cr.
Digges
York
Fort
Gloucester
Warwick R.
Wormly's Cr.
Bluet Pt
Rascow
Segats Cr.
Tooes P.
Pocosin R.
Mondays Point
West Branch
Craney
Newport News
Hampton
Elizabeth River
Lambert Point
Norfolk
Wind Mill
Point Comfort
Sheldons
Back River
Long I.
Egg I.
Swash
Sometimes Dry
Spit
Mock Jack Bay
Sowell Point
Willoughby's Point
Westwardmost Sandy Hill
Scale
Miles
Leagues
HORSE
Shoe
Lynhaven Bay
Lynhaven R.
Watering Place
CAPEHENRY
Middle Ground
Sometimes Dry
CAPE CHARLES
Kings Cr.
Golden Quarter
Smiths I.
Mochons I.
Racks I.
Coarse Red Sand
Coarse White Sand
Coarse Sand and Gravel
Matchapeingo

The Capes of the Chesapeake Bay area.

cruelty, chaining them to Negroes, &c. There are now about 2000 of them in Norfolk and the neighbourhood, and they having stopt all supplies to the ships, it is imagined the ships of war will destroy the town in a few days. The *Liverpool, King Fisher,* and *Otter,* are now laying before the town for that purpose. Lord Dunmore has done every thing for the Cause of his King and Country which man can do; and had 1000 troops arrived two months ago, he would have had Virginia totally reduced to obedience by this time.

1. *Lloyd's Evening Post and British Chronicle,* March 4 to March 6, 1776.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM COL. [ROBERT] HOWE, TO THE HON. EDMUND PENDLETON, ESQ; PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL CONVENTION, DATED NORFOLK, DEC. 25." [1]

Yesterday, by a flag of truce, I received a letter from capt. [Henry] Bellew, a copy of which I have the honour to transmit you, with the copies of those I have written to him. Though col. Woodford and myself were sensible it was our duty to withhold from him, as much as in our power lay, those supplies he wishes to obtain, yet the moderate conduct he has pursued, and the sentiments of humanity by which he seems to be actuated, induced us to delay an answer till to-day, and to couch it in terms which cannot but show him, that occasion, not inclination, had influence upon our conduct. Capt. Bellew's letter was brought us by one of his lieutenants; he expressed for himself, and every officer on board, the reluctance they should feel, if compelled by necessity, they should be obliged by marauding parties to snatch from the indigent farmers of this colony those provisions they were so willing to purchase. I thought proper, sir, to give you this information; and, through you, col. Woodford and myself beg leave to submit it to the consideration of your Honourable Board, whether we are to show any indulgence to those people, and, if we are, to what bounds we are to extend it.

1. Purdie's *Virginia Gazette,* December 29, 1775, Supplement.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Scorpion,* CAPTAIN JOHN TOLLEMACHE [1]

Decemr 1775	Running over Charles Town Bar
Monday 18	Mod: & Cloudy at 10 AM Weigh'd & Came to Sail *Palliser* & Prizes in Company at Noon Running for Charles Town Bar. First part Light Airs and Clear Middle & latter Fresh Gales . . . at 6 hoisted Lights for the Convoy to follow us in Compy *Palliser* & Prizes
Tuesday 19	Cape Fear N [W] 12 Leags Strong Gales and Clear in 2d Rfs Carried away the Jibb Stay, Rec'd another ½ past 3 Oak Island N N W 6 Leags Shoal'd the Water from 10 to 4 fathoms TKd fired 2 Guns for the Convoy to TKd Split the Mizn Topsl at 7 Close Reeft T Sails lost Sight of the Prize
Wednesdy 20	Oak Island No52E 15 Leags at 3 AM lost a hand lead & line latter pt out Reefs & Set Steering

Sails at Noon join'd Company the Prize. *Palliser* in Company. Fresh Gales and Cloudy ½ past 6 Came too with the Bt Br in 7 fams Anchd; *Palliser* & Prizes Veer'd to ½ a Cable.

Thursdy 21 At Single Anch off Laughans Folly

7 AM Weigh'd & Came to Sail in Compy *Palliser* & Prize at 10 & 11 TKd First part Mod: & Clear. Middle & latter Fresh Gales & Squally with rain Empd Turning to Windward ½ past 4 PM came too with the Bt Br in 7 fms Veer'd to ½ aCable Bacon Point NW 2 Leags

Friday 22 At Single Anchor off Bacon Point

AM Veer'd to a whole Cable Struck Top Gall: masts in Compy *Palliser* & Prize.

Strong Gales & Squally at 4 PM got the Jibb Boom in and Spritsail yd Fore and Aft at 6 down yds & Topmasts the Bt Br coming home & the Prize near us let go the small Br Veer'd to 1½ Cable on the Bt Br and ½ Cable on the Small Br

at 8 the Prize cut away our Kedge Anchor & 5 inch Hawser which was lost

Saturday 23 at 5 AM parted the small Br which we lost with 40 Fathm of Cable, Buoy & Buoy Rope, Veer'd to 2 Cables on the Bt Br Fresh Gales and Squally at 6 PM hove into ⅓ of a Cable on the Bt Br up Topmasts and Yards got Jibb Boom out got the Sheet Anchor forward for a Small Br in Rfs

Sunday 24 A Shore on the Middle

½ past 3 AM made the Signal to Weigh in Weighing the Bt Br broke the Messenger at 8 made sail and run in for Cape Fear Bar ½ past touch'd on the Middle the Wind coming in from Sea let go the Small Br and the Ship dropping upon the Fingers fird 2 Guns & made the Signal for Distress at 11 the Ship striking very hard down yds & Topmasts got the Jibb Boom in & Lowd the Cross Jack Yard. Empd getting the Stream Anchor & Hawser into the Boat.

First part Fresh Breezs & Cloudy Middle & latter light Airs & Clear Anchd here the *Cruizer* and one of our Prizes. came onbd another Pilot ½ past 3 hove the Ship off by Hawsrs & Anchors, Cut the small Br up Topmts & Yards got the Jibb Boom out at 5 Weighed *Cruizer* & Prize in Company. Came too with the Stream Anchor Veerd to ½ aCable. at 8 the *Cruizer* sent us one of her Anchors bent the Small Bowr Cable to it.

Monday 25 Moor'd [in] Cape Fear Harbour

at 6 AM Weigh'd ½ past 7 Anchd in 5 fam with the Small Br Veer'd to ⅓ of a Cable off a Shore 3 or 4 Cables Length Anchd the *Cruizer* Light Airs and Clear at 1PM Veer'd to ½ a Cable and Moored with the Stream Anchor

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1. PRO, Admiralty 51/872.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Cruizer,* CAPTAIN FRANCIS PARRY [1]

Decr	Moor'd off the Fort [Johnston]
Sunday 24th	Modt & Cloudy the *Scorpion* got on shore comeing in & made the [si]gl of distress, got up yds & Topmts & went out to her: & Anchord by her, Modt & fair the *Scorpion* got off ½ pt 4 weighd at 7 Anchor'd, between Cat Island & ball'd head,
Monday 25th	at 7 AM weigh'd at 8 Anchord, & moord in [blank] fathm of[f] Fort johnston:

[1] PRO, Admiralty 51/218.

HENRY LAURENS TO WILLIAM MAINE [1]

Dear Sir – Charles Town 25th Decem. 1775 —

Your favour of the 23d came to hand so late yesterday afternoon that I could not have called the Council of Safety with any hopes of making a Board in the Evening, I have therefore Summoned the Members to meet at ½ past 8 oClock this Morning – 'tis now ½ past 4 – I have risen so early in order to prepare & forward a variety of business which daily crowds in, & particularly to be ready to dispatch your messenger within a few minutes after the Council shall have determined the case of Mr [Ebenezer Smith] Platt – which I apprehend will be nearly in the following terms that Mr Platt ought not to have availed himself to the benefit of clearing out his Vessels at Georgia for New York but to have taken the common lot of the Inhabitants of the other associated Colonies, this opinion you will find supported by express declarations in the Resolutions of the Continental Congress 1st Novem. 1775.[2] – & the reason will appear from considering – that if New York & Georgia were to catch at the Bait insidiously laid by the Restraining Bill, avaricious & designing men would under colour of trading from those pretendly favoured ports, supply the West Indies & Great Britain with the products of those & the Neighbouring Colonies, nay, Administration would set their Engines at work for that very purpose, & in so far defeat our general Resolutions, & make the Colonies Instruments of destroying each other.

The Bond given at the Naval Office for delivery of a Cargo of Rice or other enumerated Commodity, may be canceled by producing a Certificate of the delivery of such Cargo in Great Britain or any of His Majesty's Plantations or West India Islands in America — the Obligee is not bound to deliver or to sell at any particular Specified port – the Character which you write of Mr Platt puts him above all Suspicion of a fraudulent design, but you know the danger of dispensing with Laws, a bad precedent established in the Case of a good Man would be quoted by others of a different Stamp & the worst of Men are Sometimes very powerful & will under colour of right do much mischief in Society –

upon the whole I apprehend the Council of Safety will Resolve that Mr Platt before he is permitted to proceed in Loading his Vessels Shall deliver to the Committee of Prince William's his clearance & other Custom House papers which he received at Savanna & also Enter into Bond with one Sufficient Surety for producing a Certificate of the actual delivery of his Cargoes at New York or some other of the United Colonies – but as you are a Member you will see what is to be written to the Committee to which I therefore refer & wishing you many returns of the Season more happy & more joyous than the present I remain with great regard – Sir [&c.]

[P.S.] I have taken it for granted that the clearances of the sloops which you speak of were taken from the Custom House & that Bond was given at the Naval Office in Savanna but if to the Council of Safety the view will be changed –

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1. *South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine,* IV, 3–5. Maine was chairman of the Committee of Prince William Parish.
2. See footnote 2 of the following entry.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

In the Council of Safety, [Charleston]
Monday, Dec. 25th, 1775.

Read a letter from the Committee of Prince William's Parish, dated 22nd Dec., 1775.

To which the following answer was written:

In the Council of Safety,
Dec. 25th, 1775.

Gentlemen – We have duly considered the contents of your letter of the 22nd instant, and applaud your attention to public concerns in the instance of Mr. Platt's sloops. If that gentleman has cleared out his vessels at the custom-house in Savannah, he ought to surrender his clearances, and other documents, into your hands, and enter into bond to you, with one known sufficient surety, in the penalty of £1,000 sterling for each vessel, to be cancelled upon return of a certificate of the due landing of the cargoes at New York, or at some other of the United Colonies. From the character of Mr. Platt, we have no doubt of the uprightness of his intentions. But if he has cleared out at the custom-house in Savannah, he has certainly erred, and in so far acted contrary to the resolutions of the Continental Congress of the 1st of November, copy of which you will find inclosed.[2] The congress at Philadelphia have expressly forbidden applications to the custom-houses, even for vessels which they have employed to import the means of defence.

We do not know what obligations are taken from shippers to and from the privileged ports, New York and Georgia. But we know the ordinary bonds at the naval office, commonly called Plantation Bonds, would enable avaricious men, and all the enemies of America, and in pretence of going to either of those ports, to act directly contrary to our association, by supplying all the West Indies, and even Great Britain, with the produce of New York, Georgia, and all the neighbouring colonies. From a due consideration of these circumstances, you will perceive the necessity for using the greatest precaution; and Mr. Platt, as a friend to American liberty, will cheerfully comply with the terms required.

If the bonds for the delivery of the cargoes in question were given to the [Provincial] Congress, Council of Safety, or any authorized committee at Savannah, we see no objection against Mr. Platt's loading his vessels, and proceeding according to the tenor of such bond – of the authenticity of which you are to be first satisfied.

By order of the Council of Safety.

Henry Laurens, President.

The Committee at Prince William.

The following order was issued, upon an application by the Hon. Capt. Drayton.

Sir – Supply the Hon. Wm. Henry Drayton, esq., such empty cartridges and cartridge-papers as he shall require, for the use of the ship *Prosper*.

Henry Laurens,
President of the Council of Safety.

25th Dec. 1775
To Capt. Robt. Cochran, Public Ordnance Store Keeper.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society,* III, 112–16.
2. Declaring that colonies not included in the Restraining Act should not avail themselves of the privilege of obtaining Custom House clearances, while other colonies were deprived of such privilege. The colonies excluded were New York, the lower counties of Delaware, North Carolina and Georgia.

FIRST SHIPPING ARTICLES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA ARMED SHIP *Prosper*[1]

South Carolina.

We who have hereunto voluntarily subscribed our names, do hereby, severally and respectively, each for himself, engage, agree, and swear to be true to the Associated American Colonies in general, and to the people of South Carolina in particular, and to serve them honestly and faithfully, in defence of their just rights and liberties, on board the *Prosper* ship-of-war, of South-Carolina aforesaid, and to observe and obey all the orders of the Provincial Congress, or Council of Safety, for the time being, and the orders of the officers set over us, by them, or either of them, or public authority thence derived, for and in consideration of the following monthly wages opposite our respective names – that is to say:

Mens Names.	Wages.	Stations.	When Shipped.
James Spencer,	—	Seaman Prom. Gunner's Mate.	Dec. 21, 1775.
Rob't. Mungomery,	£21.	Seaman,	Dec. 19, 1775.
John Swan,	£21.	Seaman,	Dec. 21, 1775.
Felix Maginniss,	£21.	Seaman,	Dec. 23, 1775.
John Laws,	£21.	Seaman,	Dec. 23, 1775.
Chas. Hamilton,	£21.	Seaman,	Dec. 23, 1775.
Will'm. Short,	£21.	Seaman,	Dec. 23, 1775.
Thos. Bradley,	£21.	Seaman,	Dec. 23, 1775.
Benj. Hudson,	£21.	Seaman,	Dec. 25, 1775.
Will'm. Jenkins,		Carpenter's Mate,	Dec. 23, 1775.

1. R. W. Gibbes, ed., *Documentary History of the American Revolution, 1764–1776* . . . (New York, 1855), I, 259–60. Hereafter cited as Gibbes, ed., *Documentary History.*

ENLISTMENT FORM FOR SOUTH CAROLINA NAVY [1]

South Carolina.

Know all men, That I have entered, and I do hereby certify that I have voluntarily entered into the navy of the Colony aforesaid, on board the ship *Prosper;* and I do hereby engage to be true and faithful in the said service, until I shall be discharged by public authority; and also to be bound by, and to obey, all and every rule, resolve, order, and regulation made, or to be made, by the Congress or the Council of Safety, or the naval officers under their authority. And I do hereby acknowledge the receipt of [blank]

Witness my hand this [blank]

[1] Gibbes, ed., *Documentary History,* I, 260.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Tamar,* CAPTAIN EDWARD THORNBROUGH [1]

1775	In Rebellion Road So Carolina
December 25	AM fired a Gun as a Signal to a Ship in the Offing Do got up the Yds & topgallant masts First & middle pt little wind & hazey latter hard Gales, PM came in the *Sandwich Packet* from Falmouth

[1] PRO, Admiralty 51/968.

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26 Dec.

MAJOR GENERAL RICHARD MONTGOMERY TO MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER [1]

My dear General, Head Quarters before Quebec Decr 26th

When last I had the Honour to write I hoped before now to have had it in my Power to give you some good News. I then had Reason to believe the Troops were inclined for a Coup de Main. I have since discovered to my great Mortification that three Companies of Col. Arnold's Detachment are very averse from the Measure. There is strong Reason to believe their Difference of Sentiment from the Rest of the Troops arises from the Influence of their Officers. Capt [Oliver Hanchet], who has incurred Col. Arnold's Displeasure by some Misconduct, and thereby given Room for harsh Language is at the Bottom of it, and has made some Declarations which I think must draw upon him the Censure of his Country if brought to Trial. Cap [William Goodrich] and [Captain Jonas Hubbard], seem to espouse his Quarrel.[2] A Field Officer is concerned in it, who wishes I suppose to have the seperate Command of those Companies, as the above mentioned Captains have made Application for that Purpose. This dangerous Party threatens the Ruin of our Affairs. I shall, at any Rate, be obliged to change my Plan of Attack, being too weak to put that in Execution I had formerly determined on. I am much afraid my Friend ————[3] is deeply concerned in this Business. I will have an Eclaircisement with him on the Subject. I will hereafter acquaint you more particularly with this Matter. In the mean time, I wish you would not mention Names, for I know not whether the Situation of Affairs will admit of doing the Public the Justice I could wish.

Strain every Nerve to send a large Corps of Troops down the Instant the Lake is passable. It is of the utmost Importance we should be possessed of Quebec, before Succours can arrive; and I must here again give it to you as my Opinion, and that of several sensible Men acquainted with this Province, that we are not to expect a Union with Canada, till we have a Force in the Country sufficient to ensure it, against any Attempts that may be made for its Recovery. I believe I have mentioned this in my last, but I cant help repeating it again. One Difficulty occurs to me, how are those Troops to be paid there? The Continental Money will not be received by the Inhabitants. I had distributed Part of it to the Troops at Montreal. Few would receive it. The Consequence was, the Soldiers offered it for less than its Value, and so it became depreciated.

One Scheme has occurred to me, which I shall communicate by this opportunity to Price & our other Friends at Montreal. If they can send down to the Army such Articles as Soldiers choose to lay out their Money upon, employing Sutlers for that Purpose who will receive our Paper, the Troops may then be paid in Continental Currency, which will not be depreciated. The Soldier will not grumble as he may be regularly paid, & by Degrees, the Inhabitants may acquire Confidence in it, seeing our Merchants take it freely. What hard Cash can be mustered might pay the Contingencies of the Army – such as Transportation of Baggage &c & purchase Provisions.

I am amazed no Money is yet arrrived. The Troops are uneasy, & I shall by & by be at my Wits End to furnish the Army with Provisions. I am the more surprized, as I am credibly informed Cash arrived from Philada at Tyonderoga three Weeks since. I have almost exhausted Price, having had upwards of £5000 York from him. I must take this Opportunity of acknowledging his Service. He has been a faithful Friend to the Cause indeed! His Advice & Assistance upon every Occasion, I have been much benefitted by; and when I consider that he has been the first Mover of those Measures, which have been attended with so many & great Advantages to the United Colonies I can't help wishing the Congress to give him an ample Testimony of their Sense of his generous and spirited Exertions in the Cause of Freedom.[4]

Having so early reported to you my Determination to return home, I take it for granted, Measures are taken to supply my Place Should not any Body arrive shortly for that Purpose, I must conclude Congress mean to leave the Management of Affairs in Genl Wooster's Hands; and therefore if this Business should terminate in a Blockade, I shall think myself at Liberty to return. However, if possible, I shall first make an Effort for the Reduction of the Town.

I will shortly comply with several Articles of Directions, which I have received from you, and which I deferred in Hopes of complying with them before now in peaceable Possession of Quebec. The strange divided State of the Troops, all this Campaign, has prevented my sending Returns, having never been able to get one with any tolerable Exactness. The three discontended Companies are within a few Days of being free from their Engagements. I must try every Means to prevent their Departure, and in this Matter, I am much embarrassed. Their

Officers have offered to stay, provided they may join some other Corps. This is Resentment against Arnold, and will hurt him so much that I don't think I can consent to it. I am, [&c.]

Rich^{d} Montgomery.

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1. John Hancock Papers, III, 295–98, LC.
2. Pursuant to Montgomery's wishes, Schuyler erased the names of the three captains. They are inserted upon the basis of the Journal of John Pierce, engineer and surveyor upon the expedition to Quebec, who identified them by name, and who also spoke of "a Certain field officer," but did not name him. The Pierce Journal was in possession of the late Kenneth Roberts. The field officers in Arnold's detachment were Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Greene, Major Timothy Bigelow and Major Return Jonathan Meigs.
3. Montgomery's friend, suspected of complicity in the affair, has escaped identification. His name was also erased by Schuyler.
4. James Price, Montreal merchant, repaid by Congress in 1776.

COMMODORE MARRIOT ARBUTHNOT TO PHILIP STEPHENS [1]

[Copy] Halifax Yard 26th Decr 1775.

In my last Letter of the 18th of Novr past I did myself the Honour to send you the particulars of the work carrying on for the security of the Carreening Yard, at this place; which we continue to strengthen, as fast as the season will permit.

I am now employed in Collecting the Cannon which are scattered about this Town, most of them without Carriages many Unserviceable, those will be spiked, the others, I will if possible bring into the yard for security, because Cannon will undo us.

the whole Number of different Calibres are 300 a heavy task it is.

I am sorry to inform their Lordships, that I have it from pretty good Authority that the Rebels have many Armed Vessels & it is said One ship of 22 Guns fitted from Philladelphia, but of this I am not so certain but I have great reason to believe their Orders are to interrupt the trade of this Country, by preventing them from sending lumber & other Necessary's to the West Indies, or Great Brittain, & particularly to stop all supplies for Boston, & prevent as much as possible the success of the fishery on this Coast, which there cannot be a doubt was there Errand to look into Canso, where I find a beneficial extensive trade is carried on of which I was ignorant untill this Accident but luckily the vessels were all sailed mostly belonging to Jersey.—

the 30th of last month Anchored here two transports from Cork, with 6 companies of the 27th Regiment & Brigadier General Massey their Coll Sunday another transport arrived with three more companies, belonging to the said Corps, One is not yet arrived.—this event is a great acquisition to this place & will I hope totally prevent any schemes that may have been meditating against us either at present, or in future; for most Undoubted it is; the Rebels know every part of our force, in this country. On the 10th of December Anchored in this Port the last transport with 3 Companies of the 27th Regiment after a Miraculas escape having been on shore on the Isle of sable 8 Days the troops suffered much but lost only 3 Men –

the Master also reports that when he left boston the 18th Inst no more than one transport with three Companies of the 17 Regiment from Cork were arrived, but that in the night of his sailing he discovered in Boston Bay several lights; which he apprehended may be admiral Shuldham, who the *Renown* at her Arrival gave them to understand may be hourly Expected,

By a Packet from Falmouth who arrived the 20th Inst and brought dispatches for Governor Legg.

Orders are come to Capt [William] Spry the Engineer from Sir Jeffery Amhurst directing his yard to be secured in the best manner, that temporary works will admit of, which he says he will do as fast as possible, but the season is very severe.

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1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/123, 56b.

LIST OF CANNON AND STORES NEEDED FOR DEFENSE OF NAVAL YARD, HALIFAX [1]

Copy/ Halifax 26 Decr 1775

		Poundrs	Number
Cannon with Carriages Complt	For the Proposed Lines	9	12
	For the Block Houses	4	40

For the Citadel Hill & Batteries
within the Naval Yards.

Carriages &ca Compleat	For 24 Poundrs	30
	For 12 Do	10

NB: Guns of these Two Calibers
are now at Halifax.

Grape shot for the 9 & 4 Poundrs
Intrenching Tools
Handspikes
Hand Grenades

W: Spry
Commandg Engineer

To The Right Honble & Honble the Principal Officers of His Majesty's Ordnance

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1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/162.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS [1]

[Exeter] Tuesday Decr 26th 1775.

Voted, That Capt. Eliphalet Ladd have leave to sail to any of the Foreign West Indies, at his own charge & risque, under such orders & restrictions as this Congress shall see fit. – and that Phillips White Esqr, John Hurd, Esqr & Capt. Ezekiel Worthen, members of this Congress, with Nicholas Gilman Esqr & Capt. John Emery be a Committee to consult & Lay a plan of such orders & restrictions as said Ladd shall be under for that purpose, and lay the same before this Congress as soon as may be.

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1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire,* VII, 696.

MEMORANDUM OF A LETTER TO WILLIAM WATSON [1]

Cambridge 26 Decr 1775

acknowledged rect of his of the 23d inst – & informed him that application had been made to Gen [William] Howe for exchange of prisoners, to which Mr Howe was silent

[1] Washington Papers, LC.

MEMORANDUM OF A LETTER TO JONATHAN GLOVER [1]

Cambridge 26th Decr 1775

acknowledged rect of his of the 25th relative to the sloop *Sally,* retaken by Capt [Winborn] Adams,[2] Sent into Marblehead desired him to get information to whom the vessell & Cargo belongd – if in danger to Land the Cargo.[3] – avoid embezzelment &c

[1] Washington Papers, LC.

[2] The *Sally* bound from Lisbon for New York, with a cargo of 153 quarter casks of Lisbon wine, had been taken by H.M.S. *Niger,* and was retaken by Adams in Washington's armed schooner *Warren* on Christmas Eve, 1775.

[3] The *Sally* was owned by Peter Barberie of Perth Amboy, New Jersey.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO RICHARD HENRY LEE [1]

[Extract] Cambridge, 26 December, 1775.

Lord Dunmore's letters to General Howe, which very fortunately fell into my hands, and were enclosed by me to Congress, will let you pretty fully into his diabolical schemes. If, my dear Sir, that man is not crushed before spring, he will become the most formidable enemy America has; his strength will increase as a snow ball by rolling; and faster, if some expedient cannot be hit upon to convince the slaves and servants of the impotency of his designs. You will see by his letters, what pains he is taking to invite a reinforcement at all events there, and to transplant the war to the southern colonies. I do not think, that forcing his Lordship on shipboard is sufficient; nothing less than depriving him of life or liberty will secure peace to Virginia, as motives of resentment actuate his conduct, to a degree equal to the total destruction of the colony. I fear the destination of the naval armament at Philadelphia is too well known to answer the design. I have heard it spoken of in common conversation, at this place, near a fortnight ago; and the other day was told, that two men-of-war, going into the harbor of New York, supposed to be those for the relief of the *Asia,* were ordered and accordingly sailed immediately out, as is imagined for Virginia.

My letters to Congress will give you the occurrences of this place. I need not repeat them, but I must beg of you, my good Sir, to use your influence in having a court of admiralty, or some power appointed to hear and determine all matters relative to captures; you cannot conceive how I am plagued on this head, and how impossible it is for me to hear and determine upon matters of this sort, when the facts, perhaps, are only to be ascertained at ports, forty, fifty, or more miles distant, without bringing the parties here at great trouble and expense. At any rate, my time will not allow me to be a competent judge of this business.

[1] Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington,* IV, 186–87.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES [1]

[Watertown] Tuesday. Decr 26 1775

Ordered – That Coll [Joseph] Otis Coll [Solomon] Lovel and Mr [Nathan] Cushing, be a Committee to consider what Sum is proper to be advanced to the Committee appointed to fit out Vessels for Powder, &c.

[1] Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington,* IV, 186–87.

MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HOWE TO LORD DARTMOUTH [1]

My Lord, Boston, December 26th 1775.

I am this day informed by the Master of a Vessel arrived here a few Days past from Cape Nicholas in the Island of Hispaniola, that the Rebels get Supplies of Arms and Gunpowder from thence in large Quantities, One Person by this Informants Account having sold 1,000 Stands of Arms, and one Ton of Gunpowder, to the Master of a Privateer fitted out for that Intent from Providence in the Government of Rhode Island; and it was generally said at Cape Nicholas, that the same Privateer had sailed with three other Vessels under her Convoy, having on Board two Tons of Gunpowder and 10,000 Stands of Arms for the Use of the Rebels.

It has lately been discovered that Persons in the Country suspected of Disaffection to Government, having Effects and Merchandize in this Town have used and are practising various Artifices, by a Seperation and Conveyance of their Property, to those of the Town who pass for being well disposed Subjects, to secure the same: As they must be indebted to Merchants in Britain for the greater Part of such Goods, and certainly mean to defraud them in Payment, I shall do every Thing in my Power to stop these Proceedings, until I receive your Lordship's particular Instructions on this Head. With the most perfect Respect [&c.]

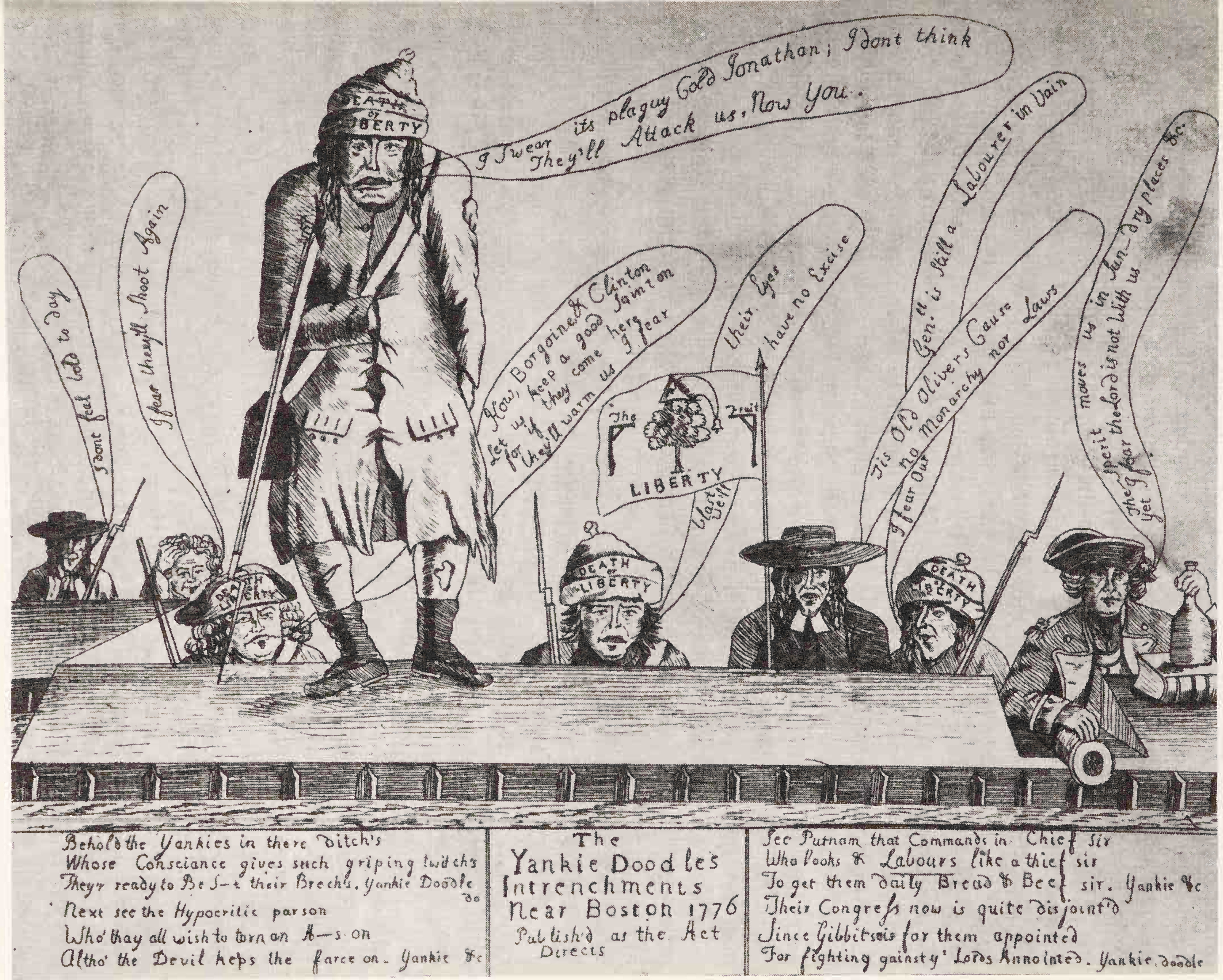
W Howe

[1] PRO, Colonial Office, 5/93.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN ANDREW BARKLEY, H.M.S. *Scarborough,* BOSTON [1]

Whereas from the present Scarcity of Provisions at Boston and the uncertainty of any arriving at this Season from Europe, it is become absolutely necessary to take every probable Step to procure Supplies for the Existence of his Majesty's Army; and General Howe having embarked 175 Marines on board the *Symmetry,* and *Whitby* Transports under the Command of Major [James] Grant of the 40th Regiment to proceed in Company with his Majesty's Ship under your Command to Georgia, where we hope the Governor Sir James Wright supported with such a force will contrive to load the said Vessels with Rice and other Articles of Provision, for payment of which Major Grant carries Cash and Bills of Exchange.

You are therefore hereby required and directed to take the Transports aforementioned under your Convoy and proceed with them and his Majs Schooner


I Swear its plaguy Cold Jonathan; I dont think They'll Attack us, Now You.
I dont feel bold to Day
I fear they'll Shoot Again
How, Borgoine & Clinton Let us keep a good Lanton for if they come here they'll warm us I fear
Their Eyes have no Excise
The Fruit LIBERTY
What Well
Tis Old Olivers Cause no Monarchy nor Laws
I fear Our Gen.ll is Still a Labourer in Vain
The Sperit moves us in Sun-dry places &c. yet I fear the Lord is not With us
DEATH of LIBERTY
The Yankie Doodles Intrenchments Near Boston 1776
Publish'd as the Act Directs
Behold the Yankies in there Ditch's
Whose Consciance gives such griping twitchs
They'r ready to Be S—t their Brech's. Yankie Doodle do
Next see the Hypocritic parson
Who' thay all wish to torn on A—s on
Altho' the Devil keps the farce on. Yankie &c
See Putnam that Commands in Chief sir
Who looks & Labours like a thief sir
To get them daily Bread & Beef sir. Yankie &c
Their Congress now is quite disjoint'd
Since Gibbitsois for them appointed
For fighting gainst y' Lords Annointed. Yankie doodle

Hinchinbrook to Savannah in the province of Georgia, where you are to remain with the Transports, and give all the assistance and countenance in your power to the procuring Rice, Peas, or any kind of Provisions for the use of this Garrison. This being done and the Transports laden with as much as can be procured, you are to use your utmost Endeavours to return with them to Boston, where the Supplies you are expected to bring should if possible arrive early in March.

His Majesty's Ship *Liverpool* and the *Kingsfisher, Otter, Tamer, Raven* and *Cruizer* Sloops are at Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia. The *St Lawrence* Schooner is at St Augustine.

You are to seize all Ships and Vessels you meet laden with any kind of provisions, and accordingly as you may be near Rhode Island or any of the Places aforementioned, you are to carry any Ship or Vessels seized unto the nearest Port, and order one of the Sloops to proceed with her to Boston or carry her with you to Georgia, and send the Sloop on that Station immediately with such laden Vessel to Boston as you shall find best for the Service; but in this you must use your own discretion, remembring that it is of the utmost consequence to get provisions of all kinds to Boston particularly Pulse, and that no Vessel with such a Cargo however manned can be trusted without a King's Ship.

You are to raise as many Seamen as possible for the Fleet by pressing or otherwise, bearing all above your Complement on a supernumerary List for Wages and Victuals; but you are to be very careful to enter none without their being first examined by your Surgeon, to the end that his Majesty's Ships may not be incumbered with diseased or useless people.

You are to receive on board as many skilful Pilots for any part of the Coast between Georgia and Halifax as you can get, and bear them for Victuals only, until farther Order. But you are to supply any of his Majs Ships with Pilots that require them.

And whereas you will herewith receive Dispatches for the Governors of his Majesty's Provinces of East and West Florida, you are on your Arrival at Savannah to dispatch the *Hinchinbrook* with the said Dispatches to St Augustine and Pensacola, directing Lieutenant [Alexander] Ellis to return to St Augustine and there remain stationed until further Order in the Room of the *St Lawrence,* whom you are to take under your Command and bring with you to Boston; And as she is a large roomy Vessel she may be of Service in bringing Provisions hither. You will in all things act to the best of your Judgement for the good of his Majesty's Service, and as at present the principal Object of your attention is to procure a speedy Supply of Provisions for Boston, every method is to be tried for that purpose, and the greatest Care taken to secure what you may get from falling into the hands of Rebels, therefore if you find it necessary, you are to order his Majesty's Sloop *Tamer* or *Cruizer,* or both to proceed in Company with you to Boston.

You are to take, sink, burn or otherwise destroy all Pirates and Rebels, but you are not to risque any of your People in small Vessels taken from the Enemy, but, if the property clearly appertains to Rebels, to take out the whole or any part of the Cargo with the Prisoners and sink or burn the Vessel.

For all other Orders you are referred to the general and additional Orders which you will herewith receive.

Given under my hand on board his Majs Ship *Preston*
at Boston the 26 Decr 1775
Sam^{l} Graves

By Command of the Admiral G. Gefferina.

[1] Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 112–14, BM.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA STILES [1]

[Newport] Dec. 26.

This Morng Messrs Beal, Wanton & Lechmere still refusing the Oath were taken into Custody: and this Aft were sent off under Guard to Head Quarters. Gen Lee dined with Jno Collins Esq, viewed the Town and examined proper places for erecting fortifications. Lt Col. [Rufus] Putnam an Engineer from the Army was with him. The General's Presence here strikes Awe through the Tories. They are as obsequious & submissive as possible. They wait upon him & invite him to dine. Capt Andw Christie was this Afternoon detected in communicatg Intelligence to the Men o'War & was taken into Custody.

[1] Diary of Ezra Stiles, YUL.

GREENWICH COMMITTEE OF INSPECTION TO GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL [1]

In Committee, Greenwich, December 26, 1775

Honourable Sir, In compliance with your honourable desire, signified to this Committee by Doctor Mead, who, at the request of this body, has made inquiry into the state of affairs in the County of Westchester, the result of which inquiry we beg leave to lay before your Honour, viz: That upon the best information he could obtain from the friends of the American cause in that quarter, there is now between Byram River and King's Bridge about two thousand barrels of pork, chiefly in the hands of Tories, besides what has been sent off, which is difficult to ascertain.

One Webb and Weyman, of the Borough of Westchester, put up about three or four hundred barrels, which they, (with themselves,) conveyed on board the *Asia* man-of-war, except twenty-four barrels, stopped by the Committee of New-York. That at the house of W. Sutton, Esq., of Maroneck, about twenty head of fat cattle had been barrelled within a few days past, which, by some of our friends in that neighbourhood, is supposed to be sent off for the Ministerial army; and that in the same neighbourhood, for three or four miles round, there are not more than eight or ten Whigs to one hundred and twenty Tories. The proceedings of the Committee of that County appear rash, dilatory, weak, and inadequate to their unhappy circumstances. That upon the 15th inst., a large yawl from the *Asia,* with about twenty-four men armed, came in the night into Maroneck harbour, and from the inimical inhabitants, was loaded with poultry and small stock for said ships; the friends of liberty were so few, that they were not able to collect sufficient force to make any timely opposition. That the Provincial Congress of New-York have sent two or three fruitless messages to the armed Tories in Queen's County, and then passed a resolve, that they should not be indulged the privilege of the [New] York markets, but cannot learn that they have taken any other measures to suppress them. Said Congress adjourned 'till the 1st of February. It is said by one of their members, that some time had been spent by them in debating whether they should not address Mr. Tryon, for the purpose of calling the General Assembly of that Province, to revive their old scheme of adopting the Parliamentary insult of the 20th of February last, which was rejected. And as to the conduct of the men-of-war in New-York, we cannot learn any thing more than what is inserted in the publick papers, to which we beg leave to refer your Honour, and are [&c.]

By order of the Committee:

Amos Mead, Clerk.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives,* 4th, IV, 590–91.

Major General Philip Schuyler to John Hancock [1]

[Extract] Albany December 26th 1775.

Sir I do Myself the Honor to inclose You an Extract of a Letter which I Yesterday had the Pleasure to receive from General Montgomery. It has relieved me from a most distressing Anxiety occasioned by a Report which prevailed here, that General Montgomery was killed, Colo: Arnold taken Prisoner & our Army totally defeated. I find that this Lye was Contrived by some here Inimical to Us, & so Industriously circulated that It will probably reach Congress before this Letter. –

As I have no Troops, It will not be in my Power to send a Garrison to the Fort in the Highlands. a Post of so much Importance ought not to be left without a strong one. – I have sent Capt: [Andrew] Billings of Colo: [James] Clintons Regiment to raise a Company, he thinks he can speedily effect It. I propose to send him to the Highlands, Unless Congress should direct Otherwise.

I am informed that General Carlton has sent home all the Pilots from Quebec, probably with an Intention to have their Services early in the spring

Inclose a List of the Military Stores intended for General Washington. they are now at Fort George and as we have a fine fall of Snow, & the Weather extreamly cold, I hope to see them here on their Way to Cambridge in a few Days. –

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, I, 370–73, NA.

Journal of the Continental Congress [1]

[Philadelphia] Tuesday, December 26, 1775

Two letters from General Washington, dated the 14 and 16 December, 1775, . . . also a letter from sundry masters of vessels, dated Guadaloupe, September 19 1775 were laid before Congress and read.

Resolved, That Friday next be assigned for taking into consideration the propriety of opening the ports of the United Colonies after the 1st day of March next.

Whereas this Congress, by a resolution passed the 15th day of July last, did direct that every vessel importing into these colonies, gun powder, salt petre, sulphur, and other military stores therein specified, within nine months from the date thereof, should be permitted to load and export the produce of these colonies, to the value of such powder and stores aforesaid, the non-exportation agreement notwithstanding, by permits from the committees of the several colonies; to the end, therefore, that this Congress may be the better informed of the quantity of military stores which are or shall be so imported, and of the produce exported in consequence of the resolution aforesaid.

Resolved, That it be recommended to all committees by whom any permits, under the said resolution, have been or may be granted, to transmit to this Congress, from time to time, a true account of the military stores, &c. imported, and of the produce exported, with the price and value of both.

Ordered, That the foregoing resolution be published.[2]

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1. Ford, ed., *JCC,* III, 457, 460, 461.
2. The resolution was printed in the *Pennsylvania Packet,* January 1, 1776.

DR. BENJAMIN RUSH TO OWEN BIDDLE [1]

Dear Sir The Sailors in the barracks complain of the want of suitable accommodations for an hospital. A few of them on the province island hospital (who are on the recovery) beg for liberty to be removed to the barracks. I hope the committee of Safety will attend immediately to these Matters.

I am sorry to find that our recruits suffer so much from the Want of blankets. Suppose the committee of Safety should request by an Advertisement every family in the city to furnish one, or more from their beds acording as they could spare them. I have mentioned this Subject to above a dozen families in the city who have all expressed a desire to concur in it if they are properly called upon them.— From Dr Sir [&c.]

B Rush

Tuesday morning [December 26]

1. Emmet Autograph Collection, NYPL. Biddle was a member of the Pennsylvania Committee of Safety.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE [1]

At a Meeting of the Comme Balte 26 Decemr 1775

The Committee, taking into Consideration the Severity of the Weather, and the particular Hardships arising from detaining Vessels, agreeable to the Resolves of this Committee passed the 19th Inst, Do Resolve, That the said Resolves be rescinded –

The Oath appointed on Tuesday last to be taken by all Masters of Vessels, to whom Permitts for leaving this Port are granted, was cancelled, and the following substituted in it's Stead –

Oath – You A.B. Do make Oath, That the Manifest now given in, is a just and true Account of the Goods taken in, or intended to be taken onboard your Vessel; That you will not dispose of, or sell, any of the Goods, now shipped onboard your Vessell to any Person or Persons, who, you have Reason to suspect, will carry the same to Lord Dunmore, or any British Vessels of War, nor will convey Any Passengers, Letters, or Intelligence to Lord Dunmore, the British

Vessels of War, or to any other Person whatsoever, with Design of Conveying such Letters or Intelligence—

The following is a Copy of the Permission from the Continental Congress to Jonathan Hudson –

[Here is inserted the resolutions of the Continental Congress of December 11, 1775]

Ordered, That the Armed Boat employed by the Comme for Preventing the Department of Vessels from this Port without Permissions, be discharged from further Service: And that Messrs William Lux & Saml Purviance Junr pay Captain Hanson for the Hire of said Boat and Hands for the time, they have been employed; The Comme agreeing, that if the said Charge is not allowed by the Publick in the Accounts of the Armed Vessels now fitting out, The said Accot shall be paid to them out of the Monies in Mr [James] Calhoun's Hands—

1. Baltimore Committee, LC.

Thomas Macknight to Reverend Dr. Macknight [1]

Copy On board the *Kings Fisher,* off Norfolk
26th Decr 1775

Dear Brother – My last was from Norfolk some time ago – after staying there three weeks I returned home to Belville, but was oblidged to come back on a sudden to avoid being assassinated which I was threatened with, for it seems the Chairman of the Committee of Currituck apprehensive of my raising a strong party there in favour of Goverment had wrote to the Committee of safety for the District of Edenton, expressing his fears, wishing me dead and desiring some method might be taken suddenly – accordingly some rascalls were influenced to waylay me as it was known they could not raise a party sufficient to attack me at my own house without alarming and giving me time sufficient to collect my friends, having once before failed in an attempt of A publick nature they saw this method impracticable and therefore had recourse to one still baser – however I had a few hours nottice and was able to save myself by flight

When I arrived here the Earl of Dunmore Governour of this province offered me protection with him on board the Shipping where himself and others were oblidged to save themselves – I chose rather to go to Cape Fear where Governour Martin was on board the *Cruiser* but his Lordship expressing his earnest wishes that I should stay with him and not having it in my power to go to Cape Fear I have remained in this Country –

A few companys of the 14th regiment to the amount of 130 privates having been sent here for a kind of Guard to his Lordship and he having with them and the assistance of some volunteers defeated a party of the Rebells at Kemps Landing in Princess Ann county he thought proper to build a Stockade Fort at the Great Bridge to prevent the Rebells from other parts of the Country coming to this Town and the adjacent countys, and to give time for drawing Lines of Defence round Norfolk – however as the Rebell Army advanced to the Great Bridge, being stopped by the Fort encreased dayly in numbers and were bringing cannon to attack it, his Lordship thought proper to direct an attack to be made upon them, but they having had the precaution to entrench themselves on the other side of the Bridge and the troops being oblidged to march the attack along a narrow causeway flanked by the Rebel Works, they were oblidged to Retreat into the Fort after losing a considerable number of their small body, – amongst the Slain was a Charles Fordyce Captain of Grenadeers a Gentleman exceedingly regretted by all who knew him – this Company at the head of which the Capt attacked was almost entirely cut off – I had a particular affection for him which commenced at the affair at Kemps and should probably have shared his fate at the Bridge had the Governour permitted me to go upon that Expedition but 'twas thought more expedient that I should attend to the works throwing up round Norfolk which were under my care as Engineer

This unfortunate attack which was made in the morning about sunrise dispirited most people – The troops and volunteers evacuated the Fort the same day after dark and marched down to Norfolk, all thoughts of defending the Town were given up the Soldiers are gone on board two Transports and those who have dared to be active in supporting Government are under the necessity also of taking refuge in vessels such as had not that in their power are left to the mercy of the Rebells who have taken possession of the Town – a single Regiment a few weeks ago would have reduced this colony to a sense of its duty. God only knows when it will be done, now – we have heard no news from home for a long time –

Tell Pate that his Mother, Brother and Sister with Mrs Aitchison and her little ones and Mrs Ellegood with hers are sent over to the Eastern shore and we hope they are safe there Mr Aitchison and Collonel Ellegood went to see them Landed and we look for them back in the Vessel Mr Parker & Mr Stephenson to whom the Governour has given a Lieutenants Commission are in the *Arundell* a schooner given us for our reception –

It is impossible as yet to give you any account of what I am to do – I know not what is become of William McCormick I hope that he is safe and that our two ships are got out of the Country – I hear that the Rebells have destroyed all my property at Belville to the amount of many thousand pounds, and that our negroes are oblidged to sculk in the woods, there are amongst them near thirty children and three women with sucking infants at their breasts

I inclose you some papers and hope my next will afford you more agreable news – Remember me kindly to all my friends – if you write to me let it be under cover to the Govr of Virginia or of North Carolina, I am &ca

1. Miscellaneous Manuscripts, CL.

27 Dec.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Senegal,* CAPTAIN WILLIAM DUDDINGSTON [1]

Decemr 1775	Liverpool pt NEbN. 3 Leags
Tuesday 26	At 8 wore Ship, at 12 Made Sail, wore Ship Blows fresh & a hard frost —
	Do Wr PM working into Liverpool Bay at 4 Anchored in 17 fam Black point NW½N. Liverpool Isld NE
Wednesday 27	Moored in Herring Cove
	at 10 A M weighed, & working up to Liverpool Harbr [2]

at 5 P M anchored in 13 fam Employd Cleaning the Ship of Ice. Boat sounding all round Ship Boat Employed Examining Vessels

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1. PRO, Admiralty 51/885.
2. The *Senegal* had sailed from Boston on December 20, 1775.

DIARY OF SIMEON PERKINS, LIVERPOOL, NOVA SCOTIA [1]

Wednesday, Dec. 27th,—The ship seen yesterday comes up the harbour and proves to be His Majesty's Ship [*Senegal*], commanded by Capt. Dudenstall [Duddingston]. It is said she is to winter here.

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1. Innis, ed., *Perkins' Diary*, 107.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES [1]

[Watertown] Wednesday, December 27, 1775.

On the Memorial of William Powell, entered the 21st Current: [2]

Resolved, That the Schooner of about sixty Tons, mentioned in the Memorial of William Powell, of Salem, in the County of Essex, be permitted to proceed on a Voyage to any Part of Europe or to the West Indies, (the Dominions of Great-Britain excepted) for the purpose of procuring Gun Powder, or other Military Stores, provided the Owner of the Vessel enter into Bonds with sufficient Sureties, in the Sum of One Thousand Pounds, to be taken by the Committee of Safety of Salem, in the Name of the Treasurer of this Colony, that said Schooner shall proceed on said Voyage with Cash only, (as is proposed in the Memorial) with all possible Dispatch, and bring nothing back except Gun Powder, or other Military Stores if a full Load of the former cannot be obtained, and land the same in some Part of this Colony, Boston and Nantucket excepted.

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1. Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch.
2. *Ibid.*, December 21, 1775.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA STILES [1]

[Newport] Dec. 27.

This Morng Christie was sent off under Guard. And also Messrs Wanton, Beal & Lechmere – set off from Head Quarters under Guard for Providence & the Camp. The Rifle Men give great Alarm to the Men o'War. A Tory fled on board. At XIh A M. Gen Lee & his Retinue left the Town & set out for Cambridge, after signifying that he shd return & that two Regiments might come hither from the Camp to commence operations in earnest.

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1. Diary of Ezra Stiles, YUL.

DEPOSITION OF SAMUEL PERKINS, MASTER OF THE SLOOP *Polly* [1]

I Samuel Perkins of New Haven in the County of New Haven in the Colony of Connecticut in New England depose and say that the second day of August last Past I sailed from said New Haven on Board the Sloop *Polly* (of which I was then Master) owned by Michael Todd & John McCleave of said New Haven bound on a Voyage to Martinico in the West-Indies, the Cargo on Board of said Sloop consisted of twenty one Oxen, three Horses, twenty six thousand three hundred & a half Hoops and Staves, two thousand Bunches of Onions with a quantity of Hay Corn, Oats, Poultry, Provisions & a Number of small Articles which I cannot now recollect – That on the third Day of said August being off south West from Block Island I was fired upon by the *Kingfisher* Sloop of War commanded by Capt Montague, and in a few Minutes boarded by the *Kingfishers* Boat, loaded with armed Men, who in a few Minutes forced Me and my Crew into the boat and carried us on Board the *Kingfisher* – After they had taken Possession of my Sloop they towed her into Boston where we arrived the seventh of said August – The Cattle and other Articles on Board were taken possession of and sold by Order of Admiral Greaves – After they had stripped the Sloop of her Sails, Anchor and other Rigging, they set her up at Vendue and I suppose sold her, as they absolutely refused delivering of her up to me, alledging that I was on a Voyage to get Powder, which was in fact the Case – My getting Powder being made by the Governor of Connecticutt the Condition of his dispensing with the Imbargo on the exportation of Cattle, –

I Samuel Perkins further depose and say that the Account made out and attested to under oath by Messrs Michael Todd & John McCleave on the fifteenth Instant before Samuel Bishop Junr Esqr is an Account of the Cargoe which was owned by them and was on board said Sloop when taken as aforesaid by said *Kingfisher* Sloop of War. And farther this deponent saith not –[2]

Saml Perkins

N Haven December the 27th 1775 –

New Haven Decr 27 1775 personally appeared Saml Perkins the above deponent and made Solemn Oath to the Truth of the foregoing Deposition –
before Sam[1] Bishop Jr Just of Peace

[1] Papers CC (Connecticut State Papers), 66, I, 105–06, NA.
[2] See the journal of H.M. Sloop *Kingsfisher,* August 3, 1775, Volume 1, 1052.

Diary of Richard Smith [1]

[Philadelphia] Wednesday 27 Decr. A Motion was made to allow an Importation of Salt into Virginia, an Amendt offered that the Allowance should be general, this Amendt was strongly opposed by [Thomas] Lynch & others & large Argmts upon it, the further Considn deferred till Friday[2] . . . this Day, it is said, the King's Post finally stopt & the Postmasters shut up the Office –

[1] Richard Smith's Diary, LC.
[2] There is no mention of a motion or an amendment in the Journals of the Continental Congress for this day.

Silas Deane to Elizabeth Deane [1]

[Extract] Philadelphia, Dec. 27th, 1775.

Our term is up Saturday next, but I shall hardly set out for home until sometime the middle of January, if so soon, as our Fleet is got stopped by the ice. Your brother Dudley [Saltonstall] came here last Saturday [December 23] and lodges with me for the present. When he will be able to sail depends on the weather.

[1] *Collections of the Connecticut Historical Society,* II, 346–47.

SOLOMON DROWNE TO WILLIAM DROWNE [1]

[Extract] [Philadelphia] Dec 27. 1775

The Ships and Brigs of War, fitting out here, are almost ready for Cruise. Two of them were to have gone down the River last Sunday, had not the plenty of Ice hindered. The *Alfred,* which is the Commodore Ship, makes a formidable Appearance. She is fitted to carry upwards of 30 Guns. The *Columbus,* is another noble Ship, upwards of 30 also. The Brigs 16 each.[2] Ezek. Hopkins is Commodore. Abrm Whipple Captn. of the *Columbus.* John [Burroughs] Hopkins Capt. of the Brig *Cabot.* Henry Tillinghast, Surgeon's Mate of the *Alfred,* and Enoch [Ezek] Hopkins junr. & Rufus Jenkes, Midshipmen. By this, you may judge in how high Estimation New England Men are here.

[1] *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography,* XLVIII, 247, 248.

[2] The *Andrew Doria* and the *Cabot.*

SAMUEL WARD TO HENRY WARD [1]

[Extract] Philadelp. 27th Decr 1775

If the Comee for building those Vessels in our Colony had been appointed by Congress I should have taken Care to have had You appointed one of the Comee but as a Comee of Congress is appointed to carry into Execution the Resolve for building the Fleet it is out of my Power. Mr [Stephen] Hopkins, being on the naval Comee before, is one. I have mentioned it to him, or rather I believe read him part of your letter; through hurry I have forgot to mention it to him again

. . . As the Continent has taken Whipple into their Service I wish the Colony would build such an one as we had the War before last, or a larger one; the Time which we have to prepare in against the Spring is very short, not a Moment is to be lost; . . .

[1] Knollenberg, ed., *Ward Papers,* 149–52.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

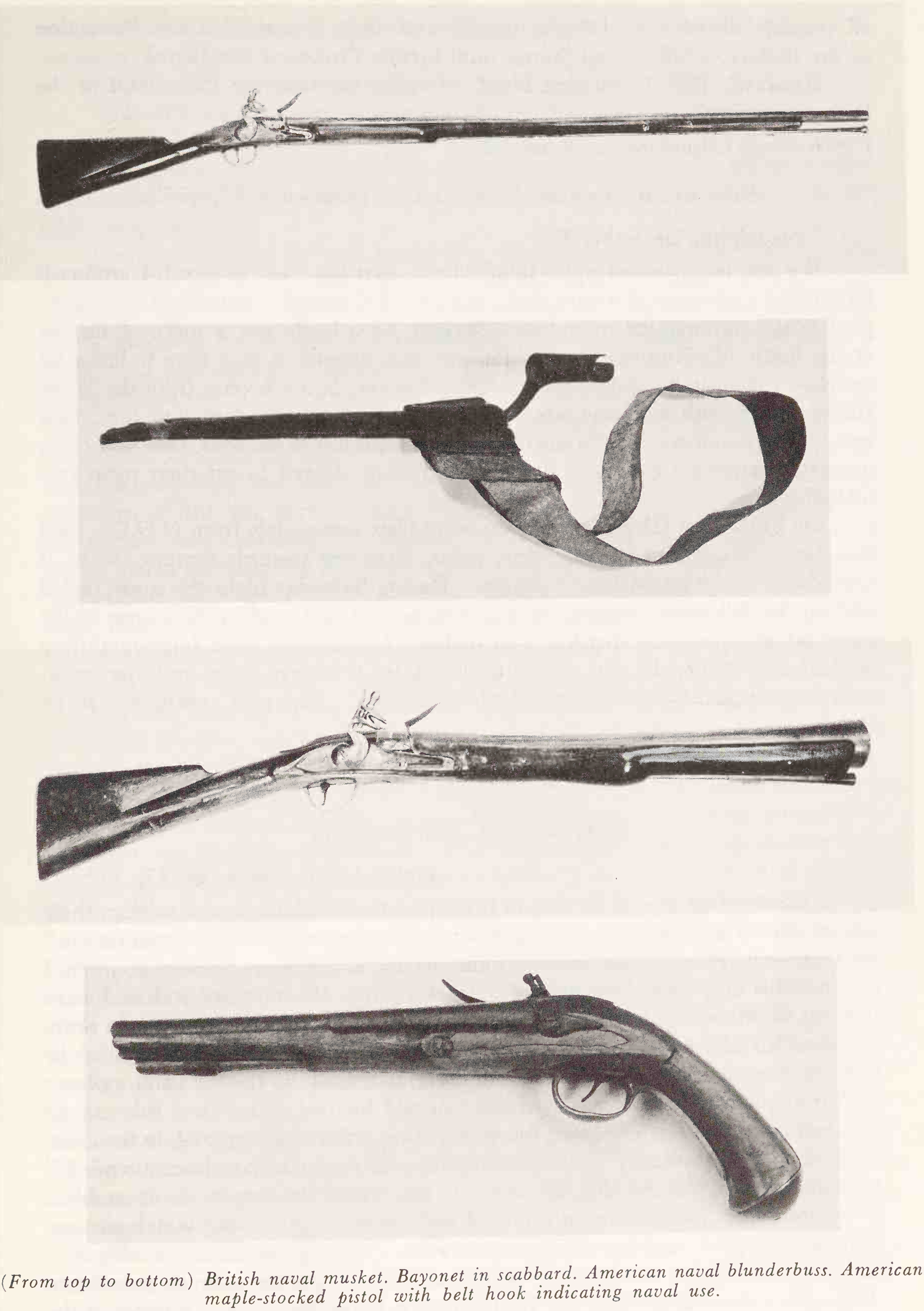
[Philadelphia] December 27th.

Robert Towers, Commissary, Reports his having receiv'd and delivered the following Articles:

Deliver'd Capt. Sam'l Nicholas by order of the Navy Committee: 100 Provincial Muskets, 100 Bayonets & Scabbards, 12 Iron Ram Rods.

Upon application of the Naval Committee for some Lead for the use of the Congress, By order of the Board, Robert Towers, Commissary, was directed to deliver Two Rolls of Lead to Capt. Nathaniel Falconer, & Report the weight to this Board.

Ordered, That Lieutenant Symmonds [Jeremiah Simmons] forthwith take upon him the Command of the Artillery Company, and repair with them with



(From top to bottom) *British naval musket. Bayonet in scabbard. American naval blunderbuss. American maple-stocked pistol with belt hook indicating naval use.*

all possible dispatch to Liberty Island, and there remain for the Protection of the Battery, Artillery and Stores, until further Orders of this Board

Resolved, That Lieutenant Hugh Montgomery take the Command of the *Warren,* in the absence of Lieutenant Symmonds.

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1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records,* X, 436, 437.

Pennsylvania Journal, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1775

Philadelphia, December 27.

We also learn from Capt. [John] Hunn, that the coast of North-Carolina is infested by a schooner of 6 guns and a sloop of [12] swivels (formerly a New-York pilot boat) commanded by a Lieut. Wright, who lately lost a piece of his ear at the battle of Hampton in Virginia, and was obliged at that time to leave his vessel and swim to another tender.[1] Capt. Sawyer, in a schooner from the West-Indies, fell in with and was taken by Wright, who after maltreating him, took away his sails and gave him some old rags, took from him his beds, pots and every moveable article on board, so that the men were obliged to eat their meat raw till they got in.

On Friday last [December 22] the wind blew moderately from N.N.E. next day the wind continued at the same point, increased towards evening, when it veered to N.E. to a very strong degree. During Saturday night the storm ended and on the following morning we had a shower of hail, and in the course of the day a fall of snow to the depth of four inches. In the mean time, large quantities of drift ice, formed by the cold introduced by northerly gales and the snow, entirely [stopped] the navigation of the Delaware.[2] The cold continue[s] to be severe.

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1. See letter to the printer of Pinkney's *Virginia Gazette,* November 1, 1775, Volume 2, 842–43.
2. See Solomon Drowne's letter of December 27, 1775; also Silas Deane's of the same date.

LETTER FROM PHILADELPHIA [1]

Philadelphia, December 27, 1775.

I observed on one of the drums belonging to the Marines now raising, there was painted a Rattlesnake, with this modest motto under it, "Don't tread on me." As I know it is the custom to have some device on the arms of every country, I suppose this may have been intended for the arms of America; and as I have nothing to do with publick affairs, and as my time is perfectly my own, in order to divert an idle hour, I sat down to guess what could have been intended by this uncommon device. I took care, however, to consult on this occasion a person who is acquainted with heraldry, from whom I learned, that it is a rule among the learned in that science, "that the worthy properties of the animal, in the crest-born, shall be considered," and, "that the base ones cannot have been intended;" he likewise informed me that the ancients considered the serpent as an emblem of wisdom, and, in a certain attitude, of endless duration – both which circumstances, I suppose, may have been had in view. Having gained this intelligence, and recollecting that countries are sometimes represented by animals peculiar to them, it occurred to me that the Rattlesnake is found in no other quarter of the world besides America, and may, therefore, have been chosen on that account to represent her.

But then "the worthy properties" of a snake I judged would be hard to point out. This rather raised than suppressed my curiosity, and having frequently seen the Rattlesnake, I ran over in my mind every property by which she was distinguished, not only from other animals, but from those of the same genus or class of animals, endeavouring to fix some meaning to each, not wholly inconsistent with common sense.

I recollected that her eye excelled in brightness that of any other animal, and that she has no eye-lids. She may, therefore, be esteemed an emblem of vigilance. She never begins an attack, nor, when once engaged, ever surrenders. She is, therefore, an emblem of magnanimity and true courage. As if anxious to prevent all pretensions of quarreling with her, the weapons with which nature has furnished her, she conceals in the roof of her mouth, so that, to those who are unacquainted with her, she appears to be a most defenceless animal; and even when those weapons are shown and extended for her defence, they appear weak and contemptible; but their wounds, however small, are decisive and fatal: conscious of this, she never wounds till she has generously given notice, even to her enemy, and cautioned him against the danger of treading on her. Was I wrong, sir, in thinking this a strong picture of the temper and conduct of America? The poison of her teeth is the necessary means of digesting her food, and at the same time is certain destruction to her enemies. This may be understood to intimate that those things which are destructive to our enemies, may be to us not only harmless, but absolutely necessary to our existence. I confess I was wholly at a loss what to make of the rattles, till I went back and counted them, and found them just thirteen, exactly the number of the Colonies united in America; and I recollected, too, that this was the only part of the snake which increased in numbers. Perhaps it might be only fancy, but, I conceited the painter had shown a half-formed additional rattle, which, I suppose, may have been intended to represent the Province of Canada. 'Tis curious and amazing to observe how distinct and independent of each other the rattles of this animal are, and yet how firmly they are united together, so as never to be separated but by breaking them to pieces. One of those rattles singly, is incapable of producing sound, but the ringing of thirteen together is sufficient to alarm the boldest man living. The Rattlesnake is solitary, and associates with her kind only when it is necessary for their preservation. In Winter, the warmth of a number together will preserve their lives, while, singly, they would probably perish. The power of fascination attributed to her, by a generous construction may be understood to mean, that those who consider the liberty and blessings which America affords, and once came over to her, never afterwards leave her, but spend their lives with her. She strongly resembles America in this, that she is beautiful in youth, and her beauty increaseth with her age; "her tongue also is blue, and forked as the lightning, and her abode is among impenetrable rocks."

Having pleased myself with reflections of this kind, I communicated my sentiments to a neighbour of mine, who has a surprising readiness at guessing at every thing which relates to publick affairs; and, indeed, I should be jealous of his reputation in that way, was it not that the event constantly shows that he has guessed wrong. He instantly declared it as his sentiments, that the Congress meant to allude to Lord North's declaration in the House of Commons, that he never would relax his measures until he had brought America to his feet, and to intimate to his Lordship, that were she brought to his feet, it would be dangerous treading on her. But, I am positive he has guessed wrong, for I am sure the Congress would not condescend, at this time of day, to take the least notice of his Lordship in that or any other way. In which opinion I am determined to remain, your humble servant.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives,* 4th, IV, 468–69.

Robert Hooe to Captain John Scott [1]

Sir Alexandria Decem 27th 1775

You are to proceed from this to the Island of Martinicoe and there deliver the inclosed Letter & your Cargoe to Mr Rd Harrison, who will be there to receive it and dispatch you back.

If any Accident should have prevented Mr Harrisons getting to the Island, You are in that case to open his Letter, sell Your Cargoe at the very highest Prices you can get; the Money arising from the Sales you must lay out in Gun Powder if you can get it, if not, in Musketts & if they are not to be had, Salt Petre & Sulphur & if you cannot get those Articles, then lay out the whole in Strong course Linnens; And take care you are not imposed on in your Purchasess. As soon as you have done your Business make the best of your way home, and avoid Speaking with Vessells on the Coast; when you come into the Lattitude of our capes, if you have a Strong fair wind in, push up the Bay as far as posible, and if you find it failing run into some small Harbour & there wait till you have a favorable opportunity to get into Potomack, Patuxent, or Annapolis. if you find a better chance of getting into any of the inlets between Cape Charles & Cape Henlopen, than into our Bay, You may push into one of them, and send an express to the Councill of safety, letting them know where you are & what you have got, but take care & land your Goods under the care of a Committee as soon as you can, for fear of being followed by the Tenders.

In going out you had better take a brisk Gale of Wind, or get out by Moon light of Nights, as the Tenders commonly keep a Strict watch at the Capes in the day time. I hope you will behave with care & Industry on this Voyage, & I have no doubt of its recommending you to the Command of a better Vessell. if you are chased & find you must be taken, throw all your Papers overboard, with Weights to sink them. Wishing you a good Voyage I am Sir [&c.]

R H

Instructions to Capt Scott Sloop *Batchelor*

1. Executive Papers, Box 1, Md. Arch.

Account of Jenifer & Hooe[1]

Dr The Province of Maryland in Acct with Jenifer & Hooe Cr

1775		Maryld Curry	1775		Maryld Curry
Decem 23d	To Cash paid Richard Conway for the Sloop *Molly* Purchased of him by order of the Councill of safety 700£ Va Currency equal to (pr Rect)	875.	Decem 23d	By Cash of Thos Harwood Esqr by order of the Councill of Safety	2500. — —
26th	To Cargoe Shipt on board the Sloop *Molly* & Consign'd to Richard Harrison in Martinicoe as p Invoice by order of the Councill of Safety.	1016. 13. 5¾			
	To ditto Shipt on board the Sloop *Batchelor* John Scott Master & Consign'd to Richard Harrison in Martinicoe as p Invoice by order of the Councill of safety	230. 19. –		p Jenifer & Hooe	
27th	To Cash paid Joe Speak's expences from Alex[andri]a to Annapolis after Money and Instructions from the Councill of safety to Rd Harrison	2. 16. 6			
	To Cash paid R Hooe's expences from Annapolis to Alexa with Instructions & orders for Richard Harrison from the Councill of safety	3. 19. 1			
	To Cash paid Joseph Speak's expences from Alexa to St Mary's with Letters to Rd Harrison	1. 5. –			
	To Cash paid Out-fits of the Sloop *Molly* Capt Thos Conway as p Acct herewith brou't in	84. 9. 4¾			
	To Balls lying in our hands in Flour	284. 17. 6½			
		2500. — —			

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1. Revolutionary Papers, Box 1, Accounts 1775–1776, Md. Arch.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Raven*, CAPTAIN JOHN STANHOPE [1]

December 1775 Cape Henry N 41′ W. 20 leagues

Wednesday 27 First middle and Latter mode and Cloudy 4 Sail to the Et wd. Brot took a Ship from Lisbon bound to Philadelphia, shifted the people, sent on board 6 men and 2 petty Officers wth 6 Weeks provisions [2]

[1] PRO, Admiralty 51/771.

[2] The *Rittenhouse,* Ambrose Bartlett, master, in ballast, but with £2,000 in cash. She was carried into Savannah and subsequently convoyed to Boston, Shuldham's Prize List of April 24, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

JOURNAL OF THE GEORGIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

At a special meeting of the Council of Safety on Wednesday, December 27th, 1775.

Present

George Walton.	Basil Cowper.*
Edw. Telfair.	John Smith.
Francis Henry Harris.	William Gibbons.
Oliver Bowen.	Archibald Bullock.
Samuel Elbert.	

Joseph Habersham, Esq., attended this Board and took his seat. A motion was made and seconded that a committee be appointed to propose some expedients for supplying the Province with arms and ammunition, and that they make their report on Friday next, which being agreed to, it was ordered that Capt. Elbert, Mr. Oliver Bowen, Mr. Edward Telfair, Mr. Joseph Habersham and Mr. Basil Cowper be a committee for that purpose.

Adjourned to Friday morning 10 o'clock.

*Royalist

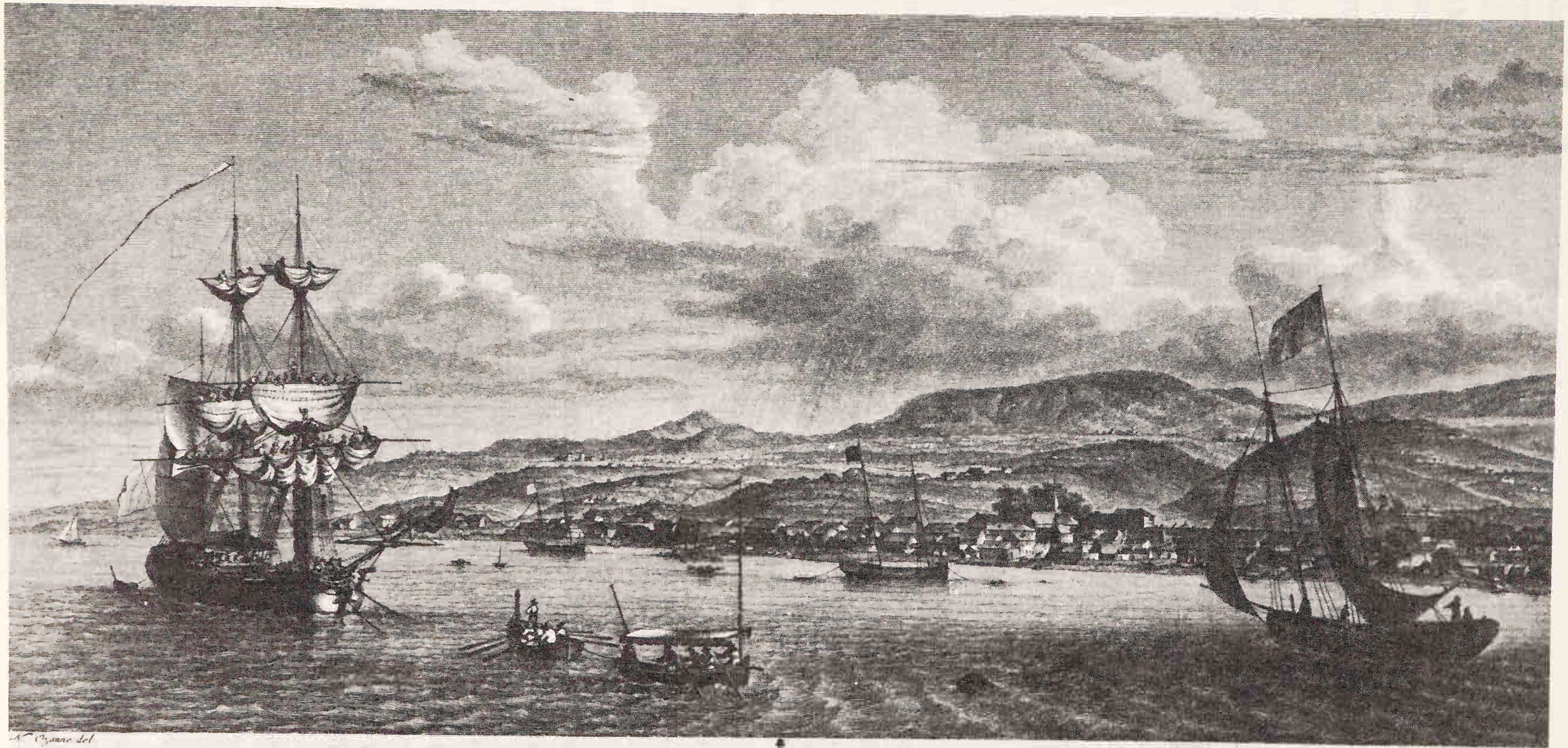
[1] Candler, comp., *Georgia Records,* I, 82.

28 Dec.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CAPTAIN THOMAS PEVERLY FOR A POWDER VOYAGE [1]

Portsmouth 28th Decem 1775

You are by us the Subscribers, on Account of John Langdon Esqr, appointed to Command the Schooner *Success,* now Loaded, Victualled & Man'd fit for the Sea, you are to imbrace the first good Opportunity and proceed to the Island of St Lucia, in order that you may know the full intent & meaning of the Voyage, and the trust reposed in you. We acquaint you, that your Cargo on board is to be Appropriated solely to purchase Powder for the use of the United Colonies; and therefore We Command your Observance of what follows. When you arrive at St Lucia, you must enquire if Gun powder is to be had in Exchange for your Cargo, at that place, if not, you must then procure the best Intelligence you can, where it is likely for you to meet with the Article abovementioned, – which you



N. Ozanne del

Jeanne f^{me} Ozanne sculp

LA VILLE DE LA BASSE TERRE DANS L'ISLE DE LA GUADELOUPE

Vue du Mouillage.

Tiré d'un Receuil de différens Ports des Isles Antilles déssinés en 1780.

Réunis à la Collection des Ports de France, gravés par le S^{r} Gouaz

A Paris chez le Gouaz Graveur, rue S^{t} Hyacinthe la 1re Porte cochere à gauche en entrant par la Place S^{t} Michel.

must always make the Object of your Attention, you'll Observe Vessells loaded with Fish, cannot at all times go to the French Islands, without being made French bottoms which you may do at a small Expence, if you find it necessary, & think by that means, you can Obtain the Article wanted, it is probable some Merchants in St Lucia will take your Cargo and agree to furnish the powder at some other Island, of that you will judge and Act according to the Information you get, if you find nothing can be done at St. Lucia, you must proceed to Martinico, Guarduloup, to any or all the French Spanish or Dutch Islands, and leave no possible means untryed to fulfil the true intent and meaning of the Voyage; and be sure not to part with your Cargo on any Acct without a full and clear purpose of having Gun Powder in return, the reason of this injunction is, We think your present Cargo more likely to command the Article wanted, than the same Amount in Money We do not restrict you to any prices either for the disposal of your Cargo or the purchase of Powder &c – but if to be had it must be bought, let the price be what it may. –

If after Cruizing over all the foreign West Indies, and no Gun Powder to be had, (which you must be well assured of) you must then Endeavour to purchase what Salt Petre, and Sulphur you possibly can, in the followg proportion, for every hundred pounds of Salt Petre Twenty five pounds of Refined Sulphur, or these two Articles in the rough, but if neither Powder, Salt petre nor Sulphur is to be had, you must then sell your Cargo, for the most you can, for Gold and Silver Money and make the best of your Way back to us in New England. We strictly forbid your taking on board any Goods Or Merchandize of what kind soever, either on Freight or otherwise. if you procure Powder and should put into any safe Harbour in the united Colonies, on your way home, you must immediately dispatch an Express to us, and detain your Vessell Untill you receive our, or Mr Langdon's Instructions how to proceed, – Excepting the powder should be demanded of you by proper Authority for Continental Use, in that Case it must be Landed and not risqued any further, this to be Observ'd if you put into any Harbour to the Eastward of Boston, but if you put into any Southern Harbour your Powder &c must be Landed at all events, and not risqued any further, and you must proceed immediately with your Vessell to Newbury Port, acquainting us of your proceedings, if you should Land your Powder it must be put into the Hands of the Commissary or Agent &c for Continental Service you takeing their receipts and forward it to us. –

We beg your most Strenuous Exertions for obtaining the needful, and making the greatest dispatch to me again, – You are to be Allow'd for Wages during the Voyage, Three pounds Lawful Money p month, five p Cent Commission on the sale of your Cargo, and two and half p Cent on the returns, and One shilling L Money primage on every Barrell of Powder, and so in proportion for Salt petre &c and nothing else –

We wish you a safe Voyage & quick return, and are your Friends &c –

NB – If you should put into any harbour to the Eastward of Boston and receive Information of any Men of War or Tenders being near, or any other Danger; You must then Land and Secure your powder without waiting our Answer, –

[Endorsed] The preceeding is a true Copy of my Instructions which I engage to follow &c

Kinsman Peverly

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[1] John Langdon Papers, HSP.

CARGO OF THE SCHOONER *Success* [1]

[Extract]

Invoice of Cargo on board the Schooner *Success* Kinsman Peverly Master bound for the West Indies – ship'd by Thos Thompson & Supply Clap in behalf. John Langdon Esqr –

43 hhds Fish contg vizt 34496 Nt Fish
13 hhds Fish vizt 11564 Nt Jama Fish
No 1 @ [to] 132 is 132 Barrells Beef
No 1 @ [to] 20 is 20 Barrells do
35 Bairells Tarr
14 Barrells Pitch
No 1. @ [to] 38 is 38 Boxes Candles each contg 50 lb Neat is 1900 lb
No 1 @ [to] 23 is 23 Boxes Candles of vizt – 1193½ lb Nt Candles [2]
5000 Shingles —
7600 Red Oak hhds Staves —
4500 feet Merchantable Boards
Portsmouth 28 Decr 1775 Errors Excepted for John Langdon Esq

Thos Thompson
S. Clap

Nt weight of Cod 352. 0. 10
do Scale 59. 0. 18
£411. 1. . 4

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[1] John Langdon Papers, Bills & Invoices, 1773–1785, NHHS.

[2] The complete invoice contains the itemized weight (by hogshead) of the fish, as well as the candles.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SCHOONER *Hinchinbrook*, LIEUTENANT ALEXANDER ELLIS [1]

Decr 75 Boston Lighthouse House So Distance 2 or 3 Mile

Thursdy 28 at 3 AM Fired a gun and made the signal for Sailg Weig'd and Came to Sail at 8 AM Saw 5 Rebel Privateers at 9 Running into Marblehead harbour found Rideing here His Majestys ship *fowey* Discharg'd our Pilot into her at ½ past 9 Bore away Heard Sevl Guns fired from the *Fowey* at the Privateers [2] at 2 P M Came to in Nantasket Road with the best bour in 5 fms Veer'd to ⅓ a Cable found Rideing here His Majestys ships *Renown*, *Mercury* & *Nautilus* sloop

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 51/4219.

[2] See the journal of H.M.S. *Fowey*, December 27 to 29, 1775, under the latter date.

MEMORANDUM OF A LETTER TO WILLIAM BARTLETT [1]

Cambridge 28th Decr 1775

ordered him to advertize in the Cambridge & Watertown papers, at Least eight days before that of the sale of any goods taken by the Contl Armed vessels –

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[1] Washington Papers, LC.

New England Chronicle, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21 TO THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1775

Cambridge, Dec. 28.

The following Gentlemen are appointed, and commissioned, by the major part of the [Massachusetts] Council, *Judges of Admiralty* for this colony, agreeable to an Act lately passed by the Gen. Assembly, viz.

Nathan Cushing, Esq; for the Southern district, containing the counties of Plymouth, Barnstable, Bristol, Nantucket, and Duke's-County.

Timothy Pickering, jun. Esq; for the Middle district containing the counties of Suffolk, Middlesex and Essex.

James Sullivan, Esq; for the Eastern district, containing the counties of York, Cumberland and Lincoln.

We hear that a brig from Portugal, bound to New York, which had been taken by the enemy, and ordered to Boston, was retaken, a few days ago, by one of the continental cruisers, and carried into Plymouth. She was laden with salt, and had on board, when retaken, a midshipman and 6 or 8 seamen belonging to the enemy.[1]

The toast of the day is, *The American* General *and* Admiral.

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[1] The brig *Peter*, a prize of H.M.S. *Niger*, retaken not by one of Washington's fleet, but by a privateer out of Plymouth. See Watson to Washington, December 23, 1775.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO PHILIP STEPHENS [1]

Sir *Preston* at Boston Decr 28, 1775.

When the *Fowey* arrived from Halifax the latter End of last Month I received a Copy of an Address presented to Governor [Francis] Legge by the Council and Assembly praying his interposition with my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to put an entire Stop to impressing Seamen within the Province of Nova Scotia for the King's Fleet; and also desiring his Excellency to use his influence with me to order the Captains of his Majesty's Ships who may be occasionally in Halifax Harbour not to impress Seamen from any Vessels owned in the Province. The Copy of this Address with a Memorial from the Merchants at Halifax was presented to Commodore Arbuthnot, and by him forwarded to me with his opinion thereon "that if some Security is not given to satisfy the Minds of the People that they shall not be impressed, the Inhabitants of that place would be greatly distressed, and the Fleet and Army cut off from those Supplies which they have usually received from Nova Scotia."

Sir, it is too true that the Province of Nova Scotia contains many disaffected Persons, that their Numbers daily increase by the Emigrants from Boston and other Places within the Massachusets Bay; and that under the Pretence of their

Trade being injured, they will clamour against Pressing. The People of New England formerly did the same, and I have no doubt but their Lordships will be strongly solicited to exonerate the Province of Nova Scotia from assisting to man the Kings Fleet. But whether such a request at this time is a Proof of its Loyalty to the King or Attachment to his Majesty's Government I submit to their Lordships determination. Inclosed is a Copy of my Answer to Governor Legge, and to Commodore Arbuthnot who I think had not fully considered the Matter when he interested himself to the disadvantage of the Fleet.[2] The Emigrants from Scotland in the Ship *Glasgow*, of whom I wrote to you in my Letter of the 4th instant, have all entered into his Majesty's Army, and the Ship is left in the Masters Charge at his own Request.

On the 8th instant Major General Howe applied to me to spare six months provisions for 500 men from the Contractors Stores at Halifax, for the Number of Militia intended to be embodied there; and the Contractors Agent having lately received a supply from England, I directed him to furnish the proportion required to the Commissary General at the Contract Prices.

On the 14th instant I ordered the *Hope* Schooner, condemned by Survey, to be put out of Commission and her Crew to be turned over to the Brig *Sea Nymph*, now added to his Majs Royal Navy by the Name of *Hope*. I have given the Command of the Brig to Lieut. [George] Dawson with an Order to bear 20 Supernumeraries for Wages and Victuals in addition to a Complement of 30, until their Lordships are pleased to direct an Establishment for her. I have also ordered the Boatswains and Carpenters Stores of the condemned Schooner to be surveyed and returned to the Naval Officer, and her Hull to be sold at Publick Vendue.

Commodore Arbuthnot having acquainted me with the resignation of Mr Geo. Greaves the Surgeon entrusted with the Care of the Sick and Hurt at Halifax, and recommended Mr John Phillips of that Place as a fit Person to succeed; I have appointed Mr Phillips to that Office by Warrant dated 17th Novr 1775.

On the 16th instant the *Senegal* arrived from Halifax Convoy to the *Grand Duchess of Russia* Transport with Stores, and to a Brig laden with live Cattle and Carcasses of Beef for the use of the Squadron. The same day his Majs Ship *Renown*, Captain Banks, anchored in Nantasket from England,* and the *Scarborough* left her Station between Charles Town and Boston to get ready for Sea.

Having certain information that an American Brig from Barcelona laden with Arms, Ammunition and other contraband Goods intended for the Rebels, was expected every day at Liverpool in Nova Scotia, I gave Captain Dudingston the name and description of the Vessel and ordered him to proceed to Liverpool, immediately, to seize the Brig on her Arrival, and in the mean time to pick up as many Seamen as possible for the Fleet. Captain Duddingstone accordingly sailed the 20th instant.

On the 23d the *Lively* returned from a Cruize, very foul, and with the pintles of her Rudder so much worn that Captain Bishop thought it dangerous to keep the Sea; I therefore ordered him to come up to Boston, get the Ship clear to hawl ashore and be graved, and her Rudder Irons repaired, and afterwards to fit for Sea again with all possible Dispatch.

The *James and William* Transport also arrived the 23d from Annapolis [Royal], whither she went to carry Provisions for the *Merlin;* Captain [William C.] Burnaby acquaints me that, at present, everything is quiet in their Neighbourhood from the Season; but that from the best Intelligence the Rebels will invade the Province of Nova Scotia in the Spring.

The *Cerberus* has been waiting since the 14th instant to convoy Troops to Halifax, where I think it most safe to have her Bottom examined; The *Favourite* Transport being now ready, I ordered Captain Symons to proceed with her and the *Gage* Sloop, to get his Ship careened and refitted with the utmost Dispatch, and to follow Commodore Arbuthnots Orders for his Proceedings. Captain Symons accordingly sailed the 25th instant with the two Vessels abovementioned.

By the *Cerberus* I sent Orders to Captain Hammond to compleat his Provisions to six Months and to proceed without delay to Virginia, there take the Command of his Majesty's Ships, and endeavour to guard the Entrance of the Delaware by Cruizers until its Navigation is open, then to repair thither in the *Roebuck* with another Ship or Sloop to prevent the Rebels receiving Supplies, and to annoy them by all means in his power. And I have also directed Captain Hammond to procure as many good Pilots as possible for the Kings Ships.

Being obliged to send the *Cerberus* to Halifax, where the Weather will probably keep her until April, I considered it unnecessary to let the *Somerset* and *Roebuck* continue there, and therefore ordered the latter to proceed to Virginia where a Capital Ship is much wanted, and indeed where a large part of the Fleet must soon assemble effectually to crush this Rebellion.

Notwithstanding the utmost Endeavours of the Cruizers to protect Vessels arriving with Supplies, the Rebels watch the opportunity of the Kings Ships and Vessels being off the Coast, slip out in light good going Vessels full of Men, seize a defenceless Merchant Ship and push immediately for the nearest Port the Wind will carry them to. In some measure to prevent this practice I ordered Captain Montagu in the *Fowey* to lie under Cat Island near Marblehead, and by anchoring and cruizing occasionally I hope he will keep in many of the Cruizers belonging to Salem, Beverley and Marblehead Harbours: And I have directed Captain Montagu to take the *Halifax* Schooner with him. I am satisfied it is unnecessary to trouble you with the exact time Cruizers in and about the Bay of Boston put into Nantasket from bad Weather or to convoy Vessels, and go out again; When I can assure their Lordships my utmost Endeavours have been exerted, however unsuccessfully, not only to render the Navigation to Boston safe, but to annoy the Enemy; but when our peculiar Situation is considered, with the remarkable Badness of the Weather this Fall, on a very dangerous Coast, it surely cannot be imagined but some Losses must happen.

The *Cerberus* had the Ordnance Brig under Convoy several days, was twice with her within a few Leagues of the Lighthouse, and yet from thick Weather and Gales of Wind they parted Company afterwards the *Mercury* fell in with her, and she also failed in the Attempt to bring her to Boston: At last she was taken by a Rebel Privateer: though I am still of opinion she has been lost by the Treachery of the Master or Pilot. I am &c

Sam Graves.

Note * Without any Letters or Orders for the Admiral.

1. Graves's Conduct, II, 21–24, BM.
2. See Graves to Legge, December 13, 1775, and Graves to Arbuthnot, December 8, 1775.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Mercury*, CAPTAIN ALEXANDER GRAEME [1]

Decr 1775 Moored in Nantasket Road

Thursday 28 Shared 323£ amongst the Captain Officers & Ships Company being due for the Prize *Sally* & *Harlequin* Sloop sold here [2]

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/600.
2. The *Sally* sloop, with a cargo of wood, from Penobscot to Marblehead, and the *Harlequin* sloop, with a cargo of onions, cheese and potatoes, from Newport for Carolina. Graves's Conduct, Prize List, II, 36–38, BM. The master's log for May 8, 1775, reads: "AM seized the *Sally* Sloop shee Not Comply with the Act of Parlement sent a Mate and two Men on bd hir," PRO, Admiralty 52/1866. For information regarding the capture of the *Harlequin* see the journal of H.M.S. *Mercury*, September 17, 1775, Volume 2, 131.

GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE TO THE GOVERNOR OF GUADELOUPE [1]

Sir, Providence December 28th 1775

I do myself the Honor to address this Letter to your Excellency by Mr. Paul Allen, my Son in Law, who makes a Voyage by my Permission to Guadeloupe, to purchase Powder and other Articles for the use of the Colony. I beg Leave to recommend him to your Notice and entire Confidence, with Respect to the Affairs of America. The Contest between the Colonies and Britain, hath at Length arisen to so great a Heighth, that all Hopes of Accommodation are at an End – It must be decided by Arms. I Shall not trouble Your Excellency with a Detail of the Injuries, which have compelled us to have Recourse to the Sword. I will only Say that our Resistance is perfectly justified by Charters, and the fundamental Laws and Principles of the British Constitution – We have Men, Provisions, and everyThing necessary to the War, excepting Powder, and Some other warlike Stores. The Policy and Influence of Britain hath hitherto prevented our obtaining a Supply of those Articles adequate to our Wants. It certainly cannot be inconsistent with the Interest of France to furnish the Colonies for their Money, even Supposing She Should not interfere in the War – Exclusive of the Trade carried on by these Colonies to other Parts of Europe, our Imports from Britain amounted annually to about three Millions of Pounds Sterling, and our Exports to a still greater Sum – Britain hath now lost it never to be regained – We look towards France as the Nation best capable of carrying on this Commerce, which will be So beneficial to her as well as to the Colonies. I Submit these Matters to Your judicious Consideration and remain with the most perfect Esteem and Respect &c Permit me to continue my Assurances, that I am [&c.]

Nich^s Cooke

1. "Nicholas Cooke Correspondence," *AAS Proceedings*, New Series, XXXVI, 299–300. A similar letter of the same date was addressed to the Governor of Martinique, a copy of which is in the Nicholas Brown Papers, JCBL.

CARGO MANIFEST OF THE SLOOP *Polly*[1]

[Providence] Decemr 28. 1775

Imported in the Sloop *Polly* myself Master from New York, got to the Wharf last Night

140 Barrels of Flour	7 Cases of Knives & Forks
10 Tons of Pig-Iron	6 Bolts of Duck
4 Cases of Gin	½ Ton of Redwood

Joseph Comstock

[1] Manifest of Imports, R.I. Arch.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA STILES[1]

[Newport] Dec. 28.

This Morng the Men o'War drew off in a panic (not knowing that [Charles] Lee was gone) & removed at a Distance from the Wharves. He[2] dreaded the Rifle Men, & feared least the ships from Philada were to meet Lee here.

[1] Diary of Ezra Stiles, YUL.

[2] Captain James Wallace of H.M.S. *Rose*.

CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE, R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES[1]

(Copy) *Rose,* Rhode Island the 28th Decemr 1775 –

Sir, Since my last of the 10th Inst the Rebels Issued out Orders from Providence to break off all Communication with the King's Ships, not to supply them with any thing whatever, on pain of Death; Upon which I acquainted the Town, if they were a Town, we must be upon other Terms – A Committee came on board, desired a Truce, while they could send off a Number of Inhabitants to Providence, to represent their situation, and to obtain permission to supply us with every thing we wanted – this I granted – Twenty of them accordingly went off, and obtained leave to supply us; so that now we are upon the same Footing as before – But this I know can't last long. The Rebels suspect Newport is intended to be made a Post for the King, this has brought Lee here with more Troops, – what his Intentions are I can't at present penetrate, unless to erect Batteries and provoke us to destroy the Town. – If Government has no Intentions upon the place, would it not be better to destroy it, and carry the War along the Coast; the Destruction of a Great Town, without particular Orders, is a serious matter; however something must be done for the King's Service, if they won't endeavour to save their own Towns, why should we – 'tis better they should be destroyed than that they should be Enemies to us.

Lee enter'd the Town the 25th Instt with a Detachment, leaving his Main body (about 2000) without the Town: – Began, with sending for a Number of the Principal People, who were suspected to be Friends to Government – Tendered them the inclosed Affidavit; some that refused he took away Prisoners with him; this Visit 'tis said was in consequence of a Report, that a Number of Inhabitants were ready to join me, for the King's Service – however I suppose he was convinced to the contrary, and after Vapouring two or three Days left us again. They still assure me that the Rebel Philadelphia Fleet is destined here, which will oblige me to detain the Transport some time longer as a Store and Hospital Ship. Upon the departure of Lee, they sent on board and offered us every thing we wanted; I accepted 'till the 8th Janry – Indeed we can do but little at present, the Weather having been very severe – Seven or Eight of our Men have been Frost bit – And no Instructions from You since the *Swan* arrived. – Accounts from York mention Lord Dunmore's making a brave Stand, and collecting an Army of 5000 Men. I am, [&c.]

Ja^{s} Wallace

There is a Report that Lord Dunmore is Deafeated & 160 Men killed. –

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

Archard de Bonvouloir to Count de Guines [1]

Philadelphia, the 28 December 1775

I have found as I had expected that this country is in inconceivable agitation, the confederates are making immense preparation for the next spring and in spite of the rigours of the season they continue the campaign. They besieged Montreal which has capitulated and are actually before Quebec which I think will soon fall also. They have seized several of the King's vessels filled with provisions of war and food. They are perfectly entrenched before Boston; they have even built a small Navy: they have unbelievable spirit and good will. It is true they are led by some wise leaders. They lack three important things: A good Navy, provisions and money; They agree with me. I am going to tell you word for word about 3 special conversations I had with M. Franklin and 3 other good men who compose the Privy Council.[2] I entered into their intimacy as a private individual through the channel of an honest Frenchman of whom I am sure and who has got a long way into the confidence of the deputies. This Frenchman is named Daymons.[3] I commend him to you. He is city librarian. Everything you send me will arrive at my address and my packets will be marked AB and will be given me.

I made no offer to them, absolutely none, promising only to give them all the service I can without compromising myself and without vouching for events in any fashion, and all this through my friends and without giving them any secrets. They asked whether France would aid them and at what cost. I told them I thought France wished them well, if she would aid them that that might well be; on what terms, that I didn't know – but that if it happened it would be always under fair conditions and equitable ones; that, for the rest, if they judge it expedient, they make their propositions – that I have good friends, that I promise to present their requests without anything more. They asked me whether it would be prudent to send an empowered deputy to France. I told them I imagined this would be precipitous even hazardous; that everything is known about London in France and about France in London, and that the step would singe the English beard; that if they could trust me with something perhaps I would have replies that could decide their conduct, that otherwise I could not counsel them in any way, that I was a private person, a curious traveller, but I should be charmed if by means of my knowledge I could render them any service. That I would not expose them, neither I nor anyone; that matters of such consequence were too delicate to be thoughtless about, especially having no right or power, that I guarantee only one thing: not to betray their confidence.

There are only 5 in the privy council, whose names I shall give you at the end of my letter. Everything they do is well done and has force without the sanction of Congress which is very numerous and into which have slipped several false brothers. They have discovered one recently who evaded punishment by flight.[4] I often have interviews with them as a private person. Each comes by dusk by different routes to a marked place. They give me their confidence, after telling them that I promise, offer and can reply nothing and after warning them several times that I act as a private well-wisher.

Here is the result of our interviews, which they asked me to give to my acquaintances the same as all the confidences we shall have in the future, and even over the state of their affairs without asking me to whom and how and where I address myself, regarding me as a private person in whom they have confidence.

1st Their affairs are in good state and of this I am sure, having emissaries in more than one place and whom I pay for information. They hope to open the campaign with success; I have just this minute learned that the savages of the Five Nations have sent their chiefs to the general assembly, that they wish to be neutral, but if conditions require they will fight for the Americans. They are powerful, to be feared and were won through gifts.[5] Lord Dunmore, Commanding in Virginia succeeded in getting a considerable detachment; he published a proclamation to free the slaves; he has seized Norfolk and fortified it. Virginians aided by Carolinians militia have fought him three different times, have retaken Norfolk, ruined the fortifications, and obliged Dunmore to retire to the King's vessels ten or twelve miles from the city where they are going to attack him if the ice permits.

The royalists have taken the road to New York to block it. Gen. [Charles] Lee has gone there with 5000 men.[6]

They are persuaded that they cannot maintain themselves without a nation to protect them from the sea, that only two powers are in a position to help them: France and Spain, but they know the differences between them. I also made them feel the superiority our King has over Spain. They are convinced, they are even resolved (perhaps have been for a long time) to implore his majesty but they want to wait until the campaign can be open because many people lean towards the King still, who has not yet done them enough harm. They would perhaps see with uneasiness a foreign nation mingling in their affairs. They want to win them over and make them feel the need for aid; in that I think them prudent. They expect their cities to be destroyed and their homes burned which would make them abhor the leopards. They have sent without consulting me a brigantine to Nantes called *John* or *St. John,* captain Charles Forest,[7] addressed to M. Jean Daniel Schweighauser. This vessel will carry my letter. I am embarking a man of whom I am sure, I shall also find another way of writing to you but it is important that no word escape you. Here are the requests they pray me to present for them. The ship is full of flour and other productions of the country which they want to exchange against other things of another nature; as the cargo being imported will exceed that being exported they pray that the difference will be sent to Santo Domingo to the place and persons indicated to them and that the payment will be made in commodities of the country as they are without money. If means can be found to pass the same sort of merchandise into different parts of Santo Domingo, my correspondents will go there to get them at their own peril and risk; They wish two men capable of building fortifications. If this comes about they will go to seek them in Cape Francois which is the surest route by which to get them here, because if by mischance they are captured they would risk nothing, the people of these hot countries often come to regain their health. Here for the present are their requests, they will pay the costs, and they have begged me to make them known to my connections. I would offer them my few talents for the purpose but I cannot stay in one place and am obliged to run all day.

You receive news from me as often as possible and I shall give you by letter everything that happens. They are themselves so persuaded of the good will of France toward them that they prayed me if I had several good friends to tell them what they are thinking which I promised them without anything more. If you judge it proper, send our ship soon. Time presses. My messenger has orders in case of pursuit in coming and going to throw the papers in the sea. You can with complete confidence reply to me through him at the address marked in the heading of my letter.

I beg you, for me, to write to M. Buffon, merchant at Havre, to reclaim two trunks which must have been sent to his address, they are valuable to me because this country is expensive. I am obliged to make secret expenditures and I economize money only for myself. If you can recover them please have them sent to Nantes to M. Tessier's our agent at Nantes and my correspondent, who will see them aboard. If they are not at Havre please write to Chevalier de B——— to start a search for them promptly. I should tell you that M. Daymons has just received a letter from M. Pie Deperé of whom I spoke to you in Europe, dated from Ft. Dauphin, which tells him four cargoes of merchandise are enroute. I have the honor of telling you that I have urged nothing, vouched for nothing, absolutely nothing; they have great confidence in me and I am in the most secret matters. They have not even asked me to whom or where I appeal, in any way.

Everyone here is a soldier. The troops are well clothed, well paid, and well commanded. They have about 50,000 men hired and a greater number of volunteers who do not wish to be paid. Judge how men of this character fight. Reply to me as soon as possible to send off the ship and try to have it bring my trunks. I have confidence in the one who carries my letter; without that I would not write to you so openly. You can write to me freely by him. He is aboard ship as passenger. I have thought of going myself to inform you about everything but I haven't dared to. Make a reply to all the parts of my letter and send instruction for me because matters are so delicate that with all the good will possible I walk trembling although I am obliged to go forward because time presses. I have told them nothing which could make them believe I am in correspondence with the minister and I act as a private person, but I believe (and I have strong reasons for this) that they imagine I have not come directly from Anvers in the winter without good reasons. They have only the more confidence in me and treat me with flattering regard. I am enclosing to you a little note that the Privy Council sent me this morning by Daymons, a steady man and one of great use to me. I made the reply that you shall see after telling them that this is between person and person and after receiving from them the strongest assurances that they do it only to communicate their doubts and beg me to enlighten them as much as a man can who neither takes part in nor understands affairs of state.

I know everything of the greatest secrecy that takes place and their deliberations are communicated to me and by flattering them and giving them a free hand I can do as I please. They have all said they are fighting to become free and that they will succeed at no matter what price, that they are linked by oath and that they will cut each other up rather than yield that they know well that they cannot maintain themselves at sea and that only France is in a condition to protect their commerce without which their country cannot flourish, that they are ignorant whether in case it comes to propositions France would be willing to have for awhile exclusive trade with them to pay it back the costs that their cause will occasion, that they could not pay for a neutrality even a little help in case of war between the two nations and of an unalterable attachment – things they are never deficient in.

I replied that it does not concern me that they are prudent and wise, that they should discuss their interests but that he who requests does not always make the law. They are more powerful than one might think – it surpasses one's imagination and one is surprised. Nothing dismaying them, plan accordingly. The news is that two French officers arrived at camp with proposals to make.[8] They asked me what I thought about it. I replied that I knew nothing about it, that it seemed strange to me, that France is very powerful and far from offering, she does not always grant, what is asked of her.

You will know all that happens and will not have false news from me. Combine your wishes in my letters, I repeat that my man is safe. He is a passenger on the ship. I have done nothing indiscreet and everything is covered with an impenetrable veil of secrecy.

No one can gain their confidence ahead of me or get around them as I can. I can reveal to you all their deliberations as I know them all but actually they consist of the means of procuring munitions.

I have not written you for a long time. It is not my fault. I had a terrible trip. I was at sea 100 days. I thought I should perish twenty times. I was reduced daily to two biscuits, worm-eaten, a bit of dried beef and foul water in small amounts and nothing more and taking in more than 40 tons of water every 24 hours. Watch the underlined parts of my letter.

In case the ship returns loaded you would do me a great service if you can without danger mark ten or twelve bundles of merchandise with the letters AB. That would help me and would cost little. I am obliged to have expenses and I spare money only for myself.

I shall write to you often by Santo Domingo where I have a safe man and my close friend. I do my best and I shall be very unhappy if I do not satisfy you.

You know my attachment for you and you do not doubt that I remain – your humble and respectful servant –
PS I have just learned that the Royalists little by little are evacuating Boston where there is food only for a month and none can be received. Everything is intercepted and even the inhabitants as well as the troops are reduced to the most frightful extremity. If you could do me the pleasure of sending me a study of mathematics with a treatise of fortifications and attack and defense of fortresses by M. de Vauban [9] this is something I need and cannot be found here. I work day and night, happier if I should succeed. I begin to speak good English.

Here is the note that I just told you about. I have the original in English written by the hand of these gentlemen:

> M de B——— is begged by the privy council to consider and reply to the following propositions. The whole is freely drawn up as one private party to another:
>
> To wit:
>
> 1. Could they inform us of the feeling in the French court in regard to the colonies in North America. If they are favorable towards them, and how one can receive assurance of this,
> 2. Could we have from France two capable engineers who are safe and well-recommended and what steps must we take to obtain them?
> 3. Could we have directly from France arms and other provisions of war in exchange for produce from the country and could we be given free entrance and exit through the French ports?
>
> M de B——— may rest assured that if by means of his efforts we can be favorably heard we shall have in him every confidence that one can give a man of distinction whose good deeds toward us have not yet received a sure token of our gratitude.

Here is my reply; if this succeeds they told someone (from whom I know everything that happens) that they would regard me as one of their members and would do nothing without my advice. They regard me as their liberator.

Reply of M. de B. to the note of the Privy Council:

> I shall reply Gentlemen to what you do me the honor of asking of me as positively as possible and shall inform you as well as can a private person who has no part in the affairs of the ministry, but I reply following my own conjectures, the public voice and the advice of my friends:
>
> 1. You ask the intention of France in regard to the colonies on North America. I do not think I am going too far in telling you they wish you well, that they have no other sentiments towards you than well-being. Nevertheless to be assured authentically of the feelings of anyone one must address himself directly. The step is difficult and requires good management. I cannot give you advice for or against. I shall not take it upon myself. The matter is too delicate.
> 2. France is well able to furnish you two able engineers, even more. All that is needed is to ask for them. I have done it for you Gentlemen without guaranteeing that it will succeed, although I hope it will, having good correspondents.

3. Could you procure arms and other munitions directly from France in exchange for your commodities? As this is a matter of merchant to merchant I do not see great inconvenience on the part of France. I shall make application to rather good correspondents, without being responsible for anything. You can undertake it at your risk and peril for perhaps England will not leave you at peace and you ought not hope to be defended. Besides, I do not advise you to send everything to the same port. That would be noised about. I do not know whether you would be given free entrance and egress in the French ports. That would mean declaring openly for you and war could follow. Perhaps they could close their eyes, that's what you need. I repeat Gentlemen I can say nothing. I amount to nothing; I have good friends, that's all. If I happily succeed I shall be rewarded enough by the honor of your confidence and the pleasure of serving you.

I am your &c

I have just learned this moment that they have captured two richly laden transport vessels, but also they have lost one of their corsairs.[10] They shall have in the month of April more than 30 ships armed (with a dozen to forty cannon). They have left the English flag and have taken as arms a rattlesnake and which has thirteen of them as well as an arm carrying 13 arrows to represent the 13 provinces of the continent. Royalists have sent American prisoners to London. Gen. Washington who had sent a summons to get them back, having received a rough reply, announced that if any harm is done to the prisoners, he will make reprisals on almost 3000 he has and almost all officers and it is agreed as I have just learned that if that happens no harm will be done to the English prisoners but that they will hold back no longer and that minute will ask for foreign assistance. You will know sooner than I what happens to these unfortunate people. Let me know – that would have a good effect. Boston is being besieged.

You will receive two letters from me but rather indifferent ones, by two ships which are going to France without letting me know. They told me they looked on me as a man coming to help and aid them but also if I am to render them any service I should know with what men I am dealing and how they are to be known and that they regard me as one of their members. I know all that through a good emissary and one whom I cannot do without. They asked me today whether I have acquaintances in Miquelon. I said no. They are very anxious to pass provisions through there, because they have good facilities to go and get them here.

Here are the names of the savages who have sent their chiefs to the assembly and have formed an alliance with the Americans to wit:

Tuscaroras, Onondagas, Senecas, Mohawks & Cayugas.

Here are the names of the Privy Council to wit:

[Benjamin] Franklin, [Benjamin] Harrison, [Thomas] Johnson, [Jr.] John Dickinson, [John] Jay.

In folding my letter the paper tore a little. This so you won't worry. I am sure of my man. Two Frenchmen came here yesterday leading a large convoy which has, they say, brought a good provision of powder.[11] I will not write to you by the two vessels which are going to Europe and of which I told you. I thought that useless having nothing more to tell you.

Address the brigantine *St. John*, Captain Charles Forest, at M. Jean Daniel Schweighauser's.

Another will leave for the same port within 12 days, and I shall write by it. If that succeeds all will be well.

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1. Translated from Henri Doniol, *Histoire de la participation de la France à l'établissement des États-Unis d'Amérique* (Paris, 1886–1892), I, 287–92. De Guines was French Ambassador to the Court of St. James's; Bonvouloir, French agent in America.
2. Bonvouloir's "Privy Council" was the committee of five, elected November 29, 1775, "for the sole purpose of corresponding with our friends in Great Britain, Ireland, and other parts of the world, and that they lay their correspondence before Congress when directed." Ford, ed., *JCC*, III, 389, 392. This was subsequently known as the Committee of Secret Correspondence, the fore-runner of the present Department of State.
3. Francis Daymon, an employe of The Library Company of Philadelphia.
4. The reference is vague. Bonvouloir may have been referring to Dr. Benjamin Church. The treachery of James Duane's secretary was not discovered until more than a week after this letter was written.
5. The conference with the Indians occurred on December 22 and 23, 1775. Upon the latter day Congress directed the committee which had been negotiating, to conclude the conference "with a friendly answer, and make them a small present." Ford, ed., *JCC*, III, 453, 454.
6. This seems to have been Bonvouloir's interpretation of the orders to the British naval captains in New York harbor to try to seize any important rebels crossing the Hudson River.
7. Charles Forest's previous command had been the ship *Hancock and Adams*, which had sailed for Dublin around July 1, 1775. Her return is not recorded, as ship entries and clearances were not published after mid-November, 1775.
8. The Frenchmen were Pliarne and Penet, who were seeking contracts to supply arms and ammunition.
9. Sebastien Le Prestre Vauban, Marshal of France, whose volume on fortifications was published in 1703.
10. As the news of the loss of the brig *Washington*, one of Washington's fleet in Massachusetts Bay, was not known in Philadelphia before December 30, it is likely that Bonvouloir's postscript is of a later date than the beginning of his letter.
11. Pliarne and Penet, with a letter from Washington, delivered it to the Congress on December 30, a further proof of the later date of the postscript.

DANIEL CALLIGHER TO CAPTAIN NICHOLAS BIDDLE [1]

Worthy Sir Phila Decer 28th 1775

I make thus bold to Lay my present as well as former Situation before you. Last August Travelling Towards New York from this Town Looking for Work and finding none, hearing of the King's Proclamation to go to Boston and there have full Employment I went on Board A Transport where Afterwards I was forced to Remain as A Soldier though Quite Contrary to the proclamation, (as it Said therein) that any Person who wanted Susteanance, to Go Immediately on Board one of his Majesties Ships, Go to Boston and there have full employment, [(]without being an Enemy to America) this I agreed to No Worke at that Season being to be found, here and there detained before Now as I always loved the freedom of America and will Cheerfully Conquer or Die in its Cause if you Take me out

of prison where I am Confined for being providentially Cast on Egg Harbour[2] I Shall Serve you As Long as Necessity requires
To Captain Biddle Daniel Calligher
on Board one of the Privateers Philadelphia

[1] Nicholas Biddle Papers, HSP.
[2] The reference is to the loss of the ship *Rebecca & Francis* which ran ashore October 16, 1775.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY[1]

[Philadelphia] December 28th. 1775

Resolved, That Capt. John Hazlewood be appointed to the command of Ten Fire Rafts, and Superintendant at Present over the whole Fleet of Rafts.

Resolved, That for the further Defence of this Province, a Floating Battery be Built

That Samuel Howell, Robert Whyte, and George Clymer, be a Committee to have the said Battery compleated as soon as Possible, and that they purchase the Guns and other necessaries for her.

[1] *Pennsylvania Colonial Records,* X, 437.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY[1]

In the Council of Safety, [Charleston]
Thursday, Dec. 28th, 1775.

An application was made by letter from Lady William Campbell, for permission to receive some further supplies of sea-stores – a list whereof was given in by Ralph Izard, esq.

Read a letter from the Committee at George-Town, dated 26th December, 1775.

Read a letter from Mr. Wm. Heyward, to Mr. Thos. Heyward, jun., dated 27th December, 1775, acquainting him, that he arrived from England in Rebellion-Road last Tuesday, in the *Sandwich packet*-boat, Capt. Nottingham; and that he is detained a prisoner at large, on board said ship.

Ordered, That Mrs. Walker be permitted to go on board the *Tamar* sloop of war, with her son.

Ordered, That Mr. [John] Rutledge and Mr. Arthur Middleton be a committee for drawing up proper instructions, for procuring seamen from the northern colonies for our naval armament.

Ordered, That Mr. John Wells be permitted to go on board the *Sandwich packet,* and also on board the *Tamar,* if necessary.

[1] *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society,* III, 121–24.

HENRY LAURENS TO COLONEL RICHARD RICHARDSON[1]

[Extract] Charles Town 28 Decem. 1775. –

the *Sandwich packet* arrived the day before yesterday – as we heard that many passengers were on board I sent John Calvert yesterday to learn & if possible to bring up our Letters he returned late last night – said they (the Governor) would suffer no person to go on board nor any to come on Shoar & he heard only of Mr. Daniel Heyward [2] as a passenger

I am willing to hope that such news as this Vessel may have brought, is good, because if the Governor had any dashes of mortification to throw into our Christmas dishes, I believe he would not refrain from enjoying such pleasure

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1. *South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, IV, 5, 6.
2. William Heyward, according to the Journal of the South Carolina Council of Safety, this date.

J. Hair to William Neil, Baltimore Merchant [1]

Dear sir St Eustatia 28th Decemr 1775.

After a passage of 15 days, from Cape Henry we arrived here on the 10th Ulto the day following (in the Morning) a Ship of war appeared in the Offing of this Road, which made Capt Dickinson & I anctious to have the Cargoe landed from on Board the Schooner to effect which we were both on Shore endeavouring to make Sales, or find a convenient place in which to Store it – In the mean time to our Great Surprise we perceived the Schooner under way at the appearance of which I applyed to some Boat men to Row me off, but before I could reach her, she was under the Guns of the above mentioned Ship of war who positively denyed to admitt me on Board of her; at my Return on Shore; I found three of the people who gave Capt Dickinson & I the following relation; that the Mate & one Man had Cut the Cables and delivered themselves with both vessell and Cargoe up to the above Ship that they were obliged to make their escape in the Boat after many imprecations & Threats from the Two villans who were each armed with a Broad Ax – I consulted Mr Jennings what to do who advised me to apply to the Governor of this Island to demand her again as Dutch property being anchored under the guns of the Fort & Regularly Reported. This I did and obtained a Flag of Truce pass with Letters to Adml [James] Young, giving a detail of the Matter and demanding the Vessell and Cargo to be Returned – I went to Antigua where the Adml was Supposed to be and delivered the Governors Letters when I received for Answer that he could not comply with his request his orders being such it was out of his power; all I could obtain from him was an order for my Cloths and that with Difficulty what ever money I had in my Chest was taken and confiscated along with the Cargoe, The Schooner & Cargoe is now at Navis [Nevis] where they will be tryed & sold; I shall attend the Tryall and if it is possible you may depend upon it to tak[e] any further Step for your advantage I shall not fail to do it; There was neither Lette[rs] nor pappers of any kind left on Board that could argue any thing against us but that of not having a Regular Clearance what ever expence I have been at I was oblig[ed] to borrow here, being left without the means of procuring a Dinner or a Shift of Cloths. I shall write you again after the trial of the Vessell In the Mean time I am Dr sir [&c.]

J. Hair

Inclosed I Returned the Bills of exchange.

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1. Red Book, XIII, Md. Arch.

29 Dec.

GOVERNOR FRANCIS LEGGE TO LORD DARTMOUTH [1]

No 56 Halifax Decembr 29th 1775.

My Lord. As an Officer of the 14th Regiment, is arriv'd here, who left Quebec the ninth of November last, and that Province in the Utmost distress, I think it incumbent on me to transmit to your Lordship, his Account of the proceedings of the Rebel Army, under the Command of Colonel Montgomery, for your Perusal.

I likewise inclose to your Lordship, a Paragraph of a News paper, printed at Cambridge in New England December 21st Instant, brought in this Morning, by the Schooner, which was taken at Canso, and releas'd by the Congress, in whom came Mr Calbeck, whom they had taken from St Johns Island.[2]

From which accounts your Lordship will perceive the imminent Danger, if not the Total loss of Canada before this time. I think it therefore my Duty, earnestly to Sollicit your Lordship, to send five hundred drafts from the different Regiments as soon as possible, for by the time this Letter reaches your Lordship, the best Season for crossing the Atlantic will commence. I propose that these Men shou'd Serve in my Regiment of Nova Scotia Volunteers, which I am apprehensive will not be compleated so soon as may be necessary for the absolute Protection and Safety of this Province; though I am now pursuing every possible measure to Levy. I have the Honor to be with greates[t] Respect. My Lord [&c.]

Frans Legge

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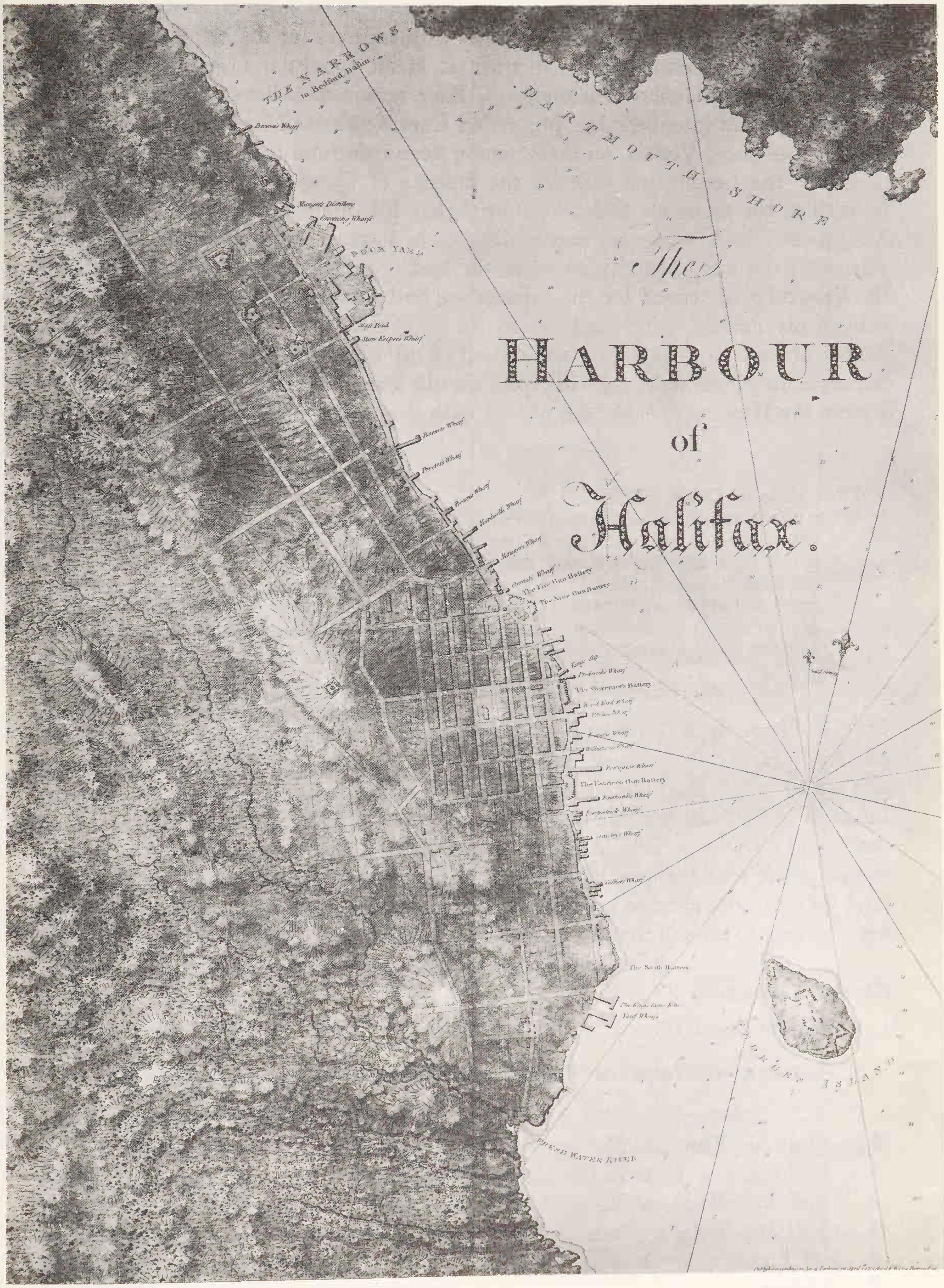
1. PRO, Colonial Office, 217/52.
2. The schooner *Lively,* which had been carried into Winter Harbor by Broughton and Selman, and released to her owner and master, Mr. Higgins.

THOMAS WRIGHT TO LORD DARTMOUTH [1]

My Lord Halifax Decembr 15th [*sic* 29] 1775 [2]

A distressing Circumstance hath taken place relative to the Island St John, but more particularly to Mr Callbeck (then commander in Chief) and to myself, who were on the 17th day of last Month taken as Prisoners from our Families at Charlotte Town, by a number of armed Men from two New England Privateers then at Anchor before the Town.—They plunder'd Governor Patterson's Mr. Callbeck's and other Houses, of almost every Article which they thought worth carrying off, even the provisions which were stored for the Winter; likewise the Church Furniture, province Seal &c.

I will not trouble Your Lordship at this time with a particular account of our unhappy situation, more than that we have undergone a disagreeable and hazardous Voyage at this season of the Year upwards of four hundred Leagues; our Families left (in all probabillity) to want the common Necessaries of Life and in an infant settlement without a Friend to protect them, and must be debarr'd (by the Season) of the Consolation of hearing of our safety for several Months to come; these Circumstances My Lord together with the cruel manner in which these Barbarians seperated us from them are truely Distressing.— — These Privateers were Schooners of about sixty Tons, mounting six carriage Guns and Ten Swivels each, with Eighty Marines, their Instructions were from General Wash-


The Harbour of Halifax.
THE NARROWS to Bedford Basin
DARTMOUTH SHORE
Browns Wharf
Maugers Distillery
Careening Wharf
DOCK YARD
Mast Pond
Store Keepers Wharf
Barnets Wharf
Proctors Wharf
Browns Wharf
Hardwells Wharf
Maugers Wharf
Gerrishs Wharf
The Five Gun Battery
The Nine Gun Battery
Kings Slip
Fredericks Wharf
The Governor's Battery
Wood Yard Wharf
Fraters Wharf
Wellington Wharf
Prinsgates Wharf
The Fourteen Gun Battery
Fairbanks Wharf
Fitzpatrick Wharf
Crawleys Wharf
Colliers Wharf
The South Battery
The Kings lime Kiln Yard Wharfs
GEORGES ISLAND
FRESH WATER RIVER

ington, ordering them to Cruise at the entrance of the River St Lawrence to intercept such Vessels as should be loaded with supplies for the army at Boston.—

From the reception we met with at Head Quarters in Cambridge, and particularly from Generl Washington, I have reason to believe that these Transactions were not intended, but proceeded from a spirrit of Revenge in the Commander's of these Vessels, on their having been informed that Recruits had been raised on the Island, and sent for the defence of Quebec; of this they accused us with to the General; and particularly that I (although it was my Duty as a Magistrate) had been very active thereto, in having attested them. We were released from our Captivity, to make the best of our distressed situation, without the least offer of redress for the injuries we had sustained; almost the enevitable ruin of my Family, which induces me to hope that your Lordship will in some degree prevent, by a further continuation of my Salary on the General Survey of America, to which Service I will repair should Your Lordship think it requisite.— I have the Honour to subscribe Myself with the greatest Respect

My Lord [&c.]
Tho: Wright

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1. PRO, Colonial Office, 226/6.
2. While this letter is definitely dated December 15, 1775, and so acknowledged by the Colonial Office, it could not have been written on this date, unless it was held and subsequently posted from Halifax. Callbeck and Wright were still in Salem on December 13, when the former advised that he had hired a vessel to take them to Winter Harbor. They reached that port on December 24, or, at least, Callbeck wrote to Washington from there on that date, and according to Legge's letter to Lord Dartmouth they reached Halifax on the morning of December 29, 1775.

WINTHROP SARGENT TO GEORGE WASHINGTON [1]

May it Please your Excellency At the request of Mesrs Jacob Green & Co owners of the sloop *Speedwell* [James] Cory Master lately taken by Capt Broughton and sent into this Harbour we have, maturely considered the within Inclo Acco so far as its carried out and are of opinion that the Charges are reasonable and that the Losses were sustained And are further of opinion that the Captors in Justice should pay it. with the remainder of the account when the same can be assertained – And we do recommend to your Excellcy the same hopeing you'l order that Justice may be done to the sufferers and beg leave to subscribe ourselves Your Excy [&c.]

Winthrop Sargent Chearman of the Commitey of Safty

Glocester December 29 1775

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1. Washington Papers, LC.

ACCOUNT OF LOSS OF CARGO AND DAMAGE TO SLOOP *Speedwell* [1]

[Gloucester, December 29]

74½	Quintals Fish	a 25/	£55..17..6
1½	bbs Oyl	a 73/	5.. 8..0
4	half bbs Pork	a 36/	7..4..0
1	half bb Beef		1..4..–
2..3.0	Bread	a 20/	2..15..0
2	Cables		13.. 6..8
2	Anchors		5.. 0..–

Repairs of the Mainail & Jibb Pr Mr Sawyers Bill	4..19..4
To Saml Saywords Bill for Freight of Fish	4..10..0
To Richd Trews Bill for Labour & Freight	1..14..4
To Winthrop Sargeants Bill paid Labours	8..0
To loss of Foresail	3.. 0..0
To Damage done the Vessell by being driven ashore	1.. 0..–
To Sundry Stores Lost To ware of a Cabel & Ancher to Git of[f] the Sloop	12..0
To frate of Oyl as p C M	2.. –..–
To Jams. McKerr's bill	5..0
To Sundry Mens Labor for Gitting of[f] the Sloop & unloding hur	13.. 6..8

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[1] Washington Papers, LC.

Journal of the Massachusetts Council[1]

In Council Decr 29th 1775.

Whereas several of the united Colonies have of late thought it expedient and necessary to fitt out armed Vessells for the Defence of American Liberty, and it appears to this Court necessary that Measures be taken by this Colony for our further Protection by Sea therefore

Resolved that Jno Adams & Joseph Palmer Esqrs with such as the Honourable House shall join be a Committee to consider and report to this Court a Plan for fitting out one or more armed Vessels for the Defence of American Liberty.[2]

Sent down for Concurrence
Perez Morton Depy Secy

[Endorsed] In the House of Representatives Decr 30th 1775 – Read & concurrd, and Coll Orne, Mr Brown of Boston & Coll Otis are joined – Sent up

William Cooper Speakr Pro Tem

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[1] Mass. Arch., vol. 137, 59.

[2] This resolution marked the beginning of the Massachusetts Navy.

Journal of the Massachusetts House of Representatives[1]

[Watertown] Friday, December 29, 1775

Mr Speaker read to the House A Letter from William Watson, Esqr dated Plymouth Decr 27, 1775 informing him of the Capture of a Sloop bound to Boston from New York, loaded with Pork Beef Geese Apples &c. sent by Govr Tryon and taken by a Plymouth Privateer accompenying a number of Prisoners sent to this Court under the charge of Mr Elkanah Bartlet.

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[1] Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Fowey*, CAPTAIN GEORGE MONTAGU [1]

December 1775 Boston Light House SW dist: 3 Miles

Wednesday 27. at 11 AM weighed & made sail & runing for Cat-Island. Moderate & Clear at 2 PM Anchored off Cat-Island in 6 fm with the best Bower & veered to ⅓ of a Cable at 3 fired several 6 pounders at a sloop going out from Marble Head,

Thursday 28. The Entrance to Cape Ann NEbE 1 Mile. at 7 AM came here his Majesty's Schooner the *Hinchinbrook*, took out our Pilot And sent theirs on board, at 8 saw 5 rebel Privateers in the Eastern Channel, weighed & gave them Chace, after firing several 6 pounders at them they took shelter in Cape Ann. Do Weather turning to windward to get to our station, at 3 PM Anchored off Cat-Island in 7 fm water with the Best Bower & furled sails,

Friday 29. at 6 AM hove up & warped Nigher the Town,[2] came to with the small Bower, vered away And let go the best [bower] Light breezes & Cloudy PM hove in And Moored

[1] PRO, Admiralty 51/375.
[2] Marblehead.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES [1]

[Boston] 1775 Decr 29

The *Halifax* Schooner that came up the Harbour the 23d now sailed with Orders to put herself under the Command of the *Fowey,* whose Captain had directions to employ her in the best manner he could to curb the Enemy, and to come occasionally to Boston with Intelligence.

[1] Graves's Conduct, II, 24, BM.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA STILES [1]

[Newport] Dec. 29.

This day an Express sent off to the Congress with Letters from the To of Newport on the subject of further supplying Wallace. Christie was carried to Providence & dismissed & returned. Crossen took up Dec. 30.

[1] Diary of Ezra Stiles, YUL.

Connecticut Gazette, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1775

New-London, December 29.

By authentic Advices from Martinico, we learn, that on the 4th of October last, Capt. Grant Gardon [Gordon], Commander of the *Argus* [*Argo*] an English frigate, lying in the Harbour of St. Pierre, sent a Boat with 22 Men on Board a French sloop in that Harbour, in search of Powder, (supposing her to be an English vessel bound to North-America.) Intelligence of this coming to the Master of the Sloop, who was on Shore, he immediately repaired on board his

Vessel to know the Reason of this Conduct; the Lieutenant of the Frigate demanded his Papers, and on the Master's refusing to exhibit them, a Squabble ensued, which being discovered by the People on Shore, they went to the Assistance of the French Master, on which the Lieutenant and some under Officers and Sailors went on Shore, where they were soon surrounded by a numerous Mob, which this Insult had collected; mean while the People in the Boat were drove from the Shore with showers of Stones which were thrown at them, the Officers at the same Time were hooted at by Numbers of Sailors and Negroes who followed them to the Governor's, where they went to make Complaint; but the Governor ordered them immediately to Depart, or he would have them punished for their Insolence: After much Difficulty the Officers of the Frigate got into their Boat and made off. – During the Tumult a Boat was sent on board the Frigate to know the Reason of this Conduct, and the Frigate was soon after ordered out of the Reach of their Cannon.

Journal of the Continental Congress [1]

[Philadelphia] Friday, December 29, 1775

A petition of Captain [Simeon] Sellick was presented to Congress and read:

Resolved, That the said petition, with the papers accompanying it, be referred to a committee of three.

The members chosen, Mr. [Richard] Smith, Mr. [William] Floyd, and Mr. F[rancis Lightfoot] Lee.

Agreeable to the order of the day, the Congress resolved itself into a committee of the whole, to take into consideration the trade of the United Colonies, and after some time spent thereon, the president resumed the chair, and Mr. [Samuel] Ward reported, that the committee had taken into consideration, the matter to them referred, and had come to certain resolutions, which he was ready to report.

The report of the committee being read, the Congress took the same into consideration, and, thereupon, came to the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the colonies of Virginia, Maryland, and North Carolina, be permitted to export produce from their respective colonies, to any part of the world, except Great Britain, Ireland, the islands of Jersey, Guernsey, Sark, Alderney and Man, and the British West India islands, and in return to import so much salt from any part of the world, not prohibited by the Association, as the conventions or councils of safety of the two former colonies, and the provincial council of the other shall judge necessary, for the use of the inhabitants thereof, now suffering great distress by the scarcity of that necessary article, proper caution being taken to prevent any abuse of this indulgence, by exceeding in the quantities exported or imported, and that no provisions, staves, or naval stores be exported, if other commodities may answer the purpose.

Resolved, That as the importation of any universally necessary commodity, and the exportation of our produce, to purchase the same, must give a proportionably greater opportunity to our enemies of making depredations on the property of the inhabitants of these colonies, and of occasionally distressing them by intercepting such commodities, it is earnestly recommended to the several Assemblies or conventions immediately to promote, by sufficient public encouragements, the making of salt in their respective colonies.

Ordered, That the foregoing resolution be immediately published.[2]

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1. Ford, ed., *JCC,* III, 463–65.
2. The resolution was printed in the *Pennsylvania Packet,* January 1, 1776.

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH [1]

[Philadelphia] Friday 29 Decr A Petit[io]n from Simeon Sellick committeed to myself, Col. [William] Floyd & Francis Lightfoot Lee Esqr – The House went into Grand Committee, Govr [Samuel] Ward in the Chair, when it was agreed after much Debate to allow Virginia, Maryland and North Carolina to import as much Salt as their several Conventions or Committees of Safety think necessary, from any foreign Country, & to export Produce therefor – Debates upon opening our Ports to foreign Countries after the 1st of March next, within the Terms of our Association, adjourned – An Application from the Virginia Convention praying Means may be used for the Release of 3 Gentlemen, one of them a Delegate in that Convention named [William] Robinson, lately seized by Lord Dunmore, left for Consideration, (the brave Capt Manly retook & released these Gentn on their Voyage to Gen. [William] Howe at Boston)

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1. Richard Smith's Diary, LC.

DEPOSITION OF JOHN CONNOR [1]

Philadelphia County ss. –

Personally appeared John Conners Carpent[ers] Mate of the *Cabot* Sloop of War in the service of America and made oath, that he went to Sir John Johnston's in Tryon county in the province of New York sometime in March last where he was employed as a Carpenter, and that whilst he was there the said Sir John harboured Alexander White Esquire Sheriff of Tryon county, who had fled to him for protection, the said White having attempted to go to Colonel Guy Johnston at Montreal together with him the said deponent, a certain Peter Bowen, Lewis Clement, and three Indians, but prevented by being made prisoners by [William] Gilleland Esquire & others – That a certain James McDonald of Johnstown is (he believes) a Captain in the King's army [&] that the said Captain McDonald during the last summer inlisted a great number of scotch roman-catholics as soldie[rs] in his Majesty's service, and gave them a bounty of twelve or fourteen pounds lawful money of New-York, that Sir John Johnston was privy to said inlisting & gave a [gun] to each – that the said Captn McDonald continued to inlist Soldiers until the latter end of October, and that Sir John constantly gave them arms – That a tonn [of] powder arrived from Canada to Sir John Johnston's about the latter end of August – That he this depon[ent] with certain Samuel Sutton, Arthur Redman, Captn McDonald & Robert Pickin assisted the said Sir John to bury the afsd tonn of powder & fifty three chests of arm[s] each chest containing twenty five guns, called blue-boars, in a hole about five hundred yards from the said Sir John's house, on the 25th day of October last in the night-time, where he believes they now remain. That there are a large number of others arms, of Indian Blankets, and some cannon swivels at said Sir John Johnston's. – And further this deponent saith not. –

John Connor

Sworn at Philadelphia Decr 29th 1775. before Thos Willing. –

1. Schuyler Papers, vol. XVI, NYPL.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM COL. [THOMAS] ELLIOTT, TO THE HON. THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONVENTION, DATED HAMPTON, DEC. 29." [1]

I had brought into Hampton river, the night before last, a sloop (in ballast) capt. Bartlett Goodrich, who has been 20 days only from St. Eustatia – I detained this express, expecting to have some news from Norfolk, as there was a very heavy firing of cannon heard there yesterday, which continued till 9 o'clock at night.

1. Purdie's *Virginia Gazette,* Supplement, December 29, 1775.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA CONVENTION [1]

[Williamsburg] Friday, December 29, 1775.

The President laid before the Convention a letter from col. [Robert] Howe, enclosing a letter from capt. Bellew, of his majesty's ship the *Liverpool*, desiring to be informed if he still persisted in his resolution to restrain his majesty's ships from supplies of provision, with his answer thereto; which being read, were referred to the committee of the state of the colony.

The Convention then, according to the order of the day, resolved itself into the said committee; and after some time spent therein, Mr. President resumed the chair, and Mr. [Archibald] Cary reported, that the committee had, according to order, had under their consideration the state of the colony, and had come to the following resolution, which he read in his place, and afterwards delivered in at the clerk's table, where the same was again twice read, and agreed to.

Resolved, That col. Howe be informed, in answer to his letter of the 25th, that this Convention are fully sensible of the hardships many innocent persons on board his majesty's ships may be exposed to, for want of regular supplies of fresh provisions, which we would not wish to withhold, unless compelled by the duty we owe to the country, loudly calling upon us to use every exertion for the defence of its inhabitants. That capt. Bellew, who probably is a stranger to us and our situation, should be informed, that this country hath ever, till of late, considered the officers and men of his majesty's navy as their friends, and have always had great pleasure in shewing them every mark of hospitality and civility; but many very recent and unwarranted instances of the hostile behaviour of some of the navy, towards our inhabitants, justify us in suspicions we would not otherwise entertain. Who are the innocent and helpless whose blood capt. Bellew would not wish to shed, we cannot, from his expressions, determine; but they carry with them the strongest implication, that the effusion of the blood of some of our countrymen is the object of his voyage to this country. That the Convention have the warmest wishes to find themselves mistaken in these apprehensions; and if capt. Bellew can condescend to satisfy them, or col. How[e], that he is come to Virginia on a friendly errand, this Convention will take every opportunity of paying proper respect to a gentleman in his station, and use every means in their power to make his stay here as agreeable as possible; but that if, on the contrary, capt. Bellew's design is to further the views of our enemies, and assist in prosecuting those unjustifiable and cruel measures already set on foot in this country, he must excuse the inhabitants of Virginia if they totally decline contributing towards their own destruction.

1. *Virginia Convention*, 77–78.

VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO MARYLAND DELEGATES IN THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS [1]

[Extract] WILLIAMSBURGH, December 29, 1775.

. . . on the arrival of the *Liverpool*, man-of-war, with a store-ship, we thought it proper to communicate that intelligence to your Committee of Safety, which we did by express, on Saturday last [December 23], and which we hope has reached you ere now. The disgraceful circumstance, to the Colony, of seizing the Printer's materials and servants, in Norfolk; the captivating our friends at Kemp's Landing, and the cowardly behaviour of a party of Militia in that neighbourhood, afterwards, proceeded from the defenceless state of that part of the country, and our inability, for sometime, to send them protection, for want of arms and ammunition. As soon as we had despatched a respectable body of men across James River, for this purpose, Lord Dunmore issued his proclamation, and dispersed his standards and oaths, in Norfolk and Princess Anne, to which the bulk of the people in those Counties resorted and subscribed, and a number of slaves ran away to Norfolk and joined the enemy. Our Army continued their march without interruption till they got to a place called the Great-Bridge, between Suffolk and Norfolk; there the enemy had raised a stockade fort to intercept their passage. After some skirmishing for several days, Lord Dunmore's whole regulars, consisting of about two hundred, sallied out, and passed the bridge to attack our party. They met a defeat so complete, and sustained so large a carnage, that they have not yet appeared in action. They retreated on board the ships, and our Army marched into Norfolk without opposition, where there are about twelve hundred of Virginians and North-Carolinians, masters of the land, for Colonel Howe being convenient to the place, and hearing of the state of things there, had kindly marched with about five hundred men to our assistance. The notorious Tories, and some blacks, are gone on board the vessels in the harbour, and have embarked effects to the amount of one hundred and fifty thousand pounds, as estimated.

Our Convention have under examination some suspected persons of property; others have come in, and remain neuter; all the slaves, except what are on board the vessels, have surrendered, on promise of pardon, or been taken in arms, out of whom some examples will be made; and the apprehensions of danger, from that quarter, seem to have subsided. Beside the *Liverpool* and store-ship, which are supposed to have about four hundred seamen and marines, the naval force of our enemy consists of the *Otter,* of twelve six, and two four-pounders; the *Kingfisher,* of fourteen six, and four four-pounders; the *Eilbeck,* pierced for twenty-two guns, and, perhaps, now recruited from the store-ship, she had, however, only seven, three and four-pounders, badly mounted; the *William,* of six guns, size unknown; and several tenders, consisting of four schooners, four sloops, with small pilot boats, none of them very considerable, except a sloop belonging to, and commanded by, a Captain [Robert] Stewart, which is said to mount ten carriage guns. The men belonging to all these ships of war and tenders, do not exceed two hundred, and these mostly pressed. We have at Hampton, at present, about two hundred men only, who have so obstructed the navigation up that river, by sinking boats, that none can get up but those well acquainted with it, and have raised some breastworks for defence. A reinforcement to them of two hundred men is ordered, and will be there in a day or two; besides those, there is a Captain Barron, a brave, experienced seamen, whose company of Militia, being also stationed there, has been very active in small excursions of vessels, in Hampton Roads, from which he has brought in several vessels belonging to Tories, protected others, the property of friends, from falling into the enemy's hands, and has taken two tenders, on their way to the Eastern-Shore for provisions, manned with Americans and slaves. We have strengthened his hands, by empowering him to fit out three armed vessels, to be employed in this way, and have great confidence in his prudence and valour. We have recommended it to Captain Hyde, that, should any vessels of yours be passing through the Road, they give a signal, to be settled by him with Captain Barron and the commanding officer at Hampton, which may produce some useful pilots, and, perhaps, other assistance from thence. We have, also, about three hundred troops in this city.

We are informed of a considerable cannonade, heard this day towards Norfolk, and suppose the gust may have produced some effects of consequence there.

To the Honourable Matthew Tilghman, Thomas Johnson, Jun., and Samuel Chase, Esquires.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives,* 4th, IV, 576–77.

PURDIE'S *Virginia Gazette,* FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1775

Williamsburg, December 29.

The Honorable General Convention have resolved that no provisions of any kind shall be furnished to the king's ships, so long as they come here with hostile intentions; which resolution they have communicated to cols. Howe and Woodford, and it is supposed brought on the firing from the men of war, mentioned in col. Elliott's letter to his Honour the President, though from a gentleman just arrived from Norfolk (Saturday 2 o'clock) we hear it was only a Christmas frolick between lord Dunmore and the captains of the navy, upon visiting each other on board their ships.

Last Monday night [December 25] arrived in town, from Hampton, under a strong guard 33 *black* and *white* prisoners, coupled together, who were committed to the publick jail; since which a vessel was drove ashore near Hampton, in the late snow storm, going on a pirating voyage to the Eastern Shore for provisions, which had on board 14 whites and two blacks.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY[1]

In the Council of Safety, [Charleston]
Friday, Dec. 29th, 1775.

The following letter was written to the Committee at George-Town:

Charles-Town, Dec. 29th, 1775.

Gentlemen – We thank you for the intelligence contained in your letter of the 26th, which reached us yesterday, about noon.

If such a fact as you have been informed of was actually seen from the shore of Waccamaw, there can be scarcely a doubt about their destination. We may expect to hear and see more of them when the weather becomes settled; in the mean time, we shall persevere in making preparations for defence.

The *Sandwich packet,* Capt. Nottingham, arrived in Rebellion-Road, on Tuesday last. Lord William Campbell has forbid all communication with her, and Mr. William Heyward, a passenger, is detained a prisoner on board. Intelligence which his Lordship so sedulously withholds, whether good or bad, is probably above the ordinary course. We have waited with impatience for an answer to our letter of the 21st inst., but have not yet received one.

By order of the Council of Safety.

Henry Laurens, President.

The Committee at George-Town.

Read a letter from the Council of Safety, in Georgia, dated Savannah, 19th December, 1775, brought by Stephen Drayton and Wm. Ewen, esqs.

Read a letter from Col. [Stephen] Bull, 23rd December, 1775.

Mr. William Tweed made application for the discharge of his negro Adventure, who had been taken up at sea by one of the armed pilot boats.

An order was issued accordingly.

Stephen Drayton and William Ewen, esqs., from Georgia, attended the board, as a delegation from the Council of Safety there, to represent the present state of affairs in that colony.

Having produced their credentials, they made a representation accordingly.

Capt. [Benjamin] Stone reported, that he had executed the order of the Council to remove all the live-stock from Morris Island, and returned an inventory.

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[1] *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society,* III, 124–27.

30 Dec.

JOHN PRINCE TO A FRIEND IN LONDON[1]

[Extract] Halifax Decr 30, 1775

Dr Sir I come now to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of 4th Augt by Johnson, and Congratulate you, on your being in a place of Safty. To discribe the Sufferings of the late Friends to Goverment in america is impossable, but according to our numbers we are More dispers'd, and oppress'd than the Jews. and when the time of our coming in, or Giting to our own Habitatations again in peace will be, God only knows, At present we are the only sufferers

I live here with my family tolerable quiet; but Should Spend my time more agreable, if our Gov–r. was not both ignorant, & moros. in every N.E. [New England] man, he fanceys he Sees the rebel, and treats us as Such. only he does not imprison us yet, but beleive he would Gladly, if he could.[2]

Johnson was taken at Canso, on his way from this to St Johns Island, and Carried, to the Congress, or Rather Genl Washington,[3] at Same Time, the two arm'd Schrs from marblehead who Took him carried Mr Colbeck, the acting Governor of St Johns Island, Mr Rice a Judge, and Mr Higgins, who ware permited to return to their Famelys, by the Genl and on their return came here four days ago.[4] they bring Halls papers [5] to the 15 Decr by which we find that their privateers, as they call them, have taken a great number of provition vessels from England, and [these] whare amongst other vessells they have taken, the ordinance Store Brig. from London for Boston, with Twenty four Brass Cannon 12. & 6. pounders, one thirteen inch Brass Morter. a large quantity of arms of all Sorts. in short every thing that washington wanted,[6] the army in Cambridge are exceedingly well fortyfied, and well provided with every thing except Cloathing, have reduced their numbers from [38] Regts of 500 men each, to 26 Reg[ts] – Timo Pickering is appointed, Judge of admiralty, to condem the prises brot in . . . Admiral Graves Seems very well contented, being well boom'd in to keep the whale boats from Taking him, as well as a large number of Shipps round him, to keep off the marble head fishermen. whilst the Coasts of N.E. are ravag'd by two mast Boats, and other Craft. two vessells have been taken in a day, after the Signall was up for them at the Castle, is not this a Brave A——l.? Really think the Risque of vessells being Taken between Boston light house, & only twenty leagues East of it is 20 pr Ct while the N.E. people, Carry on a free trade to the west Indies & to the eastward of Portsmouth, only one of their arm'd vessells have been taken, But that was one of their Best. –[7] All Canada is Taken except Quebec, and its Ginerally bel[ie]ved that Quebec is taken before this, and I e[x]pect they will take this province next Spring: Then G: Britain will have the whole Town of Boston to themselves; a noble acqusition; could any body have thought Twelve months ago that matters would have Stood as they do at present. but let us hope for better Times. worse cannot be . . . Pray inform me what is doing. what prospect is before us: we are here in the Greatest Consternation: I fear that what little property my Countrymen Suffered me to bring away with me, will in Cours of next Summer, be carried back: it must be the Case, unless an accommidation taks place, which I dont in the least expect as the affairs of Goverment are Carried on with the Greatest Spirit. – Pray excuse this long letter. my anxiety: my Thoughts of having a family at my hands, and Surrounded with danger hurries on my pen beyond my inclination. I am – Dr Sir yours Sincerely–

John Prince

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1. Emmet Autograph Collection, NYPL.
2. Governor Francis Legge.
3. Johnson probably was the commander of Higgins' schooner *Lively*, bound from London to Charlottetown, and which had put in at Halifax en route.
4. Phillip Callbeck and Thomas Wright.
5. Samuel Hall, printer of the *New England Chronicle*.
6. The brig *Nancy*.
7. Washington's armed brig *Washington*.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES [1]

[Boston] Decr 30

Rear Admiral Shuldham this day arrived in the *Chatham* of 50 Guns with a War Complement of 350 Men, being the first Ship that had come to Boston with that Establishment; and brought the Vice Admiral common official Orders to deliver the Command of the Fleet to him and to shift his own Flag either to the *Boyne, Asia* or *Somerset,* and proceed with those Ships to England as soon as possible.*

Note* In this way (as if a matter of course) by a junior Officer, who had not a Flag when the Vice Admiral was appointed to the American Command, came his first and only notice or intimation, either from the Admiralty or any part of Government, of having given dissatisfaction. Nothing could be more unexpected or extraordinary than this Recall: for it bore date the 29th of September, and he had Letters from the Board of the entire Approbation of his Conduct down to the 6th of the same Month. Nevertheless he betrayed no Emotion or Resentment either at the thing itself or the manner of it, concealed all Indignation, and was manly enough to avoid even taking the least notice of the hardness of his Usage in any Dispatch. He felt however what every Officer of Spirit must feel in the like circumstances, and was totally at a Loss to account for such Treatment, having flatter'd himself with the Merit of unusual Activity & Circumspection, and being conscious of having anticipated and exceeded every Order that came to him.[2]

[1] Graves's Conduct, II, 24, BM.
[2] For list of prizes sent into Boston while Graves was in command, see Appendix D, Volume 2.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Niger,* CAPTAIN GEORGE TALBOT [1]

December 1775 Cape Codd SEbE½E 5 Leagues

Saturday 30th at 7 AM hoisted in the Longboat, Weigh'd and came to Sail, as did the *Cancaux Lord Hyde* [Packet], and *William* Brig, at 10 took the *William* in Tow; at Noon in Company as before – *Cancaux* in chase of a Sail to the Noward. –
First and middle part fresh Breezes & Cloudy Wr latter Modt with Rain ½ past 4 PM Anchor'd with the best Bower in Nantasket Road in 6 fathoms veerd and Moord a Cable each way – saluted Admiral Shuldham with 13 Guns Do Retd 11 found riding here His Majesty's Ships *Chatham, Renown, Scarborough, Nautilus* & two Armd Schooners. –

[1] PRO, Admiralty 51/637.

JAMES BEEKMAN TO PIERCE & BROWN, BRISTOL [1]

Per Captain Cooper. [New York] Dec. 30, 1775

I am now to acknowledge the receipt of your favour of 15th August last inclosing my account Current with Messrs. Peach and Pierce as also my account with you. which I have examined and found both correct and have noted the same accordingly. I observe in yours what you say about my distance from the Seat of Warr. in answer to which you cant but be sencible that as all commerce is stoped and Collecting in Debts at this critical juncture is almost impossible as we can take little or no country Produce, but are obliged to take Bonds with mortgages. I can assure you I should be as willing to remitt as you would be to receive. I hope that the Alwise God will so order Publick affairs. that we may soon have an Honourable and lasting Peace, which will enable us to make remittances as formerly. I remain with much esteem, at same time wishing you the compliments of the Season.

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1. Philip L. White, eds., *The Beekman Mercantile Papers, 1746–1799* (New York, 1956), II, 900. Beekman wrote a similar letter, dated December 30, to B. Pomeroy & Son, London. *Ibid.*, 949.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS [1]

[Philadelphia] Saturday, December 30, 1775

Two letters from General Washington, 19 [18] and 21 December, enclosed a copy of a letter to general [William] Howe, and accompanied with a number of intercepted letters, being received and read,

Resolved, That they be referred to a committee of five.

The members chosen, Mr. [Thomas] Lynch, Mr. [William] Hooper, Mr. [George] Wythe, Mr. Silas Deane, and Mr. S[amuel] Adams.

A letter from General Washington, dated 14th December, being delivered by two strangers, was read.[2]

Resolved, That the same be referred to the Secret Committee, who are directed to confer with the bearers, and pursue such measures as they may think proper for the interest of the United Colonies.

Resolved, That the contents of the intercepted letters this day read, and the steps which Congress may take in consequence of the said intelligence thereby given, be kept secret until further orders, excepting only that the delegates of Virginia and [South] Carolina have leave to send to their conventions, extracts of such parts of the letters, as they may think necessary for the welfare of their colonies.[3]

The Committee on Captain [Simeon] Sellick's petition, brought in their report, which was read.

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1. Ford, ed., *JCC,* III, 465–67.
2. The strangers were Messrs. Pliarne and Penet.
3. These were the letters found on board the armed sloop *Betsey,* taken by John Manley in Washington's armed schooner *Lee.*

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH [1]

Saturday 30 Decr A Letter from Gen Washn with a packet of Letters just taken by Capt. Manley in a Vessel sent with provisions from Lord Dunmore to Gen Howe (the same Vessel mentioned in the last page)[2] these Letters were from Ld Dunmore, one Mulcaster, said to be the Kings Natural Brother, Hon. John Stuart & many more Persons in the Southern Colonies One Col. [Moses] Kirkland of S. Carolina was taken in this Vessel—The Letters took up most of the Day in the Perusal, the S. Cara Delegates pressed strongly to have the Originals delivered to them & the Virginia Delegates & the Congress to keep attested Copies, but it was opposed & the Letters referred to a Comee there was no Objection to those Delegates taking attested Copies . . . Another Letter was recd from Washn recomg 2 French Gentn who offer to supply this Continent with Powder & these Gentn being in Town our Secret Comee were desired to treat with them . . . Myself from the Comee made Report on Capt Simeon Sellecks Petition. He commands a small Privateer in Connectt & lately took at Turtle Bay in the Sound, Kings Stores to the Amot of £1500 lawful Money of Connectt we allowed Him £100 like Money as a Reward for his Expences, Trouble and Risque, he gave up his Prize for the Continental Use.

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1. Richard Smith's Diary, LC.
2. *Ibid.*, December 29, 1775.

Commissioned Officers of the Continental Fleet [1]

[Philadelphia, December 30, 1775] [2]

Ship *Alfred*	
Dudley Saltonstall	Commander
John Paul Jones	1st lieut
Benj Seabury	2nd do
John Fanning	3rd do
Ship *Columbus*	
Abram Whipple	Commander
Rhodes Arnold	1st lieut
Joseph Olney	2nd do
Ezekiel Burroughs	3rd do
Brigt *Andrea Doria*	
Nicholas Biddle	Commander
James Josiah	1st lieut
Elijah Warn[e]r	2nd lieut
Jno McDougall	3rd do
Brigt *Cabot*	
John B. Hopkins	Commander
Hoisted Hacker	1st lieut
Thomas Weaver	2nd do
Danl Vaughan	3rd do
Sloop *Providence*	
John Hazard	Commander
Jonathan Pitcher	1st lieut
John Rathbun	2nd do

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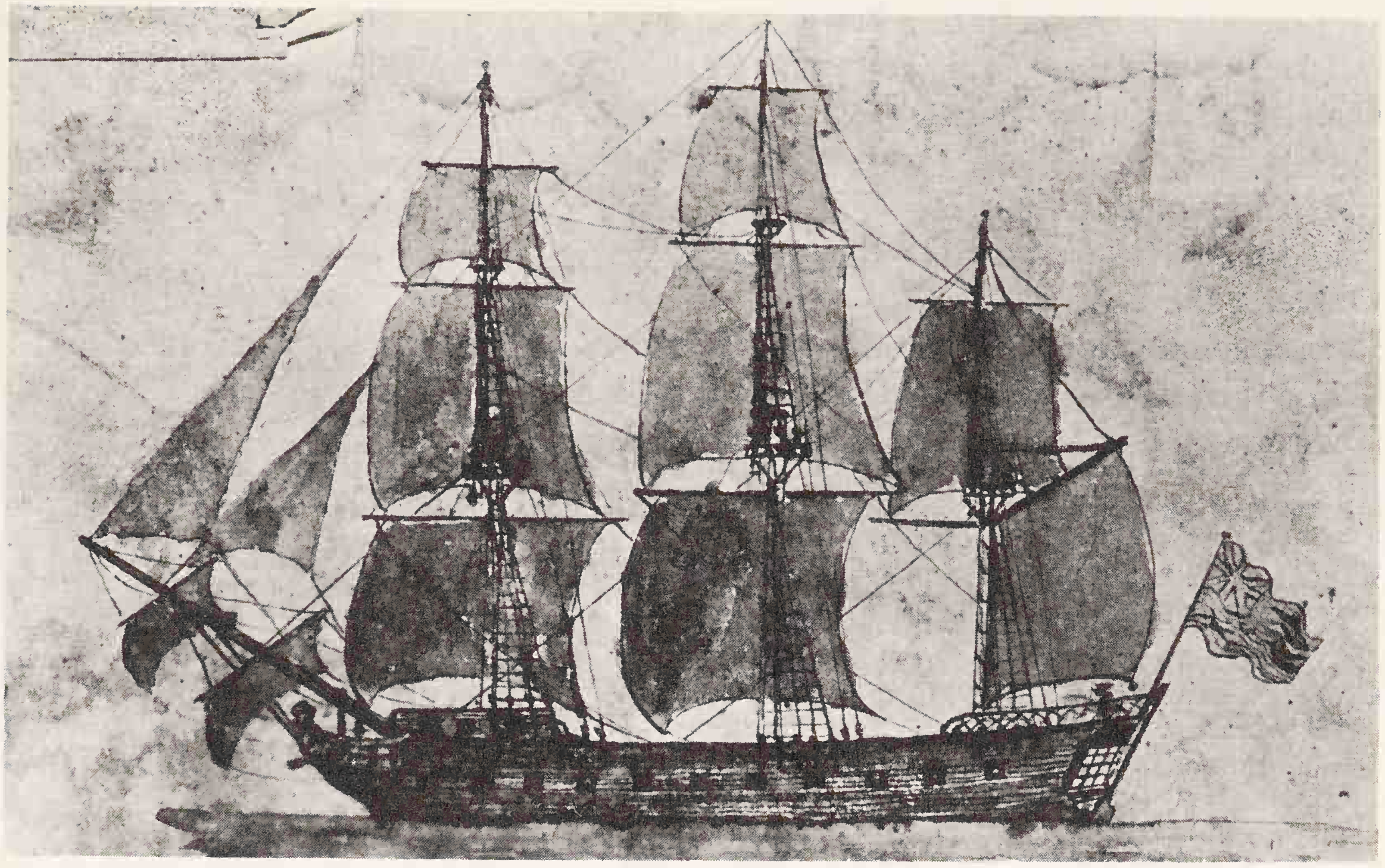
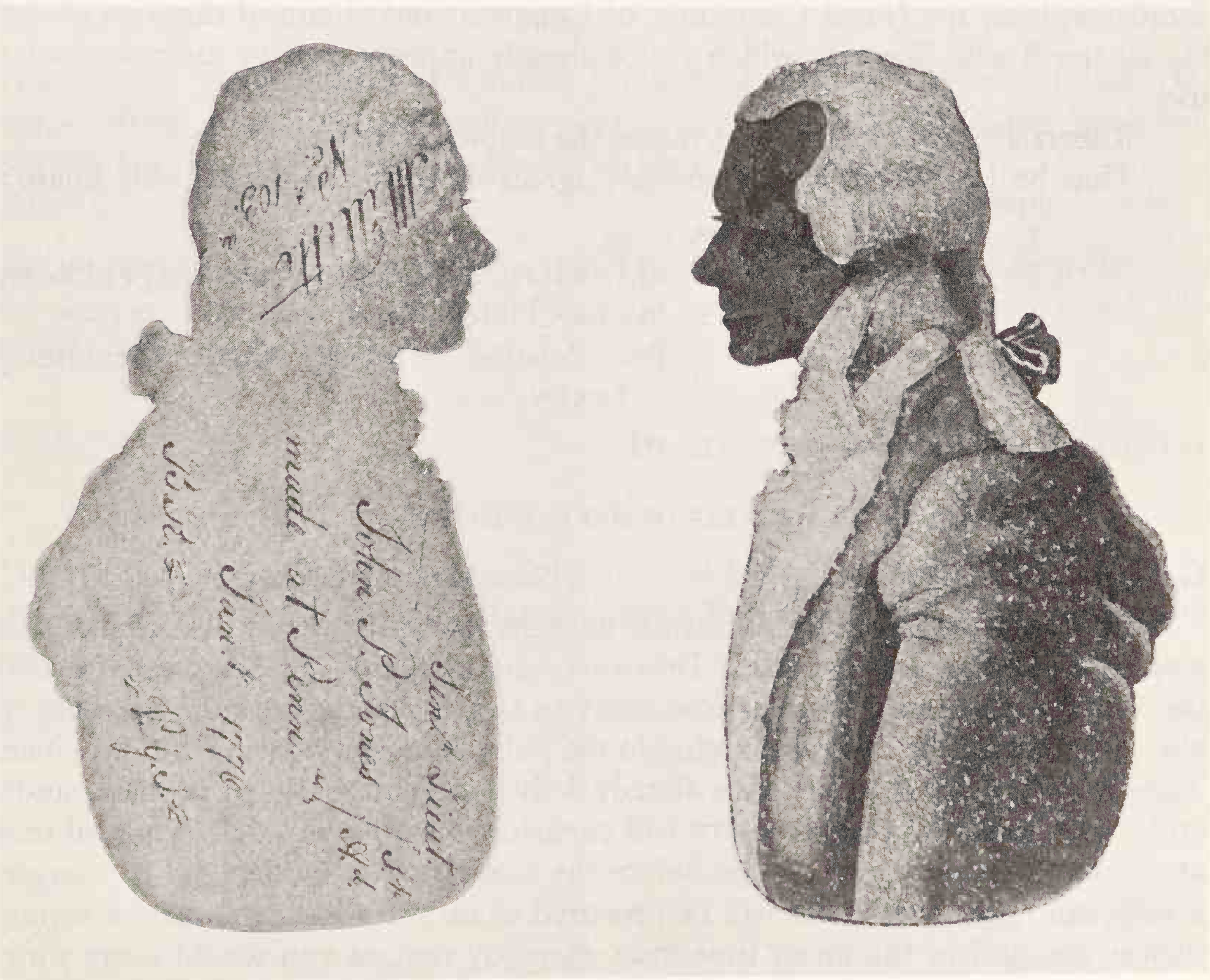
1. Hayes Manuscripts, NCDAH.
2. There are three lists of the officers commissioned to the first Continental fleet. The earliest, dated December 22, 1775, is in the Journal of the Continental Congress, and shows no assignment to vessels, except for captains. It does not list John Hazard as captain, and it includes Richard Stansbury, who did not accept the appointment as a lieutenant. The next in sequence is the list in the Hayes Manuscripts. Apparently it was sent to Samuel Johnston by Joseph Hewes, a member of the Naval Committee, and the date must have been approximately at the end of the year. The third list, in the Hopkins Papers, RIHS, must have been compiled after May 12, 1776, when Jones left the *Alfred* to take command of the *Providence*, and June 14, 1776, when James Josiah was captured in a prize. The Hopkins list omits both names.

Marines On Board Commodore Esek Hopkins' Fleet [1]

Onboard the ship *Alfred*
Capt [Samuel] Nicholas
Lieuts [Matthew] Parke & [John] Fitzpatrick
and the whole company
Onboard the ship *Columbus*
Capt [Joseph] Shoemaker
Lieuts Miller [*sic* John Trevett] [2] & [Robert] Cummings
and the whole company



Continental ship Alfred, *1777.*


No. 103
Sen.r Lieut.
John P. Jones of 1st
made at Penn.
Jan.y 1776

Lieutenant John Paul Jones silhouette. This is probably the earliest known likeness of Jones.

Onboard the *Andrea Doria* (Brigg)
  Lieutenant [Isaac] Craig and thirty six of the men he raised—
Onboard the *Cabot* (Brigg)
  Captain [John] Welsh
  Lieut [James] Wilson
  and the forty men raised by the Capt
Onboard the sloop *Providence*
  Lieutenant [Henry] Dayton
  and the fourteen men raised by Lieut
  Wilson and six of Lieut Craigs men

Extract from the Minutes
T. Matlack Secy

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1. Hopkins Papers, RIHS. This list, while undated, was unquestionably prepared at the end of 1775 and complements the list of naval officers of the Fleet, prepared at about the same time.
2. There was no Lieutenant Miller in the Marine Corps. John Trevett states that he went on board the *Columbus* as First Lieutenant of Marines, and this is confirmed by the muster roll of the *Columbus*.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

[Philadelphia] December 30th.

Resolved, That Colo. [Joseph] Reed, Mr. [James] Mease and Mr. Owen Biddle, wait on the Naval Committee of Congress, and obtain of them an Order for all the Russia Sheeting which is not already appropriated to their particular use.

Robert Towers, Commissary, makes the following Report:

That he has deliver'd to Congress, agreeable to the Orders of this Board:

t.	qr.	lbs.	
13	3	27	of Lead, rec'd by Capt. [Nathaniel] Falconer.
		12	lbs. Salt Petre,
		6	lbs. Powder, rec'd by Capt. [Benjamin] Loxley.

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1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records,* X, 439, 441.

PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO COUNTY COMMITTEES [1]

Gentn, [Philadelphia, December 30] 1775.

The great demand for fire arms, in order to equip the Boats and Vessels employ'd in defence of the River Delaware, and to supply the Marines on Board the Continental Arm'd Vessels now ready to sail, has occasion'd the necessity of our collecting all the Arms belonging to the publick in every part of the Province. The Associations in this City have already deliver'd up all that were in their hands, and we hope those in the Country will chearfully comply and deliver up all that are in their Custody. We hope before the Country can be exposed to danger, a sufficient number of Arms will be procured to furnish those who cannot supply themselves, and in the mean time most earnestly request you would exert yourselves to procure as fast as possible and send down to this Commee all the publick Arms that are in your County, to be employ'd in immediate Service. And upon your transmitting an account of whatever sums have been expended either by your Committee or the individuals who have the Custody of those Arms, for repairing them, such sums shall be paid to your Order.

1. Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives,* 1st series, IV, 694.

WORKMEN'S RECEIPTS FOR LABOR ON BOARD THE MARYLAND ARMED SHIP *Defence* [1]

Decbr 30th 1775 Recd of Captain James Nicholson on Account of Ship *Defence* fifteen Shillings & Six pence for laying the Hearths in the Rigging lost belonging to Ar[c]hd Buchanan

£.15.6 Thomas Connely

Decbr 30th 1775 Recd of Captain James Nicholson on Acct of the Ship *Defence* Seventeen Pounds three Shillings and Six pence for eight able Carpenters, & two Boys for fifty th[ree] days work on board Said Ship.

£17.3.6 John Hayman

Decbr 30th 1775 Recd of Captain James Nicholson on Account of Ship *Defence* Three pounds Seven Shillings and Six pence for Nine days work on board said Ship.

£3.7.6 James Smyth

Decbr 30th [1775] Recd of Captain James Nicholson on Account of Ship *Defence* Fifteen pounds Sixteen Shillings and three pence for 5 able Carpenters & one Sawyer for forty eight days & a half work on board said Ship

£15.16.3 Joseph Cavely

Decbr 30th 1775 Recd of Captain James Nicholson on Account of Ship *Defence,* the sum of Five pounds Eight Shillings for working eighteen days on said ship rigging – Wages Six Shillings P day

his
£5.8 – James X Gallaway
mark
James Bennett

Decbr 30th 1775 Recd of Captain James Nicholson on Acct of Ship *Defence* Three pounds Seven Shillings and Six pence for fifteen days work as ordinary riggers.

£3.7.6 John Patterson
his
John X Wright
mark
his
Joseph X Well[s]
mark

Decbr 30th 1775 Recd of Captain James Nicholson on Acct of Ship *Defence* Four pounds one Shilling being the wages due for three Boys at three Shillings P day, each for Nine days attendance in the Rigging

£4.1. – James Ridley

Decbr 30th 1775 Recd of Captain James Nicholson in Acct of Ship *Defence*; one pound four Shillings for eight days labour on [the] said Ship

£1.4 – John Dunavan

Decbr 30th 1775 Recd of Captain James Nicholas on Acct of Ship *Defence* Nineteen pounds Seven Shillings & Six pence for forty fo[ur] days labour of Eleven able Carpenters & eleven days & a half da[y] of four ordinary ditto

£19.7.6 George Wil[son]

Decbr 30th 1775 Recd of Captain James Nicholson on Acct of Ship *Defence* Twelve pounds three Shillings for thirty Six days labour on board Said Ship. Foreman nine days able Carpenter Nine Days and two ordinary Carpenters

his
£12.3 – Ralph X Story
mark

Decbr 30th 1775 Recd of Captain James Nicholson on Acct of the Ship *Defence* the Sum of Eleven pounds Eighteen Shillings and Six pence for forty five days work of five men on board Said Ship

his
£11.18.6 Edward X Hopkins
mark

Decbr 30th 1775 Recd of Captain James Nicholson on Acct of Ship *Defence* Seven pounds Seven Shillings & Six pence for Seventeen days work of two hands on bd sd Ship.

£7.7.6 Peter Stoaks

1. Account Book, Ship *Defence* Papers, MdHS.

DIXON AND HUNTER'S *Virginia Gazette*, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1775

Williamsburg, Dec. 30.

An express from Norfolk brings advice that the ships of war had demanded a supply of water and provisions from the town, but as no satisfactory answer had been given by the commanding officer when he came away, he imagined they had fired upon the town, having, whilst on his way, heard several heavy discharges of cannon; and as several other persons have since heard firing in that quarter, it is probable the town is by this time destroyed.[1]

[1] The firing between the British vessels saluting each other during the Christmas season.

PINKNEY'S *Virginia Gazette*, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1775

Williamsburg [December 30].

We have just received an account of the taking 14 whites, and 2 slaves, which were on board a tender sent out, as it is thought, to plunder the inhabitants on the seaboard, and to pick up such other base wretches as might be found to join in this accursed trade, as they had 8 stand of spare arms, besides other military stores, on board. On Friday the 22d instant advice was received at Hampton that the tender was at anchor between the lighthouse point and the mouth of York river. Captain [Morgan] Alexander, with 12 privates of his rifle company, Lieutenant Colmise [Marquis Calmes] and ensign [John] Holder, as volunteers, together with 6 other gentlemen volunteers from the *Musquetto,* were detached, under the command of the afore-mentioned officer, who found the tender at anchor, as had been reported. The party continued reconnoitreing the coast till about day-light, notwithstanding the great severity of the weather. In the course of the night, which was exceedingly tempestuous, she cut her cable, and drifted on shore, when the crew left her, and betook themselves to flight. The party proceeded to examine, and after pursuing some distance, found the crew, whom they took, and brought to Hampton. On further examining the vessel, which could only be done by wading, as the storm continued, and the breakers were so violent, that those in the attempt were frequently beat off their feet. Twenty four stand of arms, some new regimentals, and some other particulars, were found on board.

The last accounts from Norfolk were dated the 25th instant, when the *Liverpool,* with the *Otter, Kingfisher,* their tenders, and Lord Dunmore's ships, the *Eilbeck* and *William,* were lying before the town with springs on their cables. The captain of the *Liverpool* had very *decently* demanded a supply of provisions, which was *decently* refused by colonels Howe and Woodford. The express says that he heard cannon all day Wednesday and Thursday, and supposes that that had occasioned a cannonade. An incessant firing has been heard by many people from that quarter.

Colonel Howe, we understand, has taken upwards of 50 tories in and about Norfolk, whom he intends sending to this city.

A LETTER TO THE PRINTER OF THE *Virginia Gazette* [1]

[Williamsburg, December 30, 1775]

A remarkable instance of lord Dunmore's humanity –

A ship from Cameron, in North Britain, with about 250 Highlanders, consisting of men, women and children, was bound to Newbern in North Carolina, but forced, by bad weather, and other accidents, to put into Norfolk, in this colony. Lord Dunmore, whose troops had a few days before been defeated in the battle at the Great Bridge, forced these poor people on shore, seized their ship for accomodating his tory friends, who after the battle fled from Norfolk on board the ships, and other vessels, lying in the harbour, and left his other countrymen, with their wives and children, to perish, for want of subsistence, in a strange land. In this wretched condition, they petitioned colonel [William] Woodford to take them under his protection. This petition was transmitted by that brave officer to the general convention, sitting at Williamsburg, who immediately gave orders that the colonel should take them under his protection, relieve their immediate wants, and afford them all necessary assistance, to conduct them to North Carolina, the place of their first destination. In consequence of these orders, colonel Woodford sent the Highlanders in waggons, under a proper escort, to Suffolk, from whence, by order of the committee of safety, they are to be conducted to North Carolina, agreeable to the order of the convention. The committee of safety of this colony have wrote to the committee of safety of North Carolina, informing them of the distresses of these poor people, occasioned by Lord Dunmore's cruel treatment, and requesting them to give directions for their relief and accomodation, till they shall arrive among their friends in that province, amongst whom they intended to settle. Lord Dunmore had forced about 160 of these unfortunate people into his service; but upon being informed of the humane intention of this colony, they deserted him and joined their wives and children, except two maidens, who were detained as bedmakers to his lordship.

Notwithstanding the convention had a return from colonel Woodford after the battle of the Great-Bridge, from which, besides from the colonel's own declaration in his letter to them, it appeared that not one of our men was killed, and but one slightly wounded, and add to these convincing proofs of the truth of this, we have seen officers of veracity that were in the action, who declare the same thing; yet we hear that it was reported in Norfolk that we lost [150] men; and we have pretty good reason to believe that lord Dunmore has propagated a report amongst the few tories now left in his interest that 50 of the grenadiers, of the 14th regiment, had fallen into an ambuscade a[nd] 1200 rebels, that they fought bravely, killed 150 rebels, and retreated, leaving behind them 33 killed and wounded; that their loss was heavy, but that they sold their lives dearly; that the shirt-men have nothing to boast of, having with difficulty forced the 17 surviving grenadiers to retreat, although they had 50 to 1. We may therefore expect when the news of this affair arrives in England that lord Dartmouth will publish lord Dunmore's letter, which will probably contain a more *rational* account, and may be to this effect: That finding the *rebels* had closely besieged a fort he had built to obstruct their passage to Norfolk, that a large reinforcement was daily expected by them from Carolina, and that they were procuring cannon, he thought it best to attack them before they could receive such assistance; especially as he was informed by a deserter that they were but 300; that he found that a favourable opportunity, having just pressed into his service some Scotch Highlanders, who had come over to settle in America, and this circumstance giving rise to a report, which he had taken care to propagate, that he had received a reinforcement of 500 Highlanders, he thought it adviseable to make an attack as soon as possible; that he ordered captain [Samuel] Leslie, with a company of eight infantry, and captain [Charles] Fordyce, with his company of grenadiers of the 14th regiment, to take with them all the volunteers and slaves that were well armed, to march in the night of the 8th of December to the fort, and to sally out by day-break, and attack the *rebels;* that captain Leslie did so, but being in a great measure deserted by the slaves and several of the volunteers for they could not be prevailed upon to advance, and the rebels having near three times the number he had been informed they had, and behaving, indeed, on that occasion, with more resolution than they ever had done, and captain Fordyce and the advanced Grenadiers being cut off by the rifle-men, and captain Leslie being unable to rally the negroes, who could not stand the severe fire from hundreds of marksmen, retreated into the fort, and that night abandoned it; that he, finding the people of Norfolk were not to be relied on, in case of an attack, thought it prudent to retire to the ships, and wait for a reinforcement, which he hourly expected. Some such account as this we may expect to see in some future English paper, unless this anticipation of it should happen to be read or republished in England before their lordships have patched up their story.

[1] Pinkney's *Virginia Gazette,* December 30, 1775.

SHIPS IN NORFOLK AND HAMPTON ROADS [1]

December 30, 1775,

Ship *Liverpool,* twenty-eight guns, Henry Bellew, commander; sloop *Otter,* sixteen guns, Matthew Squire, commander; sloop *Kingfisher*, eighteen guns, James Montagu, commander; sloop, eight guns, Robert Stewart, commander; Lord Dunmore's ship, *Eilbeck,* force unknown; six or seven small tenders of small force.

The force of Lord Dunmore's, by account of Colonel [Thomas] Elliott: 120 Regulars; 120 Marines; 150 Negroes; 250 *Liverpool.*

Memoranda of Vessels, Cargoes, Owners, Masters, &c.:

Sloop *Christian,* Captain Avery, belonging to Messrs. Givens, from Norfolk, bound to Glasgow, two thousand five hundred bushels of wheat, two thousand staves;

sloop *Agatha,* Captain Wilson, belonging to Shadden & Co., from Grenada, bound to Norfolk, forty-seven hogsheads rum;

brig *Cornet,* Captain Harris, belonging to Captain Harris, from Glasgow, bound to Norfolk, a few dry goods;

schooner *Peggy,* Captain Haynes, belonging to Maximilian Calvert, from St. Vincent's, bound to Norfolk, three hogsheads rum, one hogshead and one tierce and four barrels sugar;

sloop *Industry,* Captain Pierce, belonging to Mr. Hebb, from Turk's Island, bound to Maryland, nine hundred bushels salt;

sloop *Molly,* Captain Servant, belonging to Wardroop, of Norfolk, from Turk's Island, bound to Norfolk, one thousand two hundred and thirty-two bushels salt.

sloop *Swallow,* Captain Burrell, belonging to McCallister & Co., from Turk's Island, bound to Norfolk, two thousand five hundred bushels of salt;

sloop *Snow-Bird,* Captain Horn, from Rhode-Island, bound to Maryland, seven thousand pounds cheese, twenty barrels cider, two hundred and fifty bushels of potatoes, thirty barrels of apples;

sloop *Dorothy,* Captain Goodrick, belonging to Goodrick, from St. Eustatia, bound to Nansemond, in ballast.

Thomas Elliott.

[1] Force, comp., *American Archives,* 4th, IV, 577–78.

Captain Henry Bellew, R.N., to Colonel Robert Howe [1]

Liverpool off Norfolk Decr 30th 1775 —

As I hold it incompatible with the Honor of my Commission to suffer Men in Arms against their Sovereingn and the Laws, to appear before His Majestys Ships I desire you will cause your Centinels in the Town of Norfolk to avoid being seen, that Women and Children may not feel the affects of their Audacity, and it would not be imprudent if both were to leave the Town. I am Sir [&c.]

Henry Bellew.

[1] PRO, Colonial Office, 5/1353.

Colonel Robert Howe to Captain Henry Bellew, H.M.S. *Liverpool* [1]

Sir I am too much of an Officer to wish you to do anything Incompatible with the Honor of your Commission, or to recede My self from any point which I conceive to be my duty. Under the force of reciprocal feelings consequences may ensue which each of us perhaps may wish to avoid. Our Centinels have rec'd orders by no means to offer insult or injury to your Boats or People or to any others that are not landing in a hostile Manner, if they exceed this order we should punish them Ourselves, or should you do it we should thank you for it. But if Sir, you feel it your duty to make your resentment extend farther them meerly as to them, we should wish that the Inhabitants of this Town, who have nothing to do in this matter may have time to remove with their Effects which to Night they have not. As to the rest I should be unworthy the respect of a person of your Character Should I consult anything but my Duty. I have the honour to be Sir [&c.]

Robert Howe.

Norfolk Decr 30th 1775

[1] PRO, Colonial Office, 5/1353.

Minutes of the South Carolina Council of Safety [1]

In the Council of Safety, [Charleston]
Saturday, Dec. 30th, 1775.

The following letter was read and approved of:

Sir – The seeming apostacy of Georgia, and the ingenuity of some of our associates, in finding out a law for a cloak to their transgressions, are subjects of real grief to us. 'Tis true, there is a resolution of the general committee, that an intercourse with Georgia should be opened, but that resolution was founded upon an assurance that Georgia had united with her sister colonies. Whenever, therefore, she had departed from that union, first by chicane and finesse, and at length openly and flagrantly acting in direct opposition to the resolves of the representative body of those colonies, by an exportation, flattering and beneficial to our enemies, disgraceful to us, and offensive in the highest degree to our friends, every true lover of liberty and his country should have determined to forgo his own interest, to take no advantage of a resolution, which, however, glaring the causes for repealing may appear to individuals, cannot be repealed, before the formality of proof has been complied with; in the mean time much evil may be done, and, according to your accounts, much has been done by men whose avarice has triumphed over patriotism.

We have in very strong terms expostulated with Georgia in answer to our letter. Their Council of Safety have sent two delegates to explain and account for their conduct. These gentlemen are now with us, but hitherto they have offered no satisfactory reasons. We shall probably insist upon a compliance with certain terms, which, if they refuse, a repeal of the resolution above mentioned will follow, but for the present it is necessary that we should, as far as may be, regulate the proceedings of our own people, and those in your quarter more especially; for this purpose, as we approve of the intimation in your letter of the 23d of posting a few men upon Hilton-Head Island, we desire you will immediately order a proper detachment, under discreet officers, to take post there, and to bring to, and search all scooners, boats, and canows, suffering none to pass to Georgia with the produce of this colony, without a permit from some authorized committee, agreeable to the plain meaning of a resolution of the Continental Congress, the 1st November, a copy of which we shall here inclose, and send another copy to the committee for St. Helena. Your committee, and the committees northward of Beaufort, will grant no permits to any but persons who will give satisfactory security that their produce or commodities are not to be, and shall not be, exported contrary to the continental laws. This step, which is absolutely necessary, and which we think altogether consistent with those laws, we hope will check the evil complained of, and we are now coming to an ecclaircissement with our suspected sister. We shall in a few days, if she persists in attempts to ruin us, be obliged to speak in plain terms of resentment. There is no middle way, if she will not be a friend, an honest, faithful friend, she must be held to be an enemy.

By order of the Council of Safety.
Henry Laurens, President.

Col. [Stephen] Bull, per Muckinfus.

Mr. [Stephen] Drayton and Mr. [William] Ewen, the delegates from Georgia, delivered in writing, subscribed with their names, the case of exportation from Georgia, dated this day.

Charles-Town, Dec. 30th, 1775.

Sir – We refer you to what we wrote yesterday, and sent off early this morning by the hand of Muckinfus, a special messenger. We have since resolved, that it is necessary, in order to restrain as much as in our power, the illicit trade carrying on the river Savannah, that the brigt. *Beaufort,* late Crawford, now Reid master, belonging to this colony, shall, if possible, be taken into possession by the Committee for St. Helena, and brought immediately to Beaufort. We are persuaded, that you have the real interest of America so much at heart, that you will do every thing in your power to accomplish so necessary a service. We, therefore, request that you will apply immediately to the committee and endeavour, with all possible dispatch and secrecy, to form and carry a plan for this purpose into execution. We apprehend that twenty volunteers will be sufficient, under a discreet active commander. We do not name Capt. [John] Joiner, because we have hopes of his engaging in the enterprize to Frederica, which we lately mentioned to you. We shall confirm any agreement which the committee may enter into for pay or reward to the officers and men who may engage in this service, and also indemnify them, under the authority of [Provincial] Congress, against all suits and prosecutions which may be hereafter attempted or brought on account of the seizure and removal of the said vessel. If this business is effected, orders should be given to take an exact inventory of such goods as may be found in the vessel, and great care should be taken to prevent damage and embezzlement.

By order of the Council of Safety.
Henry Laurens, President.

Colonel [Stephen] Bull

P.S. to the letter of Colonel Bull of this date:

We have received a message, by express, from the Committee at George-Town, that on Christmas afternoon a fleet of eighteen vessels was seen sailing southerly – five of them very large. The weather has been very boisterous and thick ever since; when it clears up, our apprehensions will be confirmed or removed – in the mean time we are persevering in our preparations for defence.

Colonel Bull.

Read a letter from Capt. Edward Blake, of this date, relating to Mr. [Thomas] Waring's boat – and stores wanted for the *Comet.*

Ordered, That Capt. Blake be desired to purchase some other fit boat for the public service; and that the stores be not put on board the *Comet* until the Council of Safety are satisfied she has a proper number of men.

The Council issued an order for the payment of £1,000 to Capt. Simon Tufts, in part of an account of sundry expences for, and wages due, to the officers and men of the colony scooner *Defence,* to the 22nd instant.

[1] *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society,* III, 127–30.

31 Dec. (Sunday)

COLONEL DONALD CAMPBELL TO BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID WOOSTER [1]

Holland House, Saturday [*sic* Sunday]
Decr 31, 1775.

Dear Sir,

It is with the greatest Distress of Mind that I have the Task of communicating to you the Event of an unfortunate Attempt that was made to storm the Town of Quebec beween the Hours of two & seven this Morning by four different Attacks, unfortunate indeed when with Bitterness of Soul I inform you that the gallant and amiable General Montgomery was killed the first Fire, as also, his valiant Aid de Camp Capt. John McPherson and Capt. [Jacob] Cheeseman of the first New Yorkers with two or three more. All this happened in the Attack on the lower

Town at aunce de mere where were the three Battalions of Yorkers – commanded by the General whom I attended, and found myself under the disagreeable Necessity of drawing off the Troops (too ready to depart) at about seven O'Clock after having passed the first Barrier, and just opening to attempt the second.

In the other principal Attack made by Col. Arnold with the Detachment under his Command Captn [John] Lamb's Company of Artillery and two Field Pieces on Slays was at the Sole de Motteleau, where he succeeded so far as to force one Gate or Barrier and Battery with the Misfortune of having his Leg splintered, yet I hope not very dangerous, tho from his gallant Conduct he sustained a considerable Loss of Blood and is now in the General Hospital, as also Brigadier Major [Matthias] Ogden who was shot a flesh wound through the upper Part of his Shoulder after a spirited & Officer-like Conduct, which was distinguishable in the whole of the officers, particularly Lieut Col [Christopher] Green, Major [Timothy] Bigelow & Major [Return Jonathan] Meggs as also Cap E Aswald [Eleazer Oswald] Secy to Col. Arnold and a Volunteer in the Campaign, yet after carrying that Barrier and a second one they now remain in Possession of the Houses from Limeburner's Wharf in the lower Town to the second Barrier where they now maintain themselves with between three & four Hundred Men & extremely difficult to support them till dark when I shall hope to draw them off, for which Purpose I send Col. James Livingston with some of his Regiment and Major [Lewis] Dubois of the 3rd Yorkers with upwards of two Hundred Men down to the general Hospital to endeavour to throw themselves in between this & Night, or get Lieut Col. Green and his Party out.

The other Attack was with Col. Livingston and his Canadians to endeavour burning St Johns Gate with prepared Faggots of comburstible Matter which was not effected owing to an early Alarm in Town; and the last was by another Storm Attack from Major [John] Brown's Detachment on Cape Demond commanded by Capt. Brown.

Thus you have the four Attacks that were concerted between the dear deceased General Montgomery and Col. Arnold, which was in many Respects hurried from the Circumstance of the Inlistment of the Troops under Col. Arnold whose Time expires this Day. Our whole Loss, as far as I can collect without Returns does not exceed 15 or 20 Men, killed & wounded. Yet I think a Reinforcement of 200 Men immediately from Montreal would be very proper, at the same Time I leave it to you to judge of the Propriety of disarming the Tories of Montreal, and at the same Time to assure you it is no Pleasure to me to enjoy the Command which falls on me from the Death of Genl Montgomery and Col. Arnold's keeping his Bed, therefore I request you will set out for this Place as instantly as you can as your Presence is essential on many Accounts. I shall order every Care of the Troops and Disposition that may occur to me necessary. I must remind you of Cash, as there is not above three or four Hundred Pounds here from my Recollection of what the General said a few Days ago, but I have not yet examined any Thing, and it is unfortunate in a particular Manner that both are gone who had the Charge of it. The great Consumption of Powder from the Garrison is an Object which the General had much at Heart, and may be worthy of Remark to the Congress, as well as full Force for this Country, as you must be convinced the Canadians will never be so firmly on our Side as when they are convinced we hold the Scales. I hope this last affair will not strike there in the Light it does me. I shall not make any Alterations in Commissions or Officers, till I have the Pleasure of seeing you here, though Application has been made. The remaining Aid de Camp [Aaron Burr] I would gladly recommend to you for the Memory of the deceased General, as well as his own personal Bravery and good conduct.

I thought to have sent Mr Melchor Express with this, but the Bearer Mr Edward Antil appointed by the General as Engineer whom I recommend to your Favour and Attention being well acquainted on the Road I prefer him for the Sake of Dispatch as I consider every Moment important, and to whom I refer you to correct this hurried Scroll, and give you Particulars that he was Eye Witness to. My Love to all Friends & Acquaintance that enquire for me, and believe me to be [&c.]

Donald Campbell.

1. John Hancock Papers, III, 226–29, LC.

Colonel Benedict Arnold to Brigadier General David Wooster, Montreal [1]

Dear Sir, General Hospital Decr 31st 1775

I make no Doubt but General Montgomery acquainted you with his Intention of storming Quebec as soon as a good Oppertunity offered. – As we had several Men deserted from us a few Days past, the General was induced to alter his plan which was to have attacked the upper and lower Town at the same Time he thought it most prudent to make two different Attacks upon the lower Town the one at Cape Diamond the other thro' St. Rocks [St. Roch]. For the last Attack I was ordered with my own Detachment and Capt [John] Lamb's Company of Artillery – At five O'Clock the Hour appointed for the attacks – a false Attack was ordered: to be made upon the upper Town, we accordingly began our March I passed thro St Rocks and approached near a two Gun Battery picketted in without being discovered, which we attacked, it was bravely defended for about an Hour but with the Loss of a Number of Men we carried it – In the Attack I was shot through the Leg and was obliged to be carried to the Hospital; where I soon heard the disagreeable News that the General was defeated at Cape Diamond – Himself Capt [John] McPherson his Aid de Camp and Capt [Jacob] Cheeseman killed on the Spot with a Number of others not known – After gaining the Battery my Detachment pushed on to a second Barrier, which they took possession of, at the same Time the Enemy sallied out from palace Gate and attacked them in the Rear – A Field piece which the Roughness of the Road would not permit our carrying on, fell into the Enemy's Hands, with a Number of prisoners; The last Account from my Detachment about ten Minutes since they were pushing for the lower Town – Their Communication with me was cut off – I am exceedingly apprehensive what the Event will be – They will either carry the lower Town – be made prisoners or cut to pieces – I thought proper to send an Express to let you know the critical Situation we are in and make no

Doubt you will give us all the Assistance in your power – As I am not able to act I shall give up the Command to Col [Donald] Campbell – I beg you will immediately send an Express to the Honble Continental Congress and his Excellency General Washington – The Loss of my Detachment before I left it was about twenty Men killed and wounded – Among the latter is Major [Matthias] Ogden who with Capt Oswald, Captn Burr, and the other Volunteers behaved extremely well – I have only time to add that I am with the greatest Esteem [&c.]

B. Arnold

P S It is impossible to say what our future operations will be until we know the Fate of my Detachment

1. Washington Papers, LC; enclosed in Schuyler to Washington, January 13, 1776.

Lieutenant John Starke's Sketch of the War in Canada [1]

[Extract] [December 3 – December 31]

General Montgomery soon arriving from Montreal, and joining the Force under Genl [Colonel] Arnold, with a large body of Men, formed the Blockade of the Town, and began the Seige by raising Batteries against it.[2] – But impatient of delay, and relying on the superiority of his numbers, the activity and the courage of his men, and knowing that the Garrison was weak, considering the great extent of the Works, determined to make a bold attack upon the Town in the night, in the belief that he shoud carry it by a Coup de Main – This plan was carried into execution in the night of the 31 of December 1775, in the middle of a heavy Snow Storm – To distract the attention of the Garrison, feigned attacks were made upon the several parts, at the same time that the principal assault was given to the lower Town – The Enemy surprizd an out Post of a Captain's Guard, and had entered the Town before the Alarm was communicated, and had passed the first Barrier. On their attempting to force the second Barrier, an action took place, in which they were repulsed with great loss – Some Guns judiciously placed in a house, formed a kind of masked Battery, which raked the Street which the Rebels occupied, and being loaded with grape Shot, they did effectual execution; many of them were killed and wounded, among the former was their General Montgomery, & among the latter was Genl Arnold – While these things were performing, Sir Guy Carleton ordered a detachment to make a Sorti at a Gate, & march round to the place where the Enemy had entered, which cutting off their retreat, about 400 of them were made prisoners – The number of their kiled and wounded cou'd never be exactly ascertained, as many of them fell among the snow, which covering them during the winter, their bodies were found scattered about, upon the melting of it as the summer approached. –

1. NMM, ms. 49/129.
2. Montgomery arrived from Montreal on December 3, 1775.

Journal of H.M. Sloop *Hunter*, Captain Thomas Mackenzie [1]

Decembr 1775	Remarks [at Quebec] &c
Tuesdy 19	fired several Shot and Shells at the Enemy received two Barrels of Beer —

Wednsdy 20 Do Weather fired some Shot and Shells at the Enemy —

Thursdy 21 Fresh Breezes & Squally received 2 Hogsheads of Beer and 506 pound of fresh Beef

Modt with snow one of the rebels killd one of the Royal Emigrants with a Rifle peice

Friday 22 AM came in one of our people that the rebels had taken Prisoner who brought in a deserter from them —

Saturdy 23 Fresh Gales with hard frost fired at the Rebels at different times —

Sundy 24 Do Weather fired as before at the Rebels different times received one Hogshead and one Barrel of Beer —

Mondy 25 Do Weather fired as before at the Rebels in St Roque

Tuesdy 26 Do Weather employ'd as before received two Hogsheads of Beer and 1274 pounds of fresh Beef —

Wednsdy 27 Moderate with Snow at times fired some Shot and Shells at the Enemy The Master and Carpenter Visited the Ship opend a Cask of Pork No 73 Contents 160 peices

Thursdy 28 Fresh breezes with hard frost AM saw the Enemy at their Batterry fired Several Shot at them receivd 4 Hogsheads of Porter —

Friday 29 Do Weather came in a deserter from the Rebels fired several Shells into the Town from St Roque we returnd their fire with Shot and Shells —

Saturday 30 Modt with Snow fired Shot and Shells at the Enemy at different times

First part strong Gales Mid & latter Do Wind with a great fall of Snow at the beginning of the Night the Rebels fired several Shells into the Town which we returned from the Cohorns and Mortars

Sundy 31 at 5 [A.M.] the Alarm Bell rung and drum Beat for the Enemys Storming the upper and lower Town Soit de Matteloy and the Pot Ash at 6 they forced their Attack at the Soit de Matteloy and got into the lower Town at 7 a party of about 100 Men Sallyed out at Callow Gate cut of[f] the retreat of the Rebels & took 33 Officers and 365 Men besides a great Number of killd and Wounded with one Brass field piece 7 Cohorns several Musquetts & riffles with a Number of Pikes and Scaling Ladders one party sett fire to St Roques at Cape Diamond the Enemy did not come near the Walls but at the Pot Ash General Montgommery of the Rebels his Aid de Camp Captn Cheesman and many others were killed and Woundd and his Army Repulsed Modt with Snow PM some party's out setting fire to St Roques

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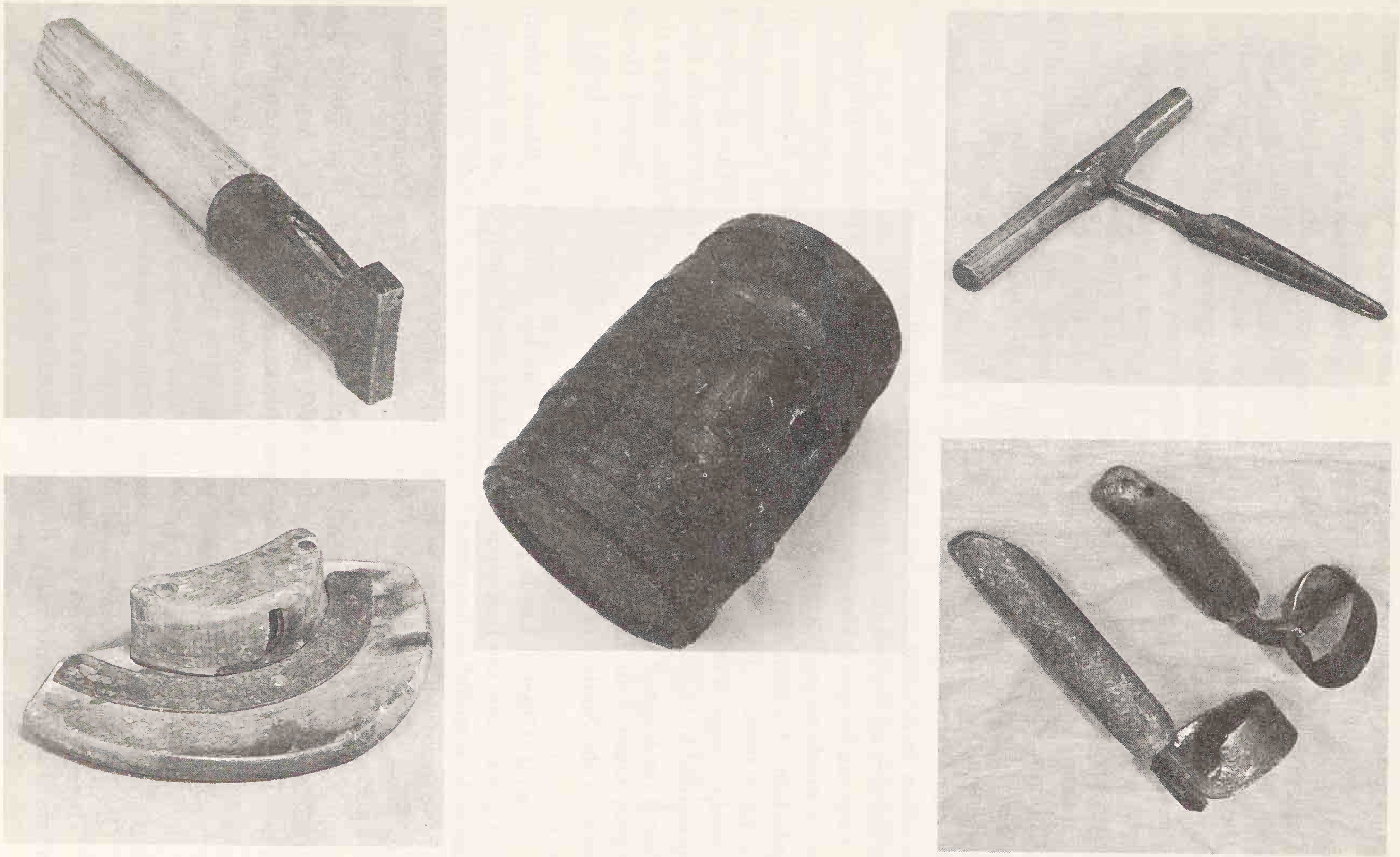
1. PRO, Admiralty 51/466.



Rum cask and various cooper's tools. (Top left) Hoop driver. (Top right) Reamer. (Bottom left) Howel. (Bottom right) Scorpers.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO JOHN HANCOCK [1]

[Extract] Cambridge, 31st Decemr 1775.

Captain Freeman, arrived this day at Camp from Canada, he Left Quebec the 24th ultmo in Consequence of General Carleton's proclamation, which I have the honor to send you herewith – he saw Col Arnold the 26th – and says that he was joind at Point au Tremble by General Montgomery the 1st instant that they were about 2000 Strong & were makeing every preparation for attacking Quebec, that General Carleton had with him about 1200 men, the majority of whom are Sailors, – that it was his oppinion the French woud give up the place, if they get the same Conditions granted to the Inhabitants of Montreal –

Captain Adams, of the *Warren* armed Schooner sent into Marblehead the sloop *Sally,* bound from Lisbon to Newyork Laden with 2 pipes and 126 Qr Casks of wine – this sloop was made a prize of by the *Niger* man of War, somewhere near Bermudas, the Captain of whom put his mate & five hands on board with orders to proceed with her to Boston, the sloop & Cargo belongs to Mr Peter Barberie of Perth Amboy in newjersey –

Captains Semple & Harbeson take under their Care Mr Kirkland who appears to be a much more illiterate & simple man than his strong recommendations bespake him – Captain Mathis [Thomas Mathews] & Mr [William] Robinson will accompany them – the two Later were prisoners taken by Lord Dunmore who was sending them to Boston, from whence there is little doubt, but that they would be forwarded to England, to which place, I am Credibly informed, Captain Martindale & the Crew of the *Washington* are sent, allso Colonel [Ethan] Allen & the Prisoners taken with him in Canada, this may account for General Howes Silence on the Subject of an Exchange of Prisoners, mentiond in my Letter to him —

General [Charles] Lee is just returned from his excursion to Rhode Island, he has pointed out the best method, the Island woud admit of, for its defence – he has endeavourd all in his power, to make friends of those that were our enemies, you have inclosed a Specimen of his abilities in that way, for your perusal, I am of Oppinion, that if the same plan was pursued through every Province, it woud have a very good effect

upon a further Conversation with Captain Freeman – he is of opinion that General Montgomery has with him near 3000 men Including Col. Arnolds – he says that Lord Pit, had received repeated orders from his father to return home – in Consequence of which he had embarked some time in October, with a Captain Green who was master of a vessell, belonging to Philadelphia – [2]

By a number of Salutes in Boston Harbour yesterday I fancy Admiral Shuldam is arrived two Large ships were seen Comeing in —

Our Inlistments now amount to 9650.

Those Gentlemen who were made prisoners of by Lord Dunmore being Left destitute of money & necessarys I have advanced them one hundred pounds Lawful money belonging to the publick, for which I have taken Capt. Mathews draft on the Treasury of Virginia, which goes inclosed – I have [&c.]

Gº Washington.

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1. Papers CC (Letters of George Washington), 152, I, 381–86, NA.
2. Captain John Green, in the ship *Pomona*.

Narrative of Vice Admiral Samuel Graves [1]

[Boston] 1775 Decr 31.

However, for reasons aftermentioned [2] Mr Graves directed the *Preston* to get ready for Sea; and receiving at this time good Information that the Rebels intended to fortify that part of Cape Cod which is near the Watering Place, he ordered the *Niger,* that arrived Yesterday at Nantasket from England, to proceed to that Harbour and prevent their Erection of any Batteries; and also to assist and protect such Vessels as might put in there with contrary Winds or in Distress.

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1. Graves's Conduct, II, 24, BM.
2. Graves could not return in any of the ships mentioned by his order of recall, as the *Asia* was off New York; the *Somerset* directed to leave Halifax for England, and the *Boyne* had sailed for home earlier in the month.

Journal of H.M.S. *Tartar,* Captain Edward Medows [1]

Decemr Boston S. 78.17 W Dce 649 Lgs.

Saturday 30 Fresh Gales & Cloudy Mid & Latter Do & Squally at 8 AM handed Topsail at 11 Thos Munkhouse Struck Dead by Lightening, Walter McNutt Andw Forbes, Jno Pearce, and one of the Prissrs Wounded [2] at 6 PM bent a fore Topsail for a Main T S it being Split

Sunday 31 Boston So 79 W Dce. 703 Lgs

8 AM made Sail Committed to the deep Body of Thos Munkhouse –

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1. PRO, Admiralty 51/972.
2. The prisoner was one of the crew of Washington's brig *Washington.* He was being sent to England by Admiral Graves.

Journal of H.M.S. *Scarborough,* Captain Andrew Barkley [1]

Decr 75 Moored in Boston Harbour

Monday 25th Modte & fair at 4 PM bent the Mainsail, sent the Longboat to weigh the stream Anchor Recd on board 3 Chaldron of Coals & Carpenters Stores.

Tuesday 26th Do Wr at 1 PM Recd on board a Captain, Lieutenant & 40 Marines,

Wednesy 27th AM Recd on board two 3 Inch Mortars with shells & Carcasses & 2 Artillery men, empd getting ready for sea, Greased the Topmt & Top Gallant Masts. Do Wr at 5 PM fired a Gun, & made the Signal for all masters of Transports,

Thursy 28th Running down the Harbour
at 7 AM Fired a Gun & made the Signal to Unmoor, hove short on the Small Bower. at ½ past 11 fired a Gun & made the Signal to weigh, came to sail and run down the Harbour – Light airs & fair at 4 PM came too with the small Br in the lower part of King Road, & veer'd to ⅓ of a Cable,

Friday 29th Running down to Nantasket
at ½ past 11 AM weigh'd & came to sail.
Do Wr PM at 1 came too with the Best Br in Nantasket Road veered away & moor'd; with a Cable on the small Br & half a Cable on the Best; recd on board water.

Satury 30th at ½ past 11 AM arrived here His Majesty's Ship *Chatham,* Rear Admiral Shuldham; George's Island E N E hospital Island W b S, Gallops Island N b W. – –
Fresh Gales & Cloudy with rain, at 3 PM arrived here His Majys Ship *Niger,* empd watering, at ½ past 3 arrived here the *Lord Hyde* Packet, came down from Town 3 Transports; as 2 Rafts of water were coming a longside, one of them broke loose with a strong ebb Tide, was lost ten Hhds & six Barrells

Sunday 31st First part Modte & thick Rainy wr Middle Modte & Cloudy with drizling rain, Latter fresh Gales & Squally with Sleet. PM got on board 2 Longboat Loads of water, Hoisted the Longboat in upon Deck & lashed her;

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/867.

Signals to be Used in Case of British Attack Upon Plymouth [1]

[December 31] [2]

Signals to be made at the Gurnet. –

In case enemys Ships appear in sight, a flag to be hoisted on the Staff as usual.

If Barges are approaching the harbour you will give notice by firing

If they appear to the northward of the Gurnet you will fire one Gun

If they appear to the southward & Eastward, two Guns in quick sucession

If without the Gurnet you will fire three Guns in quick succession

If they should appear within the Gurnet or be landing on Monument ponds shore, fire two Guns in quick sucession one in two minutes after & one in four minutes after –

In case the Enemy should appear to be landing on Salt House beach or any part of the beach or shore between the Gurnet & Branches point (so called) to fire three Guns in quick Succession one in two minutes, & one in six minutes –

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[1] John Thomas Papers, MassHS.

[2] As the document is dateless, it is impossible to determine when it was issued or by whom. Plymouth was in constant alarm from the opening guns of the war until the British evacuation of Boston. It probably originated with Thomas who, located at Roxbury, had command of the south shore to the Cape.

Lucy Hammett's Receipted Bill for Colors for Washington's Armed Brig *Washington* and Schooner *Harrison* [1]

Brigg *Washington* to Lucy Hammatt.— Dr

1775		
Novr	To making a flag	0 . . 12 . . 0
	To quality binding	2 . . 0
		£0 . . 14 . . 0

Recd the above infull of Cap: Ephm Spooner
Entd P Lucy Hammatt

Schooner *Harrison* to Lucy Hammatt Dr.

1775		
Novr	To making a flagg	0 . . 8 . . 0
	To binding 1/11 sewing silk 8d	0 . . 2 . . 7 .
		£0 . . 10 . . 7
Decr	To repairing a flagg	6 . . 0
		£0 . . 16 . . 7

Recd the above in full of Cap: Ephm Spooner
Entd P Lucy Hammatt

[Endorsed on reverse] Mrs Lucy Hammatt bill Decr 1775 [2]

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1. Prizes and Captures, No. 367, LC. This is one of numerous receipts giving in detailed order the expenditures of William Watson, Continental agent at Plymouth, in outfitting the two vessels listed above. His final account will be found in Appendix C, Volume 2.
2. Since no date in December is specified, the entry is placed on the last day of the year.

Nicholas Brown to Richard Downing Jennings [1]

Sir Providence Decem 31. 1775 –

Though I have not had the Happiness of a personal Acquaintence with you yet I Trust we are not Ignorant of each Others Charector as Merchants, In conf[i]dence of the noted Esteem of Mr Jenings the Many Masters of Vessels from this Place have had In wch I have bin Concerned, I now take this Liberty of Addresing you by Capt Paul Allin a Gentl of this Town son in Law to his Honr our Govr Cooke Who I have Made Choic[e] of in speculation with a Small Vessel with Sperm Candls & such Other things as she Could Carry the most Valuew In – As it was at this Time with sum Address & Confidence that I Obtain'd permisn for his going To the West Indies, & the Vessel being Small as no Other at Prest could be permit[ed] he goes well recomended & If you should have any Articles he Should want it would be Very Agreeble to Me if you Would take a bill on me for Such things as he think proper to Contract with you for which shall be duly Honrd As have given him My Genl Letrs of Credit for that Purpose – And he has Our Governers Certificate for the same purpose, wch you Will doubtless See, Tho' the State of Holand have (it seems) Ingag'd not to supply us with

Poweder &c, yet Me thinks they would not be Constrained to Withhold there Other Man[u]fact[orys] of Which this Country will doutless want large Qtys & will most Naturally take them from whence they will Come Cheepest & best, Our American Imports from Britain Amotd Annually to Abot Three Milla pounds stg: wch is now like to be lost & will soon be supply'd from Other Nations, and as An Introduct[ion] to it Capt Allin will hand you A permit for that purpose th[e] wch I doubt not you Will Improve to mutual Advantge – As Capt Allin is Not Much known in your & other Islands, Any Recomendation of him as my Fackter to Any where he & I are not known in such a maner as to specify your Sentements of What you know by hearsay of My Charracter & abilletys of paymts to Any of your friends & Acquantence In Any of the forerign Islends where he May Touch and Want More of Many Articls than he Can now pay for Will be duly Acknowledgd & his Drafts duly Honrd – As to Pollittical Matters I refer you to him and beleave me to be In Truth your Most Esteem'd [&c.]

[Endorsed] Copy Letr to Mr Jennings of St Eustatia p Capt Paul Allin Decmr 31. 1775.

1. Nicholas Brown Papers, JCBL.

NICHOLAS BROWN TO CAPTAIN PAUL ALLEN [1]

Sir. Providence Decemr 31st 1775.

You being Factor for the Cargo on board the Sloop *Unity* under your Command bound for the West Indias my orders and advice are that you make all the Dispatch you possibly Can dureing the whole Voyage, and to touch first either at St Eustatia, St Lucia, Martinico or Guadalope as you may find, the Winds to hang and Other Circumstances as you may think best, and there or any Other Place you may touch or Stop at, as you have liberty to go to any [of these] foreign Islands, and there dispose of your Cargo to the best advantage, and purchase Powder, and such Articles as you may think will best answer Consistent with the Bond We have given in the Secretary's office for that purpose. If my Letters of Credit should answer you will get to the amount of £2000 L M, in such things as will answer best or sell here for the most profit from the Cost in the West Indias, and draw on me, on as long Credit as you Can, makeing the Bills payable at the Expiration, of the Time of Credit or on as long Sight as you Can, and I will pay due Honour to Them –

You will get all the small sails you want at the first Port where they Can be had reasonable which you are to get made &c as Cheap as you Can, which is to be on my own accot, & Cost – a new Jibb you are to get & Charge the Vessel as also all the Necessarys for the Vessels use Except the light sails as mentiond – you will be sure to get a sufficient number of good arms fit for use one board and Swivels if to be got reasonable, to get some of them for use & to bring for Cargo you will Exert yourself to the utmost in keeping Clear of the Enemy, if any Gentlemen Wherever you go will take Bills on the Strength of my Letters of Credit for Gun Powder arms or Salt Petre you have Liberty to take as much on such Terms as you may think will neat a sufficient profit according to the risque, as will Load your Vessel Including What you may purchase with your Cargo and the sum mentiond before to be taken upon my Credit

You will Write me by Every Oppertunity in the most Intell[i]gible & secret Manner you Can by which I may know when to look for you, & how to make Insurance home & Direct the Letters so as they may be the most sure of getting to hand – You will take care that no more Priveledge goes on board your Vessel than ought to be allowed according to the Bigness of the Vessel that is to say the Priveledge is not to Load the Vessel with West India Goods and none for Owners, or that they have no more than a reasonable Proportion – your Commissions is to be five PCt for sales of your Cargo & two & half for returns – and upon the Whole you are to Use your Utmost Endeavours & Conduct in all Things as you may think for the Interest of the Voyage – As to Coming home & geting in Safe think it most safest way to get into the Eastward if you Shod not be on the Coast [early] in the Spr[ing &] If it sho'd so happen & if you Should fall as far Eastward as Nantucket you May from the Back of the Isld go a Shore and get a good Pilote, but if any of you on bord has bin in Any where Eastward would rather Advise that way if late as af[or]esd but submit the Whole to you[r] Care Judgment & prudence If any thing Shod happen that you Should do otherways than well your Mate Mr Hollemon Warner is to take the Command & follow these my Orders – Wishing you Prosperaty & safe Return I am your friend & Owner

Nich^s Brown

[Endorsed] Recd a Copy of the forgoing Order which I am to follow as far as I may in my Judgment think for the Good of the Voyage

1. Nicholas Brown Papers, JCBL.

Diary of Dr. Ezra Stiles [1]

[Newport] Decr. 31.

Last night Crossen escaped the Guards. It is said that Col Wanton &c are likely to be dismissed as ready to comply with the Oath at Providence.

1. Diary of Ezra Stiles, YUL.

Major General Philip Schuyler to John Hancock [1]

Sir [Albany] Sunday Evening 31st December 1775

This moment an Express arrived from General Wooster, Copy of his letter, with Copy of a Letter from General Montgomery to him I now Inclose you. –

I cannot procure any Gold or Silver here to send to Canada I am afraid It is not to be had at Philadelphia as a Considerable time has Already Elapsed Since Congress gave me reason to hope that a Supply would be Sent. –

I cannot Sir help repeating my wish that a Considerable force should be Immediately Sent Into Canada the necessity appears to me Indispensible, for I do most Sincerely Believe that unless such a Measure be Adopted, we shall Severely repent of It, perhaps when too late to afford a remedy, I beg a thousand pardons of Congress for my Impor[tunity on] this Occas[ion,] and I hope they will have Charity enough to Impute It to my zeal for the American cause

From what I can learn the troops that are at Tyonderoga will leave It to Morrow and I have none to send there, The few that are here refuse to remain untill Tuesday to Escort the Prisoners, before which I cannot move them for want of Carriages. –

I have been so very Long without hearing from Congress that I am exceedingly Anxious to have the honor of a Line from You, I am Sir [&c.]

Ph: Schuyler

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1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, I, 374–77, NA.

SAMUEL WARD TO HENRY WARD [1]

[Extract] Philadela 31st 1775

The french Gentn [Penet and de Pliarne] arrived on Friday Evening [December 29]; Congress has referred them to the secret Comee We had a Conference with them last Evening; this Afternoon they paid Mr [Silas] Dean[e] and Me a Visit and were going to wait on the other Members.

I am grieved for the poor People of Newport; when will there be an End of their Misfortunes. I wish they would nobly resolve to quit it unless it [ca]n be fortifyed. I am told Gen [Charles] Lee was coming up with such a View.

We have very interesting Intelligence in a Number of intercepted Letters from the southw[ard], some Acct of which I may perhaps be at Liber[ty] to communicate in my next.

I will send you the Pamphlets you write for when I have Opportunity; at present every thing is shut up; our Fleet is just ready to sail but cannot stir without warmer Weather opens the River. . . .

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1. Knollenberg, ed., *Ward Papers,* 157–60.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Liverpool,* CAPTAIN HENRY BELLEW [1]

December 1775	Off Norfolk in Virginia
Monday 25	Strong Gales and Squally at 8 AM hove up the small Br and shifte'd our Birth more to the southwd and moor'd Ship at M up Topmasts and Yards put Two Springs on the cables –
Tuesday 26	Modr and calm and clear empd watering 8 AM clear'd Hawse, at M made the *Otter* and *Kingsfisher* Signals –
Wednesdy 27	Do wear People employ'd on Sundrys –
Thursdy 28	Little Wind and cloudy with Rain empd as before AM Dry'd Sails – came onbd Lord Dunmore, saluted him with 13 Guns on his coming onboard and leaving the Ship –
Friday 29	Do Wear empd as before at 6 AM fird a 9 Pounder at the Town on Suspicion of them building a Battery –
Saturdy 30	First and mide parts fresh Gales and cloudy People empd on Sundrys –
Sunday 31	Modr and hazey with Drizzling Rains, at 6 AM unmoord Ship weigh'd and shifted our Birth further up the river moord head and Stern with a spring on the small Br abreast of Norfolk –

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1. PRO, Admiralty 51/548.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Otter*, CAPTAIN MATTHEW SQUIRE [1]

Decemr 1775	Elizabeth River [off Norfolk]
Wednesday 27	at 8 AM Got up Yards & Topmasts & loos'd Sails to dry. at Noon furled Sails Most part little Wind & fair. at 8, 10 & 12 PM Row'd Guard along the Town Wharves.
Thursday 28	at 8 AM sent on shore a Flag of Truce from the *Liverpool.* at 10 She came off again. Moderate & fair throughout.
Friday 29	AM Received Water by the Long Boat Do. Weather at 10 PM Rowd Guard. The Rebels fired on our boat from the Wharf which She returnd. fired several six pounders at them.
Saturday 30	AM opend a Cask of Pork. Do Weather at 4 PM the *Liverpool* dropt up & moored ½ a Cables length below us. The *Kings Fisher* went up & moored a Cable's length above us.
Sunday 31	Mostly moderate & fair with hard frost. PM the boat rowing Guard was fired on by the Rebels, which she returned. Fired two six pounders at them to cover our boat.

[1] PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

TRAUGOTT BAGGE'S NARRATIVE OF EVENTS IN NORTH CAROLINA [1]

[December 31] [2]

In regard to our commerce it may be noted that we secured some goods from Charlestown in June and September, and from Cross Creek in August and October; many at a much higher price than formerly.[3] The Committees had ordered that at the landing places no salt should be sold to a man who could not show a certificate from the Committee that he was a good *Liberty Man,* (they, like the soldiers, generally wore a buck-tail on the hat instead of a cockade,) but there was no trouble in buying salt at Cross Creek without such a certificate. But salt was already scarce, and whereas it had sold in our store for 9 sh. per bushel it was worth 14 sh. before the end of the year.

[1] Adelaide L. Fries, ed., *Records of the Moravians in North Carolina* (Raleigh, 1922–43), II, 851.

[2] The date is approximated, based upon the concluding sentence.

[3] Bagge's "we" refers to the Wachovia store, which he managed.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

In the Council of Safety [Charleston],
Sunday, Dec. 31st, 1775.

The President laid before the Council the following letters, written by him:

> Gentlemen – Although I have it not in order, I take the liberty of recommending the written resolve to your attention, and that you will as much as in you lies, hinder the exportation of the produce of this colony to Georgia by any and every person, who will not give you satisfactory security that such

produce shall not be exported contrary to the resolve of the Continental Congress. To this effect, I have this evening written to Col. [Stephen] Bull *by order,* who will shew you the particulars, to which I beg leave to refer, and remain with great respect, gentlemen, [&c.]

Henry Laurens, President. Of the Council of Safety.

The Committee for St. Helena.

Mr. [John] Rutledge from the committee to prepare proper instructions for procuring seamen, from the Northern Colonies for the service of this colony, reported the following draught, which being read was agreed to:

Charles-Town, Dec. 31st, 1775.

To Capt. Robert Cochran:

Sir – Herewith you will receive three hundred and fifty pounds currency, a draught in your favour on the Continental Treasurers at Philadelphia, for a sum not exceeding ten thousand dollars, and a letter of advice to them respecting it. We desire that you will immediately repair to George-Town, and proceed in a vessel now there, bound for Salem in the Massachusetts bay, if you find her fit for the purpose. Having received the money on our draught, as occasions may require, proceed with the utmost dispatch to inlist, for the service and defence of this colony, on the water, or as matrosses in the forts, which are or may be erected here, any number of able-bodied seamen you can procure in any of the New-England Colonies, not exceeding five hundred in the whole. We would prefer those who have been employed in privateers or the fishery, the former of whom may be most dextrous in the use of cannon. The terms are as follows:

Bounty money, not exceeding ten pounds currency, which is more than equal to six dollars.

Pay, not exceeding twenty-one pounds currency, nearly equal to thirteen dollars per calendar month, to commence on the day of embarkation and provisions.

It would not be prudent to pay the bounty money on the men's inlisting, lest they should afterwards refuse to come and the money be lost. But you may advance on account of bounty and pay any reasonable sums which the men may have occasion for to such as you think may be trusted; and indeed we could wish to have nothing to do with any others. You will send the men with proper credentials as fast as one hundred can be procured. They may perhaps expect to be under the immediate command of officers from their own country. Should this be the case, and not yielding the point would impede the service, if you can get proper men for officers, engage them also, in the following proportion, that is a captain and two lieutenants to every hundred men, their pay as follows: Captain three pounds currency, nearly two dollars per day; first Lieutenants not exceeding fifty pounds currency, nearly equal to thirty-one dollars per calender month, each; second Lieutenants forty pounds currency, nearly equal to twenty-five dollars per calender month, each. They must be inlisted to serve until the first day of

May, 1777, liable to be sooner disbanded by the [Provincial] Congress, or Council of Safety of this province, on receiving one month's additional pay. They must be subject to similar rules and orders, and will be intitled to the same share of prizes, as the officers and men employed by the Continent in the sea or land service. The charge of bringing them hither, will be paid by us. You will lay in provisions for their voyage and transport them on the best terms. Remember that vessels bringing these men will be allowed to load produce here, on bringing proper certificates, and giving bond and security here, to carry it (according to resolutions of Continental Congress) to some of the other colonies. Provision will be made by the colony for the support of such of the men as may be maimed or disabled, and for the families of any who may be killed in our service. You will therefore prefer single men, or those who have small families. If amongst the men whom you procure, some are ship carpenters, they might be very useful.

Though we have been as particular as we think necessary, yet having great confidence in your zeal, judgment and integrity, if you shall find a variation from any of these instructions absolutely necessary, we mean not to confine you to a strict observance of them, but give you leave to deviate in such instances as your own prudence shall suggest. And upon any extraordinary occasion, if the delegates from this colony are at Philadelphia, consult them, and follow their advice. Keep an account of your expences, to lay before us on your return, when ample satisfaction shall be made to you for your trouble. Let us hear from you as often as safe opportunities offer.

As we find the vessel for Salem is sailed from George-Town, you are to proceed in the *Hawke* pilot boat to the capes of Delaware, or any port in Virginia or the Jersies, where you can most safely land; and you may detain the boat a few days, if you find the Continental Congress are sitting, in order to bring any letters from them; otherwise, dispatch her immediately, and transmit to us all the intelligence of American affairs you can collect.

By order of the Council of Safety.

Henry Laurens, President.
In the Council of Safety,
Charles-Town, December 31st, 1775.

Gentlemen – The Congress, by a resolution of 12th July last, impowered the Commissioners of Indian affairs in the southern department, to receive from the Continental treasury ten thousand dollars for defraying the expences of treaties and presents to Indians. The commissioners met at Salisbury on the 13th ult., and amongst other proceedings (copies of all which they transmitted to the Congress) with the Creek and Cherokee Indians, impowered three of their members to purchase goods for presents to the Indians, and to draw on us for ten thousand dollars, and required us to advance them, and draw on you for the like sum. We have accordingly agreed to do so, acquainted them therewith, and shall pay their draughts when presented, which we expect will be soon. As we have occasion to send a gentleman, Capt. Robert Cochran, to the Massachusetts bay, on some particular business of this colony, in the execution of which, he will require money, we have thought proper to draw on you, in his favour, for the above sum, to be paid as he may have occasion. We request, and doubt not, that you will honour the draught, which will be delivered herewith. We should have procured an order from the commissioners, which would have been a more formal and proper way of doing the business; but the service on which this gentleman goes requires dispatch – money for him will be absolutely necessary; the only commissioner in this colony lives at a very great distance, another is in Georgia, a third in the Cherokee country, another in North-Carolina, and the fifth in Virginia, so that waiting for a draught from them, or a majority of them would have occasioned much delay. We have therefore only to repeat, that we hope Mr. Cochran will meet with no disappointment, as it would frustrate our scheme, and be very detrimental to this colony in particular, and perhaps to America in general. We presume the Congress is adjourned, or should have wrote to them on the subject. If they are, and have any doubt about the propriety of paying this money, be pleased to mention them to the delegates of Pennsylvania, and Mr. Chas. Thomson,[2] who we think will remove them.

By order of the Council of Safety.

Henry Laurens, President.

To George Clymer and Michael Hillegas, esqs., Continental Treasurers at Philadelphia.

In the Council of Safety,
Charles-Town, December 31st, 1775.

Gentlemen – The bearer, Capt. Robert Cochran, being sent by us to procure seamen in your colony for the defence of this, we take the liberty of requesting, that you will afford him every assistance in your power, which he may want in this business.

From your zeal in the common cause of America, we doubt not that he will meet with your support and countenance. Be assured, that we shall think ourselves happy in rendering any service to our brethern in the Massachusetts bay, and testify, upon every occasion the esteem and respect which we have for your honorable board.

By order of the Council of Safety.

Henry Laurens, President.

The President and Members of the Provincial Council, Massachusetts bay.

Like letters were written to Gov. Cooke of Rhode Island, Gov. Trumbull of Connecticut, and the Provincial Congress or Council of Safety of New-Hampshire.

The application of Lady William Campbell of the 28th, for permission to be supplied with certain sea stores mentioned in a list given in, being taken into consideration,

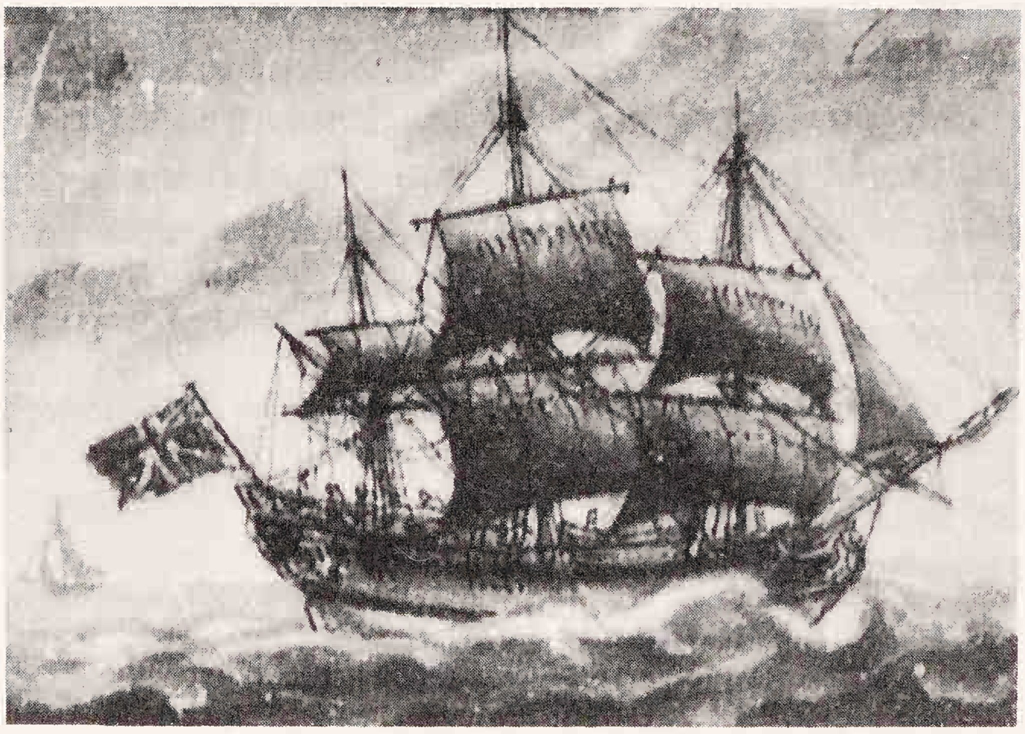
Resolved, That her Ladyship may be supplied with such articles, under proper inspection.

Read a letter from Mr. James Leckie, of this date. Whereupon it was

Resolved, That it is improper at this time to give a permit for Mr. Leckie's brigt *Amphitrite* to pass Fort Johnson, in danger of being detained by the men of war.

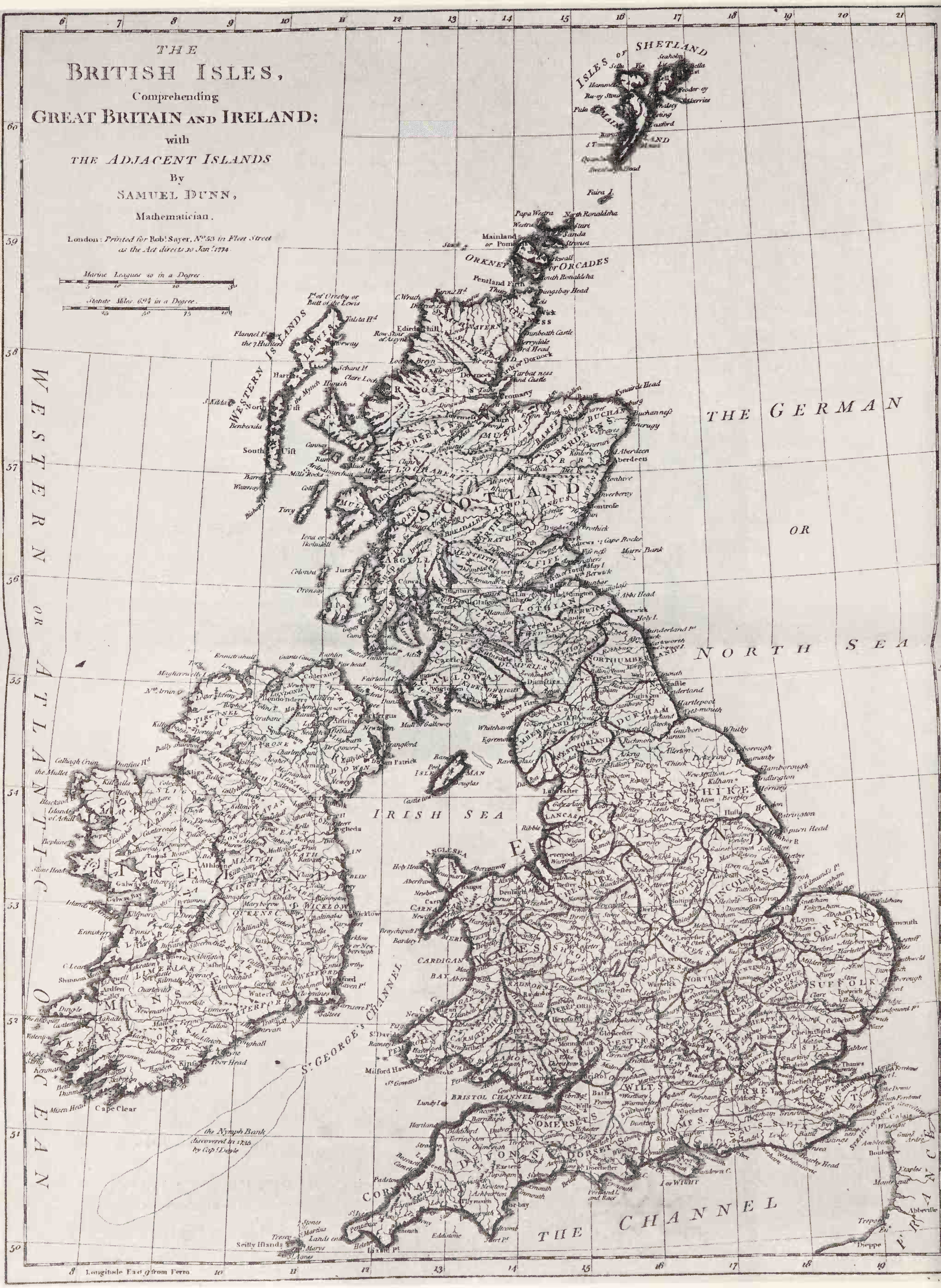
Mr. Rutledge was desired to draw a proper answer, to be delivered to the delegates from the Council of Safety in Georgia.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society,* III, 130–34.
2. Secretary of the Continental Congress.



EUROPEAN THEATRE

From November 1, 1775, to January 31, 1776


THE BRITISH ISLES, Comprehending GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND; with THE ADJACENT ISLANDS
By SAMUEL DUNN, Mathematician.
London: Printed for Robt. Sayer, No. 53 in Fleet Street as the Act directs 10 Jan. 1774.
Marine Leagues 20 in a Degree
Statute Miles 69¼ in a Degree
WESTERN OR ATLANTIC OCEAN
THE GERMAN OR NORTH SEA
IRISH SEA
St. GEORGE'S CHANNEL
BRISTOL CHANNEL
THE CHANNEL
ISLES of SHETLAND
ORKNEY or ORCADES
WESTERN ISLANDS
SCOTLAND
ENGLAND
IRELAND
ISLE of MAN
ANGLESEA
CARDIGAN BAY
FRANCE
the Nymph Bank discovered in 1735 by Capt. Doyle
Scilly Islands
Cape Clear
Longitude East from Ferro

EUROPEAN THEATRE

From November 1, 1775, to January 31, 1776

SUMMARY

Thwarted in its efforts to obtain 20,000 men from the Empress of Russia, the British Ministry had turned, in the summer of 1775, to the numerous petty princes within the German empire for troops to assist in subduing the American rebels. The need was great. England's standing army numbered less than 19,000 men, and recruiting efforts had been unsuccessful. Three of these German princelings had made overtures to King George shortly after the news of Bunker Hill had reached Europe. All of them were related to the British monarch either by blood or marriage, and all were avaricious, mercenary and poor. In late August, a minister plenipotentiary in the person of an English army officer who had seen service in Germany during the last war, was sent to negotiate with them. Meanwhile, acting in his dual capacity as King of England and Elector of Hanover, George III had ordered five battalions of Hanoverians to relieve the British garrisons in Minorca and Gibraltar, thus releasing more British troops to serve in America. These Hanoverian battalions, through lack of shipping, did not sail for the Mediterranean until October.

The King had addressed Parliament that same month and had voiced the government's policy toward America with the announcement that "it has now become the part of wisdom, and, in its effects, of clemency, to put a speedy end to these disorders by the most decisive exertions." He proposed, as his instance of clemency, sending commissioners to treat with any province that might be disposed to return to its allegiance. In almost the same breath, he remarked about the "friendly offers of foreign assistance" he had received; a reference to the hirelings being negotiated for in Germany.

His first "decisive exertions" were to order more ships to reinforce the fleet in American waters, and more ships to be put into commission, which, in the "run down" state of the British navy was a task of no mean magnitude.

Of all this the French Court was well aware through the reports of the volatile author of "Figaro." Caron de Beaumarchais, after presenting his memorial to the Count de Vergennes and Louis XVI in September, had returned to London "well informed of the King's intentions and your own," as he advised the Foreign Minister. What said intentions were the playwright-diplomat left to the interpretation his superiors might place upon them. He had been supplied with secret service money and a strong injunction given him not to compromise any one in authority in France by his activities. His duty was to observe and note down all British attitudes and activities. By the end of October he had his dossier fairly well filled, preparatory to a return to Paris.

Elsewhere on the European continent, little of moment was underway. Catherine of Russia, seeking to mollify George III for her earlier refusal to supply troops, expressed a desire to continue in his good will, and hoped the American War might be ended through peaceful negotiations. Spain, still reeling from the shock of defeat at the hands of the Barbary powers, was slow to indicate any interest in the war. She knew her own weakness and did not wish to imperil any of her far-flung colonies in the Western Hemisphere by espousing the American cause.

1 Nov. 1775

British Admiralty Proceedings Relative to North America [1]

1775.

1st Novemr Sir Peter Parker ordered to hoist a broad Pendant to be employed in North America under the Command of Rear Admiral Shuldham:

Including the Ships ordered to Sail with Sir Peter Parker the force under the command of Rear Adml Shuldham would then be Vizt

Rate	Ships	Men	Ships	Men
3 –	2 –	1, 020	56	9, 095.
4 –	6 –	2, 100		
5 –	4 –	1, 000		
6 –	15 –	2, 720		
Sloops –	15 –	1, 740		
Bombs –	2 –	140		
Schooner's –	8 –	240		
Arm'd Vessels –	2 –	95		
Storeships –	1 –	40		
Arm'd Transport –	1 –	—		

The farther number of Ships now in Commission & intended to join him are Vizt

Rate	Ships	Men	Ships	Men
4 –	1 –	350	14	3, 130
5 –	8 –	1, 820		
6 –	4 –	820		
Hosplship	1 –	140		

NB. The Ships to serve in North America being completed to their highest Compliments, the number of Men in the two last States are calculated accordingly.

There are besides the undermentioned Ships order'd to be got ready & will proceed to join him as soon as they are completed

Rate	Ship	Men	Ships	Men
5 –	6 –	1, 320	9	1, 785.
6 –	2 –	340		
Sloop –	1 –	125		

From the aforegoing Facts it appears the several Orders give to Vice Adml Graves were for the carrying into execution the Laws which had pass'd and they are governed in point of time accordingly.

That the object to be attended to at the beginning of the Year 1775, was the execution of the Boston Port and other Bills passed at that time: and that he had under his Command 24 Ships of different Classes bearing 3,545 Men.

That when the Laws passed to restrain the Trade of the Colonies & additional Force became necessary, the same was Ordered to be augmented to 36 Ships, bearing 4,565 Men.

That as soon as it was thought expedient to seize the Ships of the four New England Governments measures were taken for a further Augmentation of the Squadron – thereby making it to consist of 52 Ships & 7,265 Men.

That when the Orders to seize Ships were made general to all the Colonies, for the more effectual performance of that Service, and such as may arise in consequence of the other operations to be carried on in America, the Force including the Ships already there, those on their passage & those that may Sail in a short time, will be 79 Ships and 14,010 Men. There are preparing & will be put into Commission as fast as they can be got ready, in addition to the force aforementioned 17 Ships, whose Compliments will amount to 2,470 Men, so that when these Ships shall be arrived, the whole of the Squadron will then amount to 96 Sail and 16,480 Men.

[Endorsed] Admiralty Office Decr 1775 Abstract of the most material proceedings in this Department relative to North America since the Meeting of the last Sessions of Parliament.

1. Germain Papers, CL.

Debate in the House of Commons on the Navy Estimates [1]

[Extract] [November 1, 1775]

The House resolved itself into a Committee of Supply.

Mr. [John] Buller moved, that 28,000 seamen, including 6,665 marines, be voted for the service of the year 1776, at the rate of 4 *l.* per month. He spoke of the stations of the fleet; particularly that the one under admiral Shuldham, who was to command in North America, was to consist of 78 sail.

Admiral [Augustus] Keppel opposed the motion, as inadequate to a war, and too large for a peace establishment. He said that no vessels could keep the sea upon the coast of North America in the winter season; arraigned the proceedings of the first lord of the Admiralty in his conduct of the navy, which he represented to have been in a much better situation before the present noble lord came to the head of that department, then since.[2]

Captain [James] Luttrell. When the Address, which, we are told, pledged us to nothing, passed this House, I did suppose ministry would think it politic to vote navy, army, militia, supplies, and every grant they may want, without giving time for reflection, information, or enquiry; and therefore I am not surprized at the precipitate manner in which the hon. member has brought before us a question of such great national import; but as I suspected it, I was eager to learn from the noble lord opposite to me, when he mentioned the number of land forces proposed to be employed for the present year, what the naval establishment was to consist of? His lordship carefully avoided being thus communicative, though he assured us in too general terms, that the most proper oeconomy had been, and would be, observed with respect to the navy.

. . . Is it by the loss to the public of the artificers' labour, while they are doing homage to this mighty lord? Is it in sending a royal yacht with his son to Lisbon, which will cost the public 1000 *l.* when he might have gone in a packet for 50 *l.* Is it in the wise regulations he has made in the navy, which we hear of in the newspapers, and by his dependants, but no where else? Or is it in that careful inspection into the state of the fleet so to prevent abuses, that the best men of war may be sold for 1,000 *l.* while the worst appear to have cost 40,000 *l.* in repair? And, Sir, as it is the custom to call up the attention of the country gentlemen upon every alarming subject, I will crave that indulgence for a minute to mark one instance out of very many where this oeconomy is not to be found. [He then entered into the abuses and misapplications that had prevailed in the naval oeconomy since 1770. He shewed, that though in the course of five years, upwards of two millions sterling had been granted by parliament for the repairs of the navy, over and above the sums annually for wear and tear, yet the navy debt had increased in the same five years, upwards of 500,000 *l.* He proved that the *Africa,* a ship of 70 guns, had been sold for 900 *l.* though she was in better order than two-thirds of the fleet, and could have been made as good as new for 3,000 *l.* while there had been demanded of parliament, for the use of the *Dragon* man of war only, within four years, though she had never been at sea in the time, 32,973 *l.* being extra work over and above what she had cost under the articles of wear and tear, and ordinary; and is now laid up in Fareham Creek unfit for service without further repair. He likewise proved, that the noble lord at the head of the board was the cause of the late insurrection of the shipwrights, as he had encouraged them to petition parliament for an increase of wages, in opposition to the application of the captains of the navy for an increase of their half-pay: he himself having told their committee that the shipwrights were a set of more useful men to this nation, and much more entitled to the favour of government. He said that the task-work was the most destructive manner of building and repairing possible, that it must inevitably increase the naval expence, and ruin the fleet of this kingdom.] [3]

Now, Sir, to return to the question immediately before us: my objection arises, as it did last year, from a persuasion of the insufficiency of the number of seamen applied for to man the ships already in commission, and those fitting for foreign service: if 6,665 marines are to be included, 1,200 of which the hon. member allows to make a part of your standing army, and are now serving under the general of your troops in America, how then can the ships in this country be fitted for war, if occasion should require it, without the assistance of these marines, who, with the few volunteers we have, can alone be trusted to man the boats, get the stores on board, guard the ships, and the men we receive from the impress traders. The hon. member has told us, that admiral Shuldham's command is to consist of 78 sail of men of war. In that case it is trifling with parliament to come with such a demand as this, when I am sure it is impossible, by any calculation, to prove them sufficient to man such a fleet as is now in commission, and fitting for foreign service; and if you except out of 28,000 seamen the 1,200 marines under the command of our general at Boston, sea officers, petty officers, and servants, the number of foremast men will not exceed 14,000; therefore these must be ordinary grants; you may judge of the extraordinaries by what you have heard respecting the *Dragon,* and of which there are many more instances equally alarming.

Sir, though I am totally against a great increase of revenue for the destructive purposes it seems at present intended, it was my best hope that a large share of it would be appropriated towards the support of what is generally acknowledged to be the great strength of this nation; that when the American ports were shut up, and we had lost that trade, we might have secured the seamen out of employ, by fitting out a formidable fleet; not because I think it will prove useful on the coast of America, but as the best security against a foreign power. Sir, talking of America, a right hon. member said, there had been a fault in the navy somewhere. Will the noble lord declare that admiral Graves has ever received positive orders that he did not execute; or have they been, as I have reason to believe them, from the operations of the fleet, so artfully discretional, that if your ships should be wrecked upon that frozen coast, or any misfortune attend them, the blame may be laid on the admiral, and his reputation as an officer be sacrificed to shelter the wicked proceedings of these ministers. – Sir, an hon. member told us, we need not be dispirited with our misfortunes in America, for that our fleets were unsuccessful at the beginning of the late war, but afterwards proved victorious. Sir, this is a position similar to that of the naval oeconomy, which I think can hardly be marked in above one instance, I mean the loss of Minorca. Where else did ill-success await our naval arms? Was it in Europe, Asia, South or North America, where from the commencement to the conclusion of the war we were making captures? How then, Sir, was the ill-success that attended this country in any foreign war, to be compared to the sea of trouble we are now embarked in, but which I hope to God may calm sooner than I fear the minds of those men will do, who can tell us, in a language that is shocking to hear, they are riveted to coercion against our fellow-subjects in America.

Lord Hinchinbroke said, his brother was in such a situation, that the noble lord his father, had no other means of sending him.[4]

Lord North said, the ships built at the end of the war, were of green wood, which not being so durable as the seasoned wood, was very bad, had lately proved very rotten, and that this circumstance had been the cause of the great expence.

Sir J.G.Griffin did not get up to oppose the number of seamen, because he thought if any operations were to be continued against the Americans, they ought to be confined to that service only. He then declared that he had hitherto supported government on principles, without regard to men; thinking it his duty as an honest man so to do, as long as the true interest of the country appeared to be consulted, and the public affairs conducted to the credit or honour of the nation; he denied that to be the case at present, and called on any of the minister's best friends to contradict him; adding, he should ill deserve to sit there any longer, if he continued to afford his support to men, the effects of whose pernicious measures had reduced us to so shameful a situation. He professed himself an advocate for the supreme legislative authority of this country over its colonies; disclaimed however on the one hand vindicating the rash and indiscreet measure of having taxed the Americans, as he did on the other, their mode of resistance. The noble lord (North) had in the last session given it as his firm opinion, that the forces then voted and the other measures the House had adopted, would put an end to all our unhappy disputes with America, even without a drop of bloodshed; yet notwithstanding we all felt so seriously the grievous effects of these ill-advised measures, the noble lord, with fatal experience against him, was determined to seek our total ruin, by persevering in the same wild and extravagant system; instead of which, he added, a tender of conciliation on terms suited to the true spirit of the British constitution ought to be preferred and held out to the Americans, which, if not successful, we ought to relinquish all connections with them: or otherwise, if practicable, to harass them with your fleets, by interrupting their trade, till at length they might perhaps be brought to sue for protection.

The Resolution was agreed to.

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1. Thomas C. Hansard, ed., *The Parliamentary History of England, from the Earliest Period to the Year 1803* . . . (London, 1813), XVIII, 841–846. Hereafter cited as Hansard, ed., *Parliamentary History*.
2. Referring to John Montagu, 4th Earl of Sandwich (1718–1792). Lord Sandwich's ruinous conduct, as First Lord of the Admiralty, is thoroughly discussed in Captain W. M. James' excellent book, *The British Navy in Adversity* (London, 1926).
3. The brackets are Hansard's.
4. Hinchinbroke's attempt to defend his father for sending a naval yacht to Lisbon provides an amusing *non sequitur*.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER [1]

Whereas we think fit that you shall proceed in His Majestys Ship *Bristol* to North America in order to serve under the command of Rear Admiral Shuldham Commr in Chief of His Majestys Ships & Vessels upon that Station; You are hereby required & directed to report on board the *Bristol* at Sheerness and hoist your Broad Pendant on board her (Capt [John] Morris her Commander being directed to obey your Orders) And so soon as the said Ship is ready for the Sea agreable to the Orders which the said Captain has received, You are to repair in her to Spithead & remain there until you receive further Order.

Given &c. 1st November 1775 Sandwich J Buller Lisburne
By &c PS [2]

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1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 229.
2. The initials are those of Philip Stephens, Secretary of the Admiralty.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN JOHN MORRIS, H.M.S. *Bristol,* SHEERNESS[1]

You are hereby required & directed to put yourself under the command of Captain Sir Peter Parker whom we have ordered to hoist his Broad Pendant on board the Ship you command; And follow his orders for your further proceedings
Given &c 1st November 1775 Sandwich J Buller Lisburne
By &c PS

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1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 229.

3 Nov.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LIEUTENANT ROBERT DEANES, R.N.[1]

By &c.

Whereas we think fit that you shall be employ'd to raise Voluntier Seamen in and about London for the Service of His Majesty's Bomb the *Thunder* at Deptford; You are hereby required and directed to observe the following Instructions Vizt[2]

1st

You are to hire a proper Room for a Rendezvous, and to apply yourself with the utmost diligence to the aforesaid Service, causing Bills to be printed and stuck up, inviting such Voluntiers to repair thereto, and taking care not to receive any but who are of strong Bodies & in health, and not under Twenty or above fifty years of Age.

2d

You are to send on board the said Vessel from time to time as you shall see convenient under the care of your Petty Officer such Seamen as shall enter with you, together with their Chests & Bedding & to transmit to her Captain at the same time a List of their Names, noting the Days in which they respectively enter'd, that they may be borne for Wages accordingly in the Books of the said Vessel.

3d

You are to apply to the Navy Board for an Imprest of Twenty Pounds which we have order'd for you, & when the same is expended you are to let us know it; And you are at liberty to charge Two Shillings & six pence a day for your own subsistence, and to pay the Petty Officer employ'd under you one Shilling & six pence a day for his subsistence also, during the time you shall be employ'd as aforesaid.

4th

You are to send an Account every Monday, Wednesday & Friday to your Secretary of the Number of Men raised distinguishing therein how many you have procur'd in the whole, & how many since the Account immediately preceeding.

5th

When this Service shall be over you are to deliver to the Navy Board an Account of your disbursements making an Affidavit at the foot thereof in the following form Vizt

"This Deponent maketh Oath that the Sum charged against each particular Article in the foregoing Account was expended for the purpose mention'd in such Article and no other.["]

Given &c the 3d Novr 1775. Sandwich J.Buller Lisburne

To Lieut Robert Deanes
of His Majts Bomb Vessel *Thunder*
in Town By &c. P.S.

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1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 230–32.
2. These instructions for enlisting volunteers appear with considerable frequency in the Lords Commissioners' order books. They will not be printed, the instructions to Lieutenant Deanes being a sufficient illustration of the method used.

COUNT DE GUINES TO COUNT DE VERGENNES [1]

[Extract]
No. 303 London, 3 November 1775

I enclose in this dispatch, Sir, the excerpts from the proceedings in both Houses of Parliament.

Precautionary measures were taken to the effect that all spectators had to leave before the votes were gathered so that we could not be present when the debate on the vote concerning the quota of sailors took place. But I learn from the Office that a quota of 28 thousand was voted. This number which increases the peace quota only by ten thousand is not considerable in order to effect great efforts. Their resources will be weak or they will have to resort to foreign ones. However it was said during the debate that there were 64 warships in America and 70 along the coasts of the three Kingdoms.

News from the Ports.

Plymouth The 20 workers who were to go to America had their orders countermanded. *Non Such* left dry dock. The Frigate *Apollo* is still in dry dock; she is in very poor trim and will need complete repairs. *Centurion* sailed for America. *Chatham, Syren, Orpheus* are in the Sound.

Portsmouth The frigates *Triton, Active, Fox, Greyhound, Thetis* and *Sphynx* are being fitted out.

The frigates named *Juno, Pearl Seaford* are in dry dock.

Up to now, all these frigates have few sailors for their crews.

The frigate *Pallas* is ready to leave port.

Action [*Actaeon*] is at Spithead awaiting orders.

There are also at Spithead six Guard ships and two in the port. The corvette *Atalanta* is cruising off the Island of Wight. Her captain has forbidden his crew to answer any ship. Her guns are inside and her gun-ports are closed. Her name on the stern is covered. She does not fly her commission pennant or give any indication of being a warship. Her destination is unknown.

Chatham The mortar galiot *Racehorse* is being commissioned. She is being sheathed.

The order has been given to requisition 22 transport ships for the Service of the King.

The ship *Victory* and the frigate *Carysfort* left dry dock. *Isis* as well as *Emerald* went into dry dock.

In Deptford, work is being done on the frigate *Eolus* with 32 guns and *Galathea* with 20.

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1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 512, LC Photocopy. Vergennes was French Foreign Minister.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL AND PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE BRITISH ORDNANCE OFFICE TO GEORGE VISCOUNT TOWNSHEND [1]

My Lord Office of Ordnance 3 Novr. 1775.

We beg leave to lay before Your Lordship the Inclosed State of the Artillery at the several places in America before any Supplies were sent in consequence of the present Troubles, likewise the State of all that has been sent since the 1st of January 1775, which we are of opinion will fully answer what is requested by the Earl of Dartmouth's Letter of the 30th Ultimo. We are My Lord [&c.]

Jeff. Amherst Chas Cocks

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1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/161, 107a.

"STATE OF ARTILLERY – SMALL ARMS AND POWDER SENT TO AMERICA SINCE 1ST JANUARY 1775" [1]

		Sent by
March 25th	A Company of Invalids to Newfoundland	The *Russia Merchant*
April 10th	A Detachment of Officers & Men for Boston – 1 Engineer, Cloathing, Flints & 6 Light 3 Pounders Boston	The *Charming Sally*
May 18th	Tents demanded by Colonel Cleaveland – Boston	The *Friendship* Victualling Transport
May 30th	A Supply of Stores for East Florida Including 430 Barrels of Powder	The *Betsey*
July 22th	Four Light 3 Pounders and 3000 Stand of Arms with Ammunition compleat for Virginia	The *Maria* a Navy Transport.
July 24th	Four Light 3 Pounders and 3000 Stand of Arms with Ammunition for Quebec	The *Jacob* Navy Transport
August 14th	Three Thousand additional Arms to Quebec wth Ammunition	*Elizabeth* Navy Transport

15th	Four Companies of Artillery 12 Medium 12 Pounders. 20 Wall Pieces. 3–13 Inch Brass Mortars – and 8 6 Pounders with other Articles of Colo Cleaveland's Demand dated 23d June Boston	The *Baltick Merchant* The *Charming Nancy* & The *Juno*
Septemr 1st	8000 Stand of Arms – 400 Carbines – Spare Carriages, Waggons, Harness and other Articles in part of Colonel Cleavelands Demand Boston	The *William* The *Williamson* The *Nancy* The *Three Brothers*
October 5th	Six Medium 6 Pounders – 5000 Stand of Arms wth Ammunition for North Carolina, Intrenching Tools, Mantelets and sundry Stores Demanded by Captain Montresor p order of General Gage for Boston	The *Russia Merchant*
	N.B. The particulars for North Carolina taken out at Portsmouth p Order 22 October and 500 Barrels of Powder put on board.	
Octor 14th	500 Stand of Arms and Ammunition for North Carolina, the remainder of the Stores Demanded by Capt. Montresor. 1600 Carbines to Compleat Colo Cleaveland's Demand, Spare Carriages &ca	The *Hope*
	N.B. The particulars for North Carolina taken on Shore by order. – and 1500 Barrels of Powder put on board for Boston.	
October 28th	Iron Ordnance, Shot, Powder & Stores for the Fleet, 1000 Stand of Small Arms and Barrack Bedding for 3 Regiments. Halifax	The *Charming Sally*

[Endorsed] In Letter from Lieut General & principal Officers of the Ordnance of 3d Novr 1775.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/161, 107d.

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4 Nov.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN ROBERT P. COOPER, H.M. SLOOP *Hawke*, AT THE NORE [1]

You are hereby required and directed, to proceed without a Moments loss of time in the Sloop you command to Spithead, and there wait until you receive further Order.

Given &c. the 4th. of Novr. 1775 Sandwich J.Buller Lisburne

By &c. P.S.

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 233.

London Chronicle, Saturday, November 2 to November 4, 1775

London. Nov. 4.

On Thursday night [November 2] Lord Pitt, son of the Earl of Chatham, and Mr. Pownal, son of Governor Pownal, arrived in town from Quebec, and yesterday they went to Court, were both presented to his Majesty, and graciously received.

A letter was received on Thursday by a merchant of this city, from Quebec, brought by the *Pomona,* Capt. [John] Green, arrived at Dover, which says, "On the 25th of September, in the morning, a party of the King's troops, and a party of the provincials met within a few leagues of Montreal, when a smart skirmish ensued, in which about twenty of the provincials were killed and wounded, and several taken prisoners, amongst the latter is Col. [Ethan] Allen, the commander of the provincials: On the side of the King's troops, Capt. Patterson, who, it is said commanded the regulars, was wounded, and several of his men."

6 Nov.

Philip Stephens to Captain Tobias Furneaux, H.M.S. *Syren,* Plymouth [1]

Sir, [London] 6th Novemr 1775.

In addition to the Order which you have received from my Lords Commissioners of the admiralty dated the 30th Ultimo, I am to signify their Lordships direction to you to engage for His Majesty's Service, upon your arrival at North Carolina, as many Pilots as you can, who are acquainted with any Part of that Coast, and to keep them on board until the arrival of Sir Peter Parker; And you will communicate this part of my Letter to the Commanders of any of His Majesty's Ships you may fall in with, and acquaint them that, it is their Lordships direction they do the like.

After you have delivered your Dispatches to Govr Martin, if you are not able to recruit your water at North Carolina, their Lordships recommend it to you to proceed to Port Royal in South Carolina in order to take on board such a Supply as may be wanting; where you will also engage such Pilots as you may meet with who are acquainted with that Coast, and procure the best Intelligence you can; taking care to return to Cape Fear as soon as you are able, but in all events within One Month from the time you shall have left it, and to cruize as you have been directed by their Lordships Order before mentioned, in order to join Sir Peter Parker.

I send you inclosed a Plan of Port Royal Harbour and a description of the Coast of South Carolina, to which I take leave to refer you; and am &ca

Php Stephens.

PS. Their Lordships command me to send you a Warrant empowering you to impress Seamen in North America, and it is their direction that, in case the Pilots abovementioned should not be willing to engage in His Majesty's Service, you do, by virtue of the said Warrant, impress them, and keep them on board your Ship until you receive directions from Sir Peter Parker, or the Commander in Chief in America for the further disposal of them.

PS.

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1. PRO, Admiralty 2/1333, LC Photocopy.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO CAPTAIN TOBIAS FURNEAUX, R.N.[1]

Dear Sir, [London] 6th Novemr 1775.

In case you have any Letters on board your Ship recommended to your care for Admiral Graves, General Gage, General Howe, or any other Persons at Boston; I am to desire you will send them to me before you sail, that they may be sent to Boston by some other conveyance. I am &ca

Php Stephens.

Capt Furneaux, *Syren,* Plymo.

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1. PRO, Admiralty 2/1333, LC Photocopy.

GABRIEL DE SARTINE TO COUNT DE VERGENNES[1]

Fontainebleau, 6 November 1775

I had the honor to inform you, Sir, of the secret orders which I sent, on the 16th of last month, to the Intendants and Controllers of the Navy in order to prevent in as much as possible the ships from the English Colonies from taking on war ammunition in our ports. Several of these officers have already indicated to me that they will comply with care; but among their answers, I felt I had to forward to you the letter from Mr. Prévost de la Croix, Controller at Lorient. It seemed to deserve your attention; I beg you to give me your opinion on the eventual instructions it may warrant.

I have the honor to be with sincere attachment, Sir [&c.]

De Sartine

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1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 512, LC Photocopy.

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7 Nov.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN TOBIAS FURNEAUX, H.M.S. *Syren*, PLYMOUTH[1]

It having been represented to the King that a resolution has been taken in the Congress of Delegates from the Twelve associated Colonies assembled at Philadelphia that after a certain Day all Exportation from the said Colonies to Great Britain, Ireland and the West Indies shall be discontinued[2] and there being great reason to suspect that the Ships & Vessels belonging to those Colonies & hitherto employed in those Channels of commerce, many of which Ships are of large burthen may be fitted out for the purpose of supporting the unnatural rebellion now carrying on; you are in pursuance of His Majestys Pleasure signified to Us by the Earl of Dartmouth one of His Majestys Principal Secretaries of State in his Letter of the 12th of September, last, hereby required & directed in case you find any Ships or Vessels which come within the above description in any of the Ports or Harbours you may visit within the said Colonies to take away their Masts & Rudders or otherwise so disable such Ships & Vessels that they may not be fitted & employed for the purpose abovementioned.

Given &c 7th November 1775

J. Buller H. Penton H. Palliser

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1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 235.
2. The Continental Association passed by the first Continental Congress. Georgia is the missing colony.

Lords Commissioners, Admiralty, to Captain Tobias Furneaux, R.N.[1]

Advices having been received from different Parts of America, that the Inhabitants of the Colonies in general which are in Arms against the King are collecting & fitting out armed Vessels for effecting in various ways their rebellious purposes; You are hereby required & directed in pursuance of His Majestys pleasure signified to Us by the Earl of Dartmouth one of His Principal Secretaries of State in his Letter of the 22d Ultmo to exert your utmost endeavours to prevent such preparations and to burn & destroy every Vessel that shall appear to be fitted out from any of the Colonies with such traiterous designs

In case you shall seize any Ships or Vessels under the Circumstances mentioned in our Order of the 6th of last Month, you are instead of carrying them to Boston to carry them to some other place of safety; there to be detained 'til further Order or be proceeded against according to Law as the nature of the case shall require.

Given &c 7th November 1775

Capt. Furneaux – *Syren* – J.Buller H.Penton H.Palliser
Plymouth By &c PS

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1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 236.

Lords Commissioners, Admiralty, to Captain Tobias Furneaux, R.N.[1]

In pursuance of His Majestys Order in Council, dated the 16th Day of June last, We do hereby impower and direct you to impress or cause to be impressed so many Seamen, Seafaring Men and Persons whose occupations and callings are to work in Vessels and Boats upon Rivers, in His Majestys Dominions in North America as shall be necessary either to Man His Majestys Ships employed or to be employed in those parts giving unto each Man so impressed One Shilling for Prest Mony. And, in the execution hereof, you are to take care that neither yourself, nor any Officer authorized by you, do demand or receive any Mony, Gratuity, reward or other consideration whatsoever, for the sparing, exchanging or discharging any Person or Persons impressed or to be impressed as you will answer it at your peril You are not to intrust any Person with the execution of this Warrant but a Commission Officer and to insert his Name & Office in the Deputation on the other side hereof and set your Hand & Seal thereto. This Warrant to continue in Force, 'til the Thirty first Day of December 1776 unless duly countermanded before that time. And in the due execution thereof, all Mayors, Sheriffs Justices of the Peace, Bailiffs, Constables, Headboroughs and all

other His Majestys Officers and Subjects whom it may concern are hereby required to be aiding and assisting unto you and those employed by you, as they tender His Majestys Service and will answer the contrary at their Peril.
Given &c and the Seal &c the 7th Novr 1775.

J Buller H.Penton H.Palliser

Capt. Furneaux – Syren – Plymouth

By &c PS

I do hereby depute belonging to His Majestys [blank] under my Command, to impress Seamen, Seafaring Men & Persons whose occupations & callings are to work in Vessels & Boats upon Rivers according to the tenor of this Warrant. In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my Hand & Seal this [blank] day of

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 237–38.

Lord Dartmouth to Governor Josiah Martin [1]

(No 22.) Whitehall 7th Novr 1775

Sir, Since my Letter to you of the 27th of last Month inclosing Copy of my Dispatch to Major General [William] Howe, of the 22d of that Month, the plan and Object of the intended Expedition to the Southward, to which that Dispatch refers, have been maturely considered. –

It has been found upon full Examination, that the Entrance and Navigation of Cape Fear River are at least very hazardous, if not impracticable to Vessels of a large draught of Water, and consequently that Troops disembarked within that River could receive no protection in their landing from Ships of War; It is thought advisable however that they should proceed according to their original destination from a hope that altho' it may be impracticable for the Fleet to cover and assist the landing of so large a Body as seven Regiments yet the disembarkation of a small part may be effected, in case you shall be of opinion that they will not be opposed and that they will be joined by any considerable number of well disposed Persons, so as to accomplish the restoration of Government, but if such landing either of the whole, or of any part, cannot be effected, with hazard of Opposition, and there is not a certainty that they would be immediately joined by such a number of the well disposed Inhabitants, as would when once Assembled, under the countenance of the King's Troops be able to maintain themselves and support the King's Government, no possible advantage could attend any Efforts in North Carolina; and in that case the General who commands the Expedition, and who will probably be arrived off Cape Fear River, by the time this Letter reaches you, will be instructed to proceed with the whole Body of the Forces under his Command, to Charles Town, in order to try what may be effected there towards restoring Government in South Carolina; For it is necessary I should again state to you, that this enterprise is entirely formed upon the assurances given by yourself and the rest of His Majesty's Governors in the Southern Provinces, that, even upon the appearance of a Force, much Inferior to what is now sent, the Friends of Government would show themselves, and the Rebellion be crushed and subdued. –

If we are deceived in this expectation & these assurances, or if the Friends of Government when collected in Arms, shall not find themselves strong enough to support that Government without the Assistance of Regular Troops, the expedition will be of little Avail; and all that will be left to the King's General to do, will be to place the Army under his Command in some secure Situation untill the Season of the Year will admit of their going with safety to join General Howe; which junction will most probably be effected with greater facility & much earlier than it could be done from hence.

If the General who is to have the Command of these Troops, should be at Cape Fear when you receive this, or before the Troops arrive, you will communicate this Letter to him, apprizing him at the same time that he will receive full Instructions from me, by the commanding Officer of the Regiments that are sent out. –

If you should be of opinion after all that I have stated of the difficulty in respect to landing Troops in North Carolina, that a part of the Force sent out may be employd there to effect, and the General should concur in that opinion, the utmost Activity in preparation will be necessary and you should loose no time in sending Emissaries amongst the Inhabitants of the well-disposed Counties with authority & Commission to the principal Persons of Trust & Confidence, for raising & embodying as many Men as can be procured, and informing them of His Majesty's Intentions of supplying them with Arms and giving them the same pay as the Regular Troops, as soon as they come down, which they should be encouraged to do as soon as they hear of the arrival of the Troops upon the Coast; bringing down with them Horses & Waggons for the use of the Army, for which they will be very liberally paid & rewarded.

Those Emissaries should also be instructed to assure the Men so raised, that they will not be obliged to serve out of the Province, without their Consent, nor any longer than the present troubles continue – And it may not be improper to engage for a remission of all arrears of Quit Rents, and for Grants of Land to such as shall enter into this Service, in proportion to their Rank & Merit; with an exemption from the Payment of any Quit-Rents for twenty years from the date of the Grants. I am &c

Dartmouth.

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1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/318, LC Photocopy. Martin was Royal Governor of North Carolina.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES [1]

Sr [Admiralty Office] 7th Novr 1775

Mr Richard Watlington having represented to my Lords Commrs of the Admty that he has freighted the *Nautilus* Capt William Jardine with a large & valuable Cargo for the use of His Majts Army & Navy consisting of Port, Madeira, Teneriffe Wines Geneva, Brandy, Cheese, Hams, Tongues some Packages of Earthen Ware & Woolen Cloths; And their Lordships being Willing to encourage an undertaking which may be attended with benefit to the healths of those who may think fit to partake in the purchase of the said Cargo have been pleased in compliance with Mr Watlingtons request to command me to recommend it to you to permit the said Ship to come into the Harbour and to give such countenance to the Persons entrusted with the Cargo as may be necessary and proper towards the enabling them to dispose of the same &c

P S

Vice Adml Graves, or
Commg Officer for the time being
in No America

Delivered to
Mr Watlington

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 286–87.

Philip Stephens to Captain Tobias Furneaux, R.N.[1]

Sir, 7th Novemr 1775.

I send you herewith another Pacquet from the Earl of Dartmouth to josiah Martin Esqr Governor of North Carolina, and also a Pacquet from his Lordship to Lord Willm Campbell, Governor of South Carolina; The former of which you will be careful to deliver or convey to Governor Martin with the Pacquet which accompanied the Order of my Lords Commissioners dated the 30th of last Month; And it is their Lordships direction that you then proceed with the latter to Charles Town in South Carolina and deliver it, or take care to convey it in safety to the Governor of that Province. And having received from him such Dispatches as he may have occasion to send to Sir Peter Parker, you are to prosecute their Lordships Secret Instructions of the 30th of last Month and their directions signified to you by my Letter of yesterday's date. I am &ca

Php Stephens.

PS. Having since I closed my Letter of yesterday's date, obtained a Plan of Cape Fear River, and a Survey of the Coast about Cape Look-out, in North Carolina; I send you herewith Copies thereof, as they may be useful to you in your present intended Voyage.

P S.

Capt. Furneaux, *Syren,* Plymo.

[1] PRO, Admiralty 2/1333, LC Photocopy.

Philip Stephens to Vice Admiral Robert Man, Minorca[1]

Sr [Admiralty Office] 7th Novr 1775

My Lords Commrs of the Admty having received various Intelligence of Vessels employed in carrying on an illicit Trade from the British Colonies in North America to Cadiz & other Ports in Spain I am commanded by their Lordships to send you Copies thereof and to signify their direction to you to give orders to the Captains of the Ships under your command to keep a good look out for vessels that may be so employed, And in case of falling in with any of them to seize them agreable to the orders you have received from their Lordships for that purpose &c

P S

(forwarded by the Navy Board)

[1] PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 287–88.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO ALL CAPTAINS [1]

In pursuance of His Majestys Order in Council, dated the 16th Day of June last, We do hereby impower and direct you to impress, or cause to be impressed so many Seamen, Seafaring Men and Persons whose occupations and callings are to work in Vessels and Boats upon Rivers, in His Majestys Dominions in North America as shall be necessary either to Man His Majestys Ships employed or to be employed in those parts giving unto each Man so impressed One Shilling for Prest Mony. And, in the execution hereof, you are to take care that neither yourself, nor any Officer authorized by you, do demand or receive any Mony, Gratuity, Reward or other consideration whatsoever, for the sparing, exchanging or discharging any Person or Persons impressed or to be impressed as you will answer it at your peril. You are not to entrust any Person with the execution of this Warrant but a Commissioned Officer and to insert his Name & Office in the Deputation on the other side hereof and set your Hand & Seal thereto. This Warrant to continue in Force, 'til the Thirty first Day of December 1776 unless duly countermanded before that time. And in the due execution thereof, all Mayors Sheriffs Justices of the Peace, Bailiffs, Constables, Headboroughs and all others His Majestys Subjects whom it may concern are hereby required to be aiding and assistating unto you and those employed by you, a[s] they tender His Majestys Service and will answer the contrary at their Peril.

Given &c and the Seal &c the 7th Novr 1775.

J. Buller H. Penton H. Palliser

[Impressment Warrant]

I do hereby depute belonging to His Majestys under my Command, to impress Seamen, Seafaring Men & Persons whose occupations & callings are to work in Vessels & Boats upon Rivers according to the tenor of this Warrant. In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my Hand & Seal this Day of

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[1] English Records, Orders and Instructions from Lords of Admiralty (copy), NCDAH.

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8 Nov.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN JAMES O'HARA, H.M.S. *Pearl*, PORTSMOUTH [1]

Having appointed you Captain of His Majesty's Ship *Pearl* at Portsmouth which we have order'd to be fitted & stored at that place for a Voyage to North America Mann'd with Two hundred Men & victualled for six Months with all Species of Provisions except Beer, of which she is to have as much as she can conveniently stow and to be supplied with a proportion of Wine or Spirits for two Months in lieu of the remainder; You are hereby required and directed to use the utmost dispatch in getting her ready for the Sea accordingly, and then proceed to Spithead and wait for further Order.

Given &c. the 8th. of Novr. 1775

Sandwich Lisburne H. Palliser

By &c. P.S.

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 240.

Alexander Schaw to Lord Dartmouth [1]

My Lord,

I find myself as much at a loss, as I ever was in my life, how to apologise for giving your Lordship the trouble of this. Yet when I take the liberty of reminding you my Lord, that I agreed to the request which the Governour & president of North Carolina made me of coming over, from the impulse of the attatchment I have to my Country, when from this Motive I say I tore myself from my dearest connections & subjected myself to all the inconveniences of a long sea voyage, I may venture to hope your Lordship will beleive, what I am going to say, proceeds from motives which at least deserve no blame.

From the conversation which passd at your Lordships office on Monday, I understood, that a new Idea, for employing the troops, destined for the Southern provinces, had been taken up. I heard the advantages & disadvantages of the different modes of acting with those troops agitated, with much Satisfaction. I did little more than listen, but I listened with attention. I have canvassed that subject in my own mind very often; I have ruminated on what pass'd on Monday ever since, without ever having left my room. I think myself called upon, by the duty I owe to the trust reposed in me, to lay the result of my reasonings, upon the subject before your Lordship.

In the memorial I had the honour of putting into your Lordships hands,[2] I endeavourd to give an Idea of many particulars, which only can be learned upon the spot. That was a part of my task, I could venture upon with some confidence. Your Lordships enquiries led me to go further: to answer them as far as possible I went beyond my line, and pointed out what occurred to me as necessary upon the supposition of a body of troops being landed at Cape fear

It seems there are doubts of the practicability of carrying Ships of deep draught over Cape fear barr. I dare not presume, to dispute that point. I allways understood it was a better barr than that of Charlestown, I have been at a good deal of pains to ascertain the fact, which stands upon the information of three gentlemen now in London, who have all been Merchants on that river and are agreed, that the depth of water, both at high & low water on the barr, is greater than I have stated it to your Lordship, in my former memorial. That there is depth of water up to the fflatts, for any vessel that can come over the barr, I can affirm.

I stated, my oppinion of the practicability, of forming a junction betwixt the back country people who have engaged to join Goverr Martin, and the troops proposed to be sent into the Country. I even ventured to give my oppinion of the steps necessary to be taken, to carry it into execution. I said the ground behind Brunswick town, was proper for an encampment & gave my reasons for saying so. I farther mentioned that by sending a couple of light ships, properly armed, up to Wilmington, that they would in a great measure cut off all communication betwixt the east and west sides of the river.

I gave my reasons for supposing the Govr could depend upon the people who had engaged to join him: and my reasons also for beleiving, that numbers from other parts of the province would join, so soon as they found they could do it, with any prospect of success.

If the troops should be sent to Charlestown, in my humble apprehension the consequences will be very different. Larger ships cannot go in. But I will take it for granted, that the troops are able to land, in the face of all the force the people have raisd; and that they can establish themselves, in the island or even in the town perfectly secure against every attempt of the enemy: and that if it should be thought proper, to reembark the troops and send them to [St.] Augustine it can be carried into execution. After possessing, all these advantages, let us look a moment at the consequences

I have not sufficient information of the state of South Carolina, but never having heard, that any association had been formed by the friends of government, or any offers or promises of assistance made to the Governour, I should fear extremly that tho' a military force might possess themselves of Charlestown, that it never could be of any use in such a situation, for reducing the province to obedience. – If it cannot extent its operations much further, in place of doing good, the expedition, will only serve to raise the spirits of the rebells & to sink every hope of releif in the well affected. I have indeed heard that in the back settlements of South Carolina, there are many friends to Government, but they are at a great distance from Charlestown, & could they be embodied, they must march thro' a country, every pass of which is already in the hands of the rebels. Every man in the province, who is in the power or under the influence of the rebells, will be instantly round Charlestown and there can be little doubt, that a few days will bring them reinforcements, from North Carolina, as they will have nothing to fear at home.

If the troops after entering the harbour, should even without attempting a landing, bear away to the southward, the effects, must be still worse, by convincing friends & foes, they were unequal to the Service. Should they go to Georgia and reduce that province to obedience, the advantage is so small to Government, and the loss to the general Confederacy so insignificant, that it will still afford matter of triumph to the rebells, that the troops could do no more.

The Ringleaders every where will make the proper use of the ill success of the troops; they will influence the minds of the Country Gentlemen, with high notions of their own valour & their own consequence: And they in their turn will pervert or confirm, in disloyalty the poor people settled round them in the woods. The natural consequence of all this will be, to prove the truth of an old observation, *Possunt quia possevidentur.* The Rebels, who are now filled with diffidence and distrust of themselves, will become formidable by beleiving themselves superior to the troops.

My fears, my Lord, have pointed out to me, these consequences, from an unsuccessfull attempt on South Carolina. On the other hand I dare not venture to say, that things remain on the same footing they did in North Carolina, when I left it, or even much later. But I still flatter myself, that the Gentlemen intrusted by the Governour, with the plan of bringing the people together, have managed matters so as to be yet able to accomplish it.

Here then my Lord, is at least a reasonable hope of success, it bids as fair as any thing can do. And if it shall even be found, upon landing the troops, that the rebells have taken such measures as will prevent a junction with the well affected, the expedition to the southward will be very little retarded. And if the troops do succeed here, an expedition to South Carolina, cannot fail of being attended with the most happy consequences. The back settlers in South Carolina and in those parts bordering on the south western parts of North Carolina are said to be well affected: Be master of North Carolina, nothing can be more certain or more easy, than sending troops into the well affected parts of South Carolina, & marching them to Charlestown in spite of any opposition could be brought against them: more especialy if a small force was then sent into Charlestown harbour.

There is one thing further I beg leave to mention, which is the oppinion that Governour Martin holds, of the strength to be expected in his province. He thinks himself sure of being able to keep up his authority, was it once reestablished without the assistance of the regular troops. I wish one could be sure of the same thing in South Carolina.

These appear to me to be the advantages and disadvantages, attending making the proposed attempt, in South or in North Carolina. I consider it as my indispensible duty to lay them before your Lordship, in conformity to the trust reposed in me.

It is but too common, for people to wish to promote, a particular plan, in opposition to every other however advantagious. If I know myself my Lord this is not the Case with me. This subject has been familiar to my thoughts for many months past. The result of my reasoning upon it, is what I have stated. I have not the vanity even to wish to entrude my oppinions, but charged as I am with what I consider as a very high trust, I could not acquit myself to my own feelings, if I should neglect stating to your Lordship whatever occurs to me on the subject. I have the honour to be [&c.]

Alex^{r} Schaw

Orange Street [London]
8 November 1775.

[P.S.] After finishing my letter, I met with the inclosed rates of pilotage for Cape fear river, as established by Act of Assembly, which prove incontestibly, that ships drawing Eighteen feet water, can readily pass the barr. I consider it of much consequence, to have such a proof of the practicability of the attempt, be the success of it, what it may.

[Enclosure]

Rates of Pilotage, established by Act of Assembly for Cape fear River in North Carolina. –

	ffeet	Proclamation Money
For a Vessel when loaded drawing	6	£ 2 – 10
	7	2 – 15
	8	3 – —
	9	3 – 10
	10	3 – 15
	11	4 – 10
	12	5 – 10
	13	6 – 10
	14	7 – 10
	15	8 – 10
	16	9 – 10
	17	11 – —
	18	13 – —

And it be enacted by the Authority aforesaid that any pilot appointed to pilot Vessels from Brunswick to Wilmington & back, shall and may receive one half of the above rates. And if only to the flatts, and back to Brunswick, then one fourth of the said rates, respect being had to the particular draught of water such vessel shall draw

1. English Records, Dartmouth Manuscripts, (copy), NCDAH.
2. Schaw's previous letter dated October 31, 1775, was not presented as a memorial, Volume 2, 792–97.

Captain Christopher Atkins, R.N., to Philip Stephens [1]

Sir. In Answer to your Letter of the 4th Inst with their Lordships directions for me to receive on board the *Actaeon* a quantity of Jackets for the use of the Marines at Boston. – I beg leave Sir to signify to you for their Lordships information, that it will be impossible for us to carry them out without a very great risk of damaging the Cloathing, the Ship is so very full already, that we cannot find room enough to put away our own Slops, – I have the honor to be with all imaginable respect Sir

Xpher Atkins

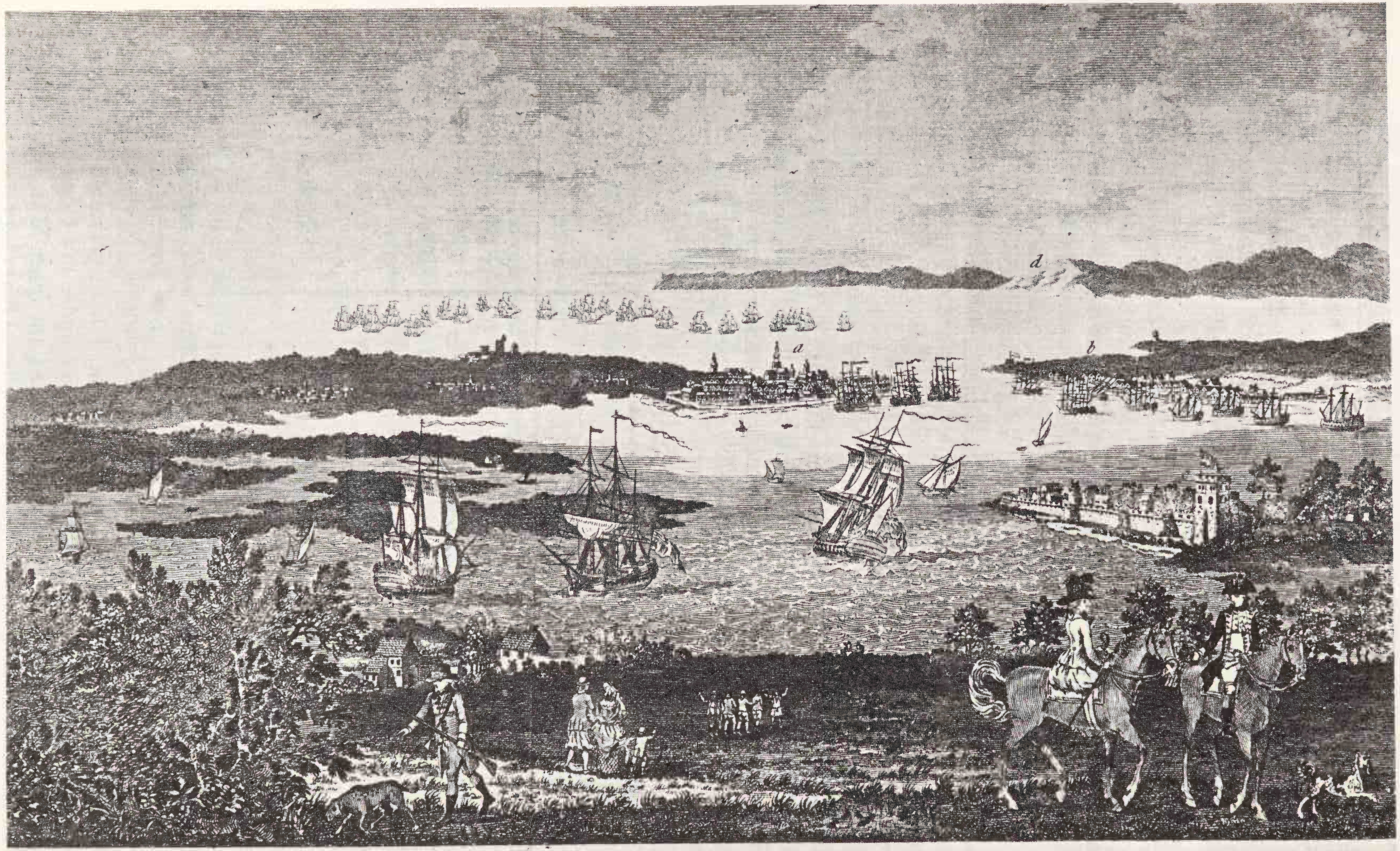
Actaeon Spithead the 8th Novr 1775

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/1445.

Captain Christopher Atkins, R.N., to Philip Stephens [1]

Sir *Actaeon* at Spithead Novr 8th 1775

In answer to your Letter of the [blank] instant, I have examin'd Mr John Jarrat Masters Mate of His Majesty's Ship *Actaeon* under my Command (the Person whom I apprehend my Lord Sandwich means, the other Mate not having been on the Coast of America) respecting his knowledge of that Coast –



The Town and Harbour of Portsmouth with a View of his Majesty's Fleet at Spithead.

a Portsmouth .... b Gosport .... c Porchester Castle .... d Isle of Wight.

I beg you would be pleased to acquaint His Lordship that he appears to me to be well acquainted with the Coast from Philadelphia to Georgia, to having, in quality of Mate, and Master of Merchant Ships, been upon it seven Years

Sir Richard Bickerton knows him very well, and since he has been with me, his Character has been unexceptionable – I have the honour to be Sir [&c.]

Xpher Atkins

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/1445.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Speedwell*, CAPTAIN RICHARD PEARSON [1]

Novr 1775	Remarks &ca *Speedwell* Sloop
Sunday 5th	AM at 10 Heileghland [2] EbN 6 miles at 11 a Danish Snow [3] and galliot in Compy First and Middle part strong gales and Squally weather, the latter Modr breezes, sounded Occasionally,
Monday 6th	at 8 AM haild & brought too, the Danish Snow in the Latd 52°20′ No and Longd 3°31′ E by Acct from Heileghland dist about 67 Leags on board of which sent a mate & midshipman with directions to Accompany us at half past 10 Made sail the Danish Snow in Compy Modr breezes and hazey Wr sounded occasionally
Tuesday 7th	at 10 AM fir'd a shot and brought too a french fishing boat, saw the So foreland bearing Wbs 8 Leags snow in Compy Modt and Cloudy with rain at 4 pm the So foreland WbS 5 Leagues at ½ past the No foreland NWbN about 5 Leags At ¾ past 6 found the Sloop to be near the breakers on the So End of the goodwin sand and douting of our Clearing of them at 7 Anchd in a qr less 3 fm and veard to a ⅓ of a Cable fir'd a gun for the snow to Anchor, but she run clear, at ½ past fir'd a gun a sigl for a Duch ship to run clear sent the Mastr to Sound round the ship at ½ past 10 weigh'd and made saile under whole topsailes
Wednesday 8th	At 1 AM the So foreland lights WbN 6 or 7 Miles at 2 Do took in the 3d reefs in the topsailes, got down top galt yds At 4 Anchd in Dover road in 7 fm water So foreland lights EbN Cockpt Wt ¾ of a mile at noon the Danish Snow working into the road Sent our boat to Assist her Fresh Gales and Squally Wr at 7 pm Came on board Jno Richards Pilot and took charge of her for the Harbr at 11 Do weigh'd & made saile in to the Harbr As did the Danish snow & lashed to the Cross wall.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/918.
2. Heligoland, an island about forty miles off the mouth of the Elbe river, from which the *Speedwell* had just departed.
3. The Danish snow was the *Patriot*, seized on suspicion of carrying supplies to the rebels, but later released after being searched. See "Extract of a letter from Dover, December 26."

9 Nov.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN JOHN COLPOYS, H.M.S. *Seaford*, PORTSMOUTH [1]

Having appointed you Captain of His Majesty's Ship *Seaford* at Portsmouth which we have order'd to be fitted & stored at that place for a Voyage to North America mann'd with One hundred & fifty Men & victualled for six Months with all Species of Provisions except Beer, of which she is to have as much as she can conveniently stow, and to be supplied with a proportion of Wine or Spirits for Two Months in lieu of the Remainder; You are hereby required and directed to use the utmost dispatch in getting her ready for the Sea accordingly, and then proceed to Spithead and wait for further [orders].

Given &c. the 9th. Novr. 1775

J.Buller Lisburne H.Palliser

By &c. P.S.

[1] PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 239–40.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM GOSPORT, NOV. 9" [1]

John Douglas, Esq; is appointed to the command of his Majesty's ship *Isis*, of 50 guns, and will go to America shortly, as third in command; Admiral Shuldham being first, and Sir Peter Parker second in command.

[1] *London Chronicle*, November 11 to November 14, 1775.

BARON GRANTHAM TO LORD ROCHFORD [1]

[Extract]

No 58. Escurial 9th November 1775.

My Lord, Since I had the Honour of writing last to your Lordship, M. Grimaldi has given me official Assurances, that proper Orders shall be sent from hence, to prevent the Exportation from the Ports of Spain of any warlike Stores upon British Vessels, and I enclose to your Lordship a Copy of my Note to him, & of his Answer to it, together with a Translation of the latter. Besides which Assurances, I have, from the Information which I have collected learnt, that any Search for Gun Powder in the Ports of this Kingdom would be fruitless, as the Regulations concerning it prevent any Quantity laying in the Hands of any body, who could dispose of it. – The Powder Magazine at Carthagena with no less than three thousand six hundred Quintals of Powder, has been struck by Lightning & blown up; some Lives were lost, but the Distance from the Town prevented the Damage extending so far.

From Cadiz I hear, that four Ships of the Line, and four Frigates were ordered to be equipped. . . .

There is no Answer from Portugal yet of any kind, tho' a fresh Promise of one is arrived; I am of opinion that if one does not come soon, Troops will be sent out to Buenos Ayres; & that nothing but continuing the Negociation will prevent it . . .

His Majesty's Consul at Corunna will I doubt not be very exact in his Intelligence, as He acquaints me that He always sends the same both to your Lordship & to me.

I have the Honor to be with the greatest Truth & Regard My Lord [&c.]

Grantham

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1. PRO, State Papers 94/199. Thomas Robinson, 2d Baron Grantham, was British Ambassador to Spain.

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10 Nov.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN SKEFFINGTON LUTWIDGE, H.M.S. *Triton*, SPITHEAD [1]

Notwithstanding our Order to you of the 20th of last Month, directing you to proceed to Boston; You are hereby required & directed, to proceed first to the Island of Fayal, where you are to receive on board from the Contractor with the Commissr for Victualling His Majts Navy, as soon as possible, so much Wine as may be sufficient to complete her proportion of Beer to six Months, and then make the best of your way to Boston, and follow the directions of Vice Adml Graves, or the Commander in Chief for the time being of His Majts Ships & Vessels there, as directed by Our Order abovementioned.

Given &c 10th Novr 1775.

Sandwich J.Buller H Palliser.

By &c P.S.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 243.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN SKEFFINGTON LUTWIDGE, R.N.[1]

Advices having been received from different parts of America, that the Inhabitants of the Colonies in general which are in Arms against the King, are collecting & fitting out Armed Vessels for effecting in various way their rebellious purposes; You are hereby required and directed, in pursuance of His Majesty's Pleasure signified to Us by the Earl of Dartmouth one of His Principal Secretaries of State, in his Letter of the 22d Ulto to exert your utmost endeavors to prevent such preparations, and to burn & destroy every Vessel that shall appear to be fitted out from any of the Colonies with such traiterous designs.

Given &c 10th Novr 1775

J Buller Lisburne H Palliser

Capt. Lutwidge – *Triton* – Spithead
By &c P. S.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 243–44.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO JOHN POWNALL [1]

Dear Sir

It is intended to send Lord Dartmouths Dispatches to Sir James Wright & Governor Tonyn by the *Hawke* which is now on her passage from the Nore to Spithead – If you wish to send Duplicates of Your Dispatches to Lord Wm Campbell & Governor Martin (which are on board the *Syren*) they may go by the *Hawke* Sloop. –

I shall send away tomorrow Your Dispatches for Boston & the Northern Colonies by the *Triton* instead of the *Actaeon* – I am, Dear Sir, [&c.]

Ph^{p} Stephens

Admiralty 10 Novr 1775

[1] PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122. Pownall was deputy Secretary of State.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO CAPTAIN RICHARD PEARSON, H.M. SLOOP *Speedwell*, DOVER [1]

Sir, [London] 10th Novemr 1775.

The Earl of Suffolk, One of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, having acquainted my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that the Lords of the Treasury have given Orders for two Custom House Cutters to proceed immediately to Dover and to follow your directions as to the properest Station for intercepting the *Anna Catherina* supposed to be laden, with Warlike Stores and Accoutrements intended for His Majesty's Rebellious Subjects in North America; I am commanded by their Lordships to inform you thereof, and to signify their direction to you to station the said Two Cutters in such manner as you shall judge most likely to answer the purpose beforementioned. I am &c.

Php Stephens

[1] PRO, Admiralty 2/1333, LC Photocopy.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO LIEUTENANT JOHN BAZELEY, H.M. CUTTER *Greyhound*, AT THE NORE [1]

Sir, [London] 10th Novemr 1775.

I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to signify their direction to you to proceed to Sea without a moment's loss of time and cruize between Dover and Calais in order to join, as soon as possible, the *Speedwell* Sloop, and upon joining her, to put yourself under the Command of Captain [Richard] Pearson and follow his Orders for your further proceedings.

If you should fall in with the *Anna Catherina* a Danish Frigate built Ship of about 400 Tons Burthen, Andreas Stander Master, bound from Altona to Cadiz, before you join the *Speedwell* Sloop, It is their Lordships direction that you sieze and bring her to Dover, and that you acquaint me therewith by Express, transmitting to me at the same time the Manifest of the Ship's Cargo and such other Papers as you may find on board of her, for their Lordships information. I am &c

Php Stephens

[Endorsed] The like Letter with the undermentioned Postscript to Lieut Walton, *Wells* Cutter, Nore.

Ps. You are not to wait to have the Cutter refitted, but put to Sea as soon as possible after you receive this.

P. S.

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1. PRO, Admiralty 2/1333, LC Photocopy.

COUNT DE GUINES TO COUNT DE VERGENNES [1]

[Extract] London. – November [10] 1775 [2]

News from the Ports

Plymouth

The ship *Chatham* and the frigate *Orpheus* sailed for America.

Syren still in the Sound.

The cutter *Folkstone* is being put into commission.

Portsmouth

Nothing new since our last dispatch dated 3 November.

Chatham

Isis is being put into commission, repaired and sheathed.

Ardent with 64 guns will be repaired.

Conquestadore is being put into commission.

The frigate *Carysford* will not be ready for some time.

Work is being done on *Emerald* as well as other frigates afloat.

Resolution is being fitted out.

The mortar galiot *Racehorse* has changed names; she is now called *Thunder*.

The Government has two frigates with 20 guns and six corvettes under construction in the merchants' shipyard on the river.

Thetis is destined for the Channel, *Sphynx* for the East Indies, *Pallas* for the Coast of Guinea, *Isis* for North America.

Deal-Castle, Fox, Greyhound, Seaford, Thunder, formerly *Racehorse,* are to serve abroad, but they have not yet been assigned any specific destination.

Table sent to the Admiralty and showing the number of Sailors and Marines aboard all various ships as of the 30th of September last, drawn from the log-books of the ships.

Sailors:	on the rolls	14 815
	mustered	14 636
Marines:	on the rolls	4 239
	mustered	2 005

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1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 512, LC Photocopy.
2. The date is established by Vergennes' letter of November 19, acknowledging de Guines' letter of the 10th, and the statement in the above table for Portsmouth, "Nothing new since our last dispatch dated 3 November."

COUNT DE VERGENNES TO GABRIEL DE SARTINE [1]

Fontainebleau, 10 November 1775

I had the honor to receive, Sir, your letter dated the 6th of this month and a copy of the one which Mr.Prévost de la Croix, General Commissioner at Lorient, sent you. I think that we must show the consideration which we hold for the Court of London by preventing the Americans from trading arms and war ammunition in our ports, but, at the same time, I am of the opinion that this courtesy must not turn to the detriment of our own trade. Furthermore, Sir, if we obstruct the trade in destination of the English Colonies, our precautions must not, in my opinion, extend to transactions concerning shipments marked [2] for Holland or other European ports.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 512, LC Photocopy.
2. Vergennes first wrote "destined for Holland and other European ports." He scratched out "destined" and substituted "marked." In other words, his policy was to assume that if they were marked for Holland, he had preserved his desire to satisfy the English, but that they reached Holland was none of his affair. "Destined for Holland," however, would presume an actual shipment to that country, a nice distinction, but a salve to his conscience.

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11 Nov.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO REAR ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM, BOSTON [1]

Sir, [Admiralty Office] 11th Novr 1775.

His Majesty having judged it expedient that a Body of Land Forces supported by a Squadron of Ships of War should be sent to North or South Carolina not only to encourage & support His Loyal Subjects in those and the adjacent Colonies to the Southward, but in order to make a Division from the Rebel Army acting against His Towns to the Northward; I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you therewith, and that in consequence thereof Sir Peter Parker in the *Bristol* with the Ships and Bomb Vessel named in the Margin,[2] will proceed from Corke in about a Month's time with Seven Regiments of Foot to Cape Fear, where he will be joined by the *Syren,* now under orders to proceed from Plymouth, with Dispatches to the Governors of North and South Carolina to collect such information as may be necessary to regulate the Operations of the said Sea & Land Forces. – Their Lordships will send Duplicates of the abovementioned Dispatches, as also Dispatches to the Governors of Georgia and East Florida, upon the same subject, in a few days by the *Hawke* Sloop, whose Commander will also join Sir Peter off Cape Fear with such Advices as he shall have obtained, and when Sir Peter can conveniently spare the Sloop, proceed to Jamaica to reinforce the Squadron under the Command of Rear Admiral Gayton.

As it is probable that from the Advices Sir Peter Parker may receive upon his arrival on the Coast, the Operations may be directed against Charles Town; the reinforcement of one, or two, two-decked Ships, may contribute greatly to the success thereof; Their Lordships therefore recommend it to you to send the *Experiment,* or a 40 Gunship, or both, to join Sir Peter off Cape Fear, if you can spare them from other Services; In which case you will also send him any Pilots you can collect who are acquainted with the Ports on that part of the Coast, and such Advices of the State of Affairs in America as you may think proper to communicate to him.

Their Lordships command me to add that altho' Sir Peter Parker is appointed to Command upon this particular Service, you are nevertheless to consider the Ships that accompany him as a part of your Squadron, and to take both him & them under your command & employ them in such manner as you shall judge best for the General Service; without diverting them however from the Operations beforementioned, the progress & success of which he will be instructed to inform you of. – But when these Operations are over, you will direct Sir Peter to station the Ships he has with him in such manner as you shall think most proper; And to the end that they may be the better enabled to continue upon those Stations, their Lordships have ordered a Storeship & a Victualler to be prepared to send with the Squadron from England in order to supply their wants. I have the honor to be &ca.

Php Stephens.

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1. PRO, Admiralty 2/1333, LC Photocopy.
2. *Actaeon, Boreas, Solebay, Deal Castle, Sphynx, Thunder* Bomb.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN JOHN MORRIS, H.M.S. *Bristol*, SHEERNESS [1]

You are hereby required and directed to enter Sir Peter Parker, together with his Secretary, Retinue & Servants, on the Books of the Ship you command, from the 1st instant; being the day on which he had our Order to hoist a broad Pendant on board the said Ship. Given &c. the 11th Novr 1775.

Sandwich J. Buller Lisburne

By &c. PS.

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1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 254.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO REAR ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM, BOSTON [1]

Sir, [Admiralty Office] 11th Novemr 1775.

My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty having received Advices that Vessels belonging to His Majesty's Rebellious Subjects in North America, and more particularly those of Philadelphia, do find means to elude the vigilance of His Majesty's Cruizers, and proceed with Cargoes to Ferrol, Lisbon, & several Ports in France, and return with Cargoes of Salt-petre, Gunpowder and other Warlike Stores; and that there are at this time two Vessels at Port L'Orient belonging to Philadelphia laden with Saltpetre ready to return thither, the one a Brigantine, the other a Schooner of about 100 Tons burthen, fitted out like a Privatier and mounted with eight carriage Guns; And their Lordships having also received Advices of the Track these Philadelphia Vessels pursue in their voyage to Europe after they leave Sandy Hook; I am commanded to send you Copies of some of the most material of the said Advices, and particularly of the last mentioned, for your information. I am &ca

Php Stephens.

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1. PRO, Admiralty 2/1333, LC Photocopy.

Philip Stephens to Rear Admiral Molyneux Shuldham [1]

Sir, [Admiralty Office] 11th Novr 1775.

I send you herewith twelve Pacquets from Lord George Germain, as by Schedule at back hereof, made up in three seperate Covers, and am to desire you will please to forward them according to their respective addresses by the first opportunity that offers. I am &c

Php Stephens

Schedule of Pacquets.

1 Major Genl [William] Howe
1 Governor [William] Tryon
1 Depty Govr [John] Penn
1 Lieut Govr [Thomas Oliver] Massachusets Bay
1 Govr [Francis] Legge
1 Govr & Co. [Joseph Wanton] – Rhode Island
1 Govr [John] Wentworth
1 Govr & Co [Jonathan Trumbull] Connecticut
1 Lord Dunmore
1 Govr [Robert] Eden
1 Govr [William] Franklin
1 Earl [Hugh] Percy.

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 2/1333, LC Photocopy.

Philip Stephens to Rear Admiral Molyneux Shuldham [1]

Sr. [Admiralty Office] 11th Novr 1775

I send you herewith Twelve Pacquets from the Earl of Dartmouth for the Governor, Deputy Governor & Commr in Chief of several of His Majestys Colonies a Schedule whereof is at the back hereof, And am to desire you will please to take the earliest opportunity of forwarding them according to their respective Addresses I am &c

P S

Schedule of Packets

1. Govr Legge	Nova Scotia
1. Govr Wentworth	New Hampshire
1. Govr & Compa	Connecticut
1. Govr & Compa	Rhode Island
1. Govr Tryon	New York
1. Govr [William] Franklin	New Jersey
1. Depy. Govr [John] Penn	Pensylvania
1. Depy. Govr	Do
1. Govr Eden	Maryland
1. Depy Govr.	Do
1. Ld Dunmore Govr Virginia	
1. Commr in Chief	Do

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 298.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL SIR JAMES DOUGLAS, PORTSMOUTH [1]

Sir, [Admiralty Office] 11th Novr 1775.

I send you herewith three Pacquets addressed to Rear Admiral Shuldham, which I am to desire you will please to forward to him by Captain [Skeffington] Lutwidge of the *Triton*. I am &ca

Php Stephens.

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 2/1333, LC Photocopy.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO CAPTAIN SKEFFINGTON LUTWIDGE, H.M.S. *Triton*, PORTSMOUTH [1]

Sir, [Admiralty Office] 11th Novemr 1775.

My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty having received advice that Ships belonging to His Majesty's Rebellious Subjects in North America, and more particularly those of Philadelphia, do find means to elude the vigilance of His Majts Ships cruizing upon that Coast and proceed with Cargoes to various Ports of France and Spain and Portugal in Europe; and that such Vessels are under injunctions upon their departure from America to use their utmost efforts to go so far to the Southward immediately after their leaving Sandy Hook as the 35th Degree of North Latitude until they reach the 50th Degree of West Longitude from London & then proceed with the utmost dispatch to the Ports to which they are bound in the parts of Europe beforementioned; I am commanded by their Lordships to signify their direction to you to look carefully out for any Ships or Vessels that may fall within the above description and in case you meet with any such to seize and carry them with you to Boston. I am &ca

Php Stephens.

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 2/1333, LC Photocopy.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN WILLIAM CORNWALLIS, H.M.S. *Pallas,* SPITHEAD [1]

Whereas we intend that you shall proceed in the Ship you command to the Coast of Africa for the protection & security of the Trade of His Majesty's Subjects in those Parts; You are hereby required and directed to put to Sea with the first opportunity of Wind and Weather, and proceed with all possible dispatch to the Island of Madeira or Teneriffe where you are to take in a sufficient quantity of Wine for the use of your Ships Company.

Having so done you are to make the best of your way off the River Senegal, and, if you shall find the Garrison or Factories there to stand in need of your assistance, you are to give it them, and then proceed to the River Gambia to inquire into the State of Affairs there, and to give the Garrison and Factories in that River such countenance and assistance as they also may stand in need of.

You are to proceed from thence to Sierra Leon, where you are to cause the Ship to be supplied with Wood & Water, and then proceed down the Coast to Cape Coast Castle, taking particular care to call at Cape Appollonia, where the African Company are erecting a Fort in consequence of an Act of Parliament obtained for that purpose, and to give such assistance & protection to the People employ'd on that Work as circumstances may require, and may be consistent with the other Services which you are hereby required to perform.

From Cape Coast Castle you are to proceed to Whidau, stopping not only at the places herein before particularly mention'd but at all the British Forts, Settlements & places of Trade on the Coast of Africa, and to give such countenance & protection to His Majesty's trading Subjects in those parts, as they may respectively stand in need of, and particularly to endeavour to take, destroy, or drive away, any Pirates who may infest the same; taking care however, not to make any longer stay at any of the said Forts, Settlements or places of Trade, than may be necessary for the abovemention'd Services, and to inspect & examine into their State and Condition, the number of Soldiers therein, and the Military Stores &c. belonging to the African Company, in the manner directed by an Act of Parliament passed in the Twenty third Year of His late Majesty's Reign, which we herewith inclose & which you are most punctually to comply with; taking care that the Reports you make, in consequence thereof, be all drawn and conformable to the annex'd Scheme, and that the State of such Forts &c. as you may not be able to inspect and examine yourself, be attested by the Officers you appoint to inspect and examine the same, as well as by the Servants of the African Company.[2]

When you have examin'd the State of the Settlements at Whidau, you are to cruize between that place and Cape La Ho, so long as the State of your Provisions will admit of it, reserving a sufficiency to carry you to Jamaica.

And whereas the Inhabitants of several of His Majesty's Colonies & Plantations in North America Vizt in New Hampshire, Massachusets Bay, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pensylvania the three lower Counties on Delaware Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina & South Carolina have traiterously combined together for the general Purpose of resisting the Authority of this Kingdom, and have in a hostile manner array'd themselves in Arms and committed Acts of open & actual Rebellion, And there being great reason to suspect that His Majesty's rebellious Subjects in North America are supplied with Gunpowder, Arms and Ammunition from the Coast of Africa, to which large quantities of those Articles are sent from Europe in the way of trade; You are, in pursuance of His Majesty's Pleasure signified to Us by the Earl of Dartmouth one of His principal Secretaries of State, in his Letter of the 29th of August last, hereby required and directed to seize all such Ships & Vessels belonging to the Twelve associated Colonies abovemention'd or own'd by the Inhabitants thereof, as you shall find trading at Fort or Factory, not only between Whidau and Cape La Ho but upon any part of the said Coast.

When from the exhausted State of your Provisions you find it necessary to leave the Coast, you are to repair to Princes Island or the Island of St Thomas to recruit your Wood and Water and proceed from thence to Jamaica, carrying with you such Ships & Vessels as you may have seiz'd under the circumstances abovemention'd & delivering them into the Charge of Rear Admiral Gayton or the Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships on that Station for the time being, to be there detain'd til' His Majts further pleasure shall be known, or proceeded against according to Law, as the nature of the Case may require. You are then to take in as much Provisions of each Species as may be necessary for your Passage to

England, and make the best of your way to Spithead, and to wait there til' further Order, transmitting to our Secretary, for our Information, an Account of your arrival & proceedings.

It being difficult to procure Wood and Water in some parts of the Coast of Africa, some of the Men belonging to His Majesty's Ships having been formerly killed and others wounded for attempting to Supply themselves therewith, without making some acknowledgements to the Natives, We do hereby empower your Purser (and you are to direct him accordingly) to procure & carry thither Goods, such as you may judge may be most agreable to the Natives of the Places where you may want to Wood and Water not exceeding in value Ten Pounds, which the Purser is to dispose of as you shall direct, at such places where the Wood and Water cannot be got otherwise; And you are to let the Purser know that the said Goods are to be provided out of his standing allowance of necessary Money under the Condition of his being allowed Credit on his Accounts for such part thereof as may be expended for the aforesaid purposes, upon his producing a Certificate under the Hand of the signing Officer of the *Pallas* of the particular Quantity & Value of the Goods applied to that Service, And you are to cause Invoices of the Goods so provided by the Purser to be lodged in the Office of the Commissioners of the Victualling.

And whereas complaints have been made that the Captains of His Majesty's Ships have made ill use of this liberty by trading themselves on the Coast of Africa, and have even transported great numbers of Negroes in His Majesty's Ships to Barbadoes for public Sale, to the dishonor of His Majesty's Service, the prejudice of the fair Trader, & in breach of an Act of Parliament pass'd in the eighth Year of King George the first, which prohibits under severe Penalties the Commanders of His Majesty's Ships to receive any Goods or Merchandize on board in order to Trade with the same: We do hereby strictly require and enjoin you, neither directly or indirectly, to concern yourself in any sort of Trade whatever, as you will answer the contrary at your peril, and in order to prevent any evasive excuses whatever hereafter We do hereby declare that if we get any Information of any Goods, Slaves or other Merchandize of what kind soever being receiv'd on board the Ship you command in the way of Trade, we shall esteem the same to be your own Act, and shall expect you to be accountable for it, in as much as such a Practice cannot possibly be carried on without your knowledge and consent.

For the preservation of the Health of your Ships Company whilst you shall be on the Coast of Africa, you are to be careful to observe the following Instructions Vizt

1st Never to lie Twenty four Hours in any River, except Gambia and Sierra Leon, nor to suffer your Officers or Men to lie on shore, or to drink Palm Wine.

2d You are not to let your Men cut Wood, or do any Work on shore which the Natives can be hired to do for a small expence.

3d When any of your Men are on the recovering hand from Sickness you are to cause them to be excused from duty as much as possible, until they are perfectly recover'd.

In case of the death of any of your Officers during such time as you shall not be under the command of a Superior or Senior Officer, you are to appoint such other Persons to act in their room, as by the quality of their Employment ought to succeed therein.

And in case of your inability by Sickness or otherwise, to execute these Instructions, you are to be careful to leave them with the next Officer in command to you, who is hereby empower'd to carry the same into execution.
Given &c. the 11th November 1775.

Sandwich J.Buller Lisburne

By &c. P.S.

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1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 244–52.
2. *Ibid.*, 253, the form is in blank.

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12 Nov. (Sunday)

REAR ADMIRAL GEORGE BRYDGES RODNEY TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN [1]

My dear Lord, Paris Novr 12th 1775

Mr Sackville this morning most agreeably surprised me with the News that your Lordship was appointed Secretary of State for the Colonies,

No Friend whatever can more truly rejoice than I do that Justice has at last been rendered to your Merit and that you are in some degree made Amends, for the gross, Cruel, base, unjustifiable persecution you underwent in the late Reign, and that you may long continue to fill the very Important Post to which you are called, with Credit to Yourself and to the Honour of your King & Country, is the most Ardent and sincere Wish of him who will ever be, with real Truth and Respect [&c.]

G B Rodney [2]

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1. Germain Papers, CL.
2. Losses at play in fashionable circles and other misfortunes had caused Rodney to live in Paris until he could pay his debts.

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13 Nov.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN ROBERT FANSHAW, H.M.S. *Carysfort*, CHATHAM [1]

Having appointed you Captain of His Majesty's Ship *Carysfort* at Chatham which we have order'd to be fitted and stored at that place for a Voyage to North America – mann'd with one hundred and eighty Men & victualled for six Months with all Species of Provisions except Beer, of which she is to have as much as she can conveniently stow, and to be supplied with a proportion of Wine or Spirits for two Months in lieu of the remainder; You are hereby required and directed, to use the utmost dispatch in getting her ready for the Sea accordingly, and then falling down to Blackstakes take in her Guns & Gunners Stores at that place and proceed to the Nore for further Order. Given &c the 13th Novr 1775

Sandwich J.Buller H.Palliser

By &c. P.S.

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1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 255.

LORD GEORGE GERMAIN TO THE LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY [1]

My Lords

Whitehall 13th Novr 1775.

The King having signified His Majesty's pleasure that Seven Regiments of Infantry should hold themselves in readiness to embark on or about the first of December and to proceed to North America, in order to give countenance and protection to His Majesty's well affected Subjects Inhabitants of the Southern Provinces, and to assist in the suppression of Rebellion and restoration of legal Government there; I am commanded by the King to signify to your Lordships His Majesty's further Pleasure, that you do appoint such a number of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels and of such a rate to accompany this Armament, as your Lordships shall think proper, acquainting me at the same time, for His Majesty's Information, with the names of the Ships so appointed and also with the name of the Officer who is to have the Command of the whole. I am &ca

Geo: Germain

[1] PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 32.

JOHN POWNALL TO JOHN BODDINGTON [1]

Sir

Whitehall 13th November 1775.

I am directed by Lord George Germain to desire you will transmit to me for his Lordship's Information, a return of the Ordnance, Ammunition, and Stores intended to be sent with the Seven Regiments now preparing to embark for an Expedition to North America, with the Names of the Vessels on board which such Ordnance, Ammunition and Stores either are, or are intended to be embarked. I am &ca.

J Pownall./

[1] PRO, Colonial Office, 5/161, 112. Boddington was a deputy in the Board of Ordnance.

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14 Nov.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN DIGBY DENT, H.M.S. *Arethusa*, AT THE DOWNS [1]

You are hereby required and directed, to return forthwith in the Ship you command, and cruize very diligently again for the space of Ten days more, between Dungeness and the Coast of France, to endeavour to intercept the Vessels mention'd & described in our Order to you of the 28th of last Month; And, not falling in with, or receiving any good Intelligence to induce you to expect to fall in with, the said Vessels or any of them, you are, at the expiration of that time, to make the best of your way back to the Downes, and remain there until you receive further Order.

Given &c. the 14th of November 1775.

Sandwich J.Buller Palmerston

By &c.

[1] PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 258.

15 Nov.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN [1]

My Lord Admiralty Office 15th Novr 1775.

Your Lordship having acquainted us by your Letter of the 13th Instant that His majesty has been pleased to order Seven Regiments of Infantry to hold themselves in readiness to embark on or about the 1st of December next; And your Lordship having at the same time signified to us His Majesty's Pleasure that we should appoint such a number of His Majesty's Ships & Vessels & of such a Rate to accompany this Armament as we shall think proper; We have in consequence thereof ordered the Ships & Vessels named in the inclosed List to be prepared to accompany the said Armament, & shall appoint Commodore Sir Peter Parker to command the same; which we signify to your Lordship for His Majesty's information, and are My Lord, [&c.]

Sandwich Lisburne
J Buller H. Palliser.

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1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 36a.

"A LIST OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIPS & VESSELS APPOINTED TO ACCOMPANY SEVEN REGIMENTS OF INFANTRY." [1]

[15 November, 1775]

Rate	Guns	Ships	Men	Commanders.
4	50	*Bristol*	365	Comdre Sir Peter Parker Capt John Morris
6	28	*Actaeon*	180	Chrisr Atkins
"	28	*Boreas*	180	Chas Thompson
"	28	*Solebay*	180	Willm Symonds
"	28	*Syren**	180	Tobias Furneaux
"	20	*Dealcastle*	150	James Worth
"	20	*Sphynx*	150	Anthy Hunt
Slo	10	*Hawke**	80	Robt Palliser Cocper
Bom	8	*Thunder*	80	James Reid

*These will proceed the others with preparatory Dispatches.

[Endorsed] In the Lords of the Admiralty's Letter of the 15th Novembr

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 36b.

WILLIAM EDEN TO GOVERNOR ROBERT EDEN [1]

Copy Downing-Street [London] Novr [15th 1775]

My dear Bob:

Tom Eden is so violent a Patriot, that he will not let me write one Word worth your reading, as he says that my accursed Politics have already brought a Slur on the Blood of our Family – take plain Facts therefore without any Comment – Ld Dartmouth has quitted the Seals [2] for the Privy Seal, which was vacated by the Dismission of the Duke of Grafton, his Grace having made a Crane-necked Turn in his Politics since last Year: [3] it is another of my disgraces to be honoured with the Friendship of your new Principal, who I believe will fill his Department ably and actively, and is particularly intimate with the Commanders in chief on your Continent –[4] Ld Rochford has retired on honourable and amicable Terms,[5] we are removing to his Office as Senior, but retain the Northern Department, Ld Weymouth[6] succeeds to the Southern – the other smaller Promotions you will see in the Papers – about four fifths of the House of Commons continue as blindly devoted, as your humble servant to a System of Exertion, that this Nation can make beyond any Nation in the World, and that we are Fools enough to think the Nation thoroughly disposed to make – You, who are a moderate Man, and wish well and kindly to both Parties, at the same Time that you dislike the Extremes of the Language and Conduct pursued by both, will distinguish Truth from Falshood in the strange Jumble of Misrepresentation, with which our News-papers are stuffed – I shall only add for the present, that I hope we shall all find some Bridge at last to head us back to our old good Humour and Prosperity: but we have a rough Road to go over, before we can arrive at it. – Believe me ever very affectionately yours

Wm Eden

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1. Council of Safety Letter Book, No. 1, Md. Arch. Enclosure No. 20 in Maryland Council of Safety to Maryland Delegates in Congress, April 16–19, 1776. William Eden was Under Secretary of State; Robert Eden, Governor of Maryland.
2. William Legge, 2d Earl of Dartmouth, had been principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, and was "kicked upstairs" into the Privy Council in November, 1775.
3. August Henry Fitzroy, Duke of Grafton, had resigned from the Privy Council, being in favor of conciliatory action towards the Colonies.
4. Lord George Germain.
5. William Henry Zuylestein, Lord Rochford (1754–1830), retired as Secretary of State for the Southern Department, in November, 1775.
6. Thomas Thynne, 3d Viscount Weymouth, previously had been Secretary of State for the Southern Department from 1768 to 1770. He had resigned in December, 1770, and was now returning to his former post.

Intercepted Letter to Thomas Ringgold[1]

[Extract] London Novembr 15th 1775

Dear Sir I wrote you a long letter about a month ago, in answer to the only one I have had the pleasure of receiving from you in England. I have had no reason to alter the sentiment I even at that time expressd of public affairs. Ministry has not been so bold in their measures as was expected, but They still are abundantly able, notwithstanding some defections to carry every Thing they please – You will find that there is some talk of conciliatory measures & you will as a Lover of your country rejoice, even at the Idea; But when every hostile preparation is continued & continued under the direction of Men, whose desighns against America have been the fatal cause of our misfortunes what terms can They offer which consistent with our declarations & conduct, we can honourably or safely except – An Armament will sail most certainly next month for South Carolina. You will see an account of it in the daily papers I send to my relations But as I have it from much better authority, I beg you to communicate it Where it is necessary it should be known. A Gentleman has promisd me a list of the force intended to be imployd on that service – which I hope to receive time enough to inclose[2] –

My health is so bad, that I shall not in all probability be able to Leave England for some months . . .

Tho^s^ Ringold Esq Chester Town Maryland

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1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/40.
2. The enclosure was probably removed when the letter was intercepted.

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16 Nov.

Philip Stephens to Vice Admiral Sir James Douglas, Portsmouth [1]

Sir [Admiralty Office] 16th November 1775

I have communicated to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty your Letter of yesterdays date, informing them that a Whaling Brig belonging to Rhode Island and Nantucket, bound to Falklands Island is arrived Spithead from Fayal, where she was seized by Captain [Francis] Banks of the *Renown* and that the Petty Officer who brought her home informd you that four more are seized by the *Renown* and *Experiment* and on their passage to Spithead, and therefore desiring to have their Lordship's directions what to do with them; and I am commanded to acquaint you that you may expect to receive their Lordship's direction respecting them very soon. I am &c

P:S:

[1] PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 312.

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17 Nov.

Count de Guines to Count de Vergennes [1]

[Extract] London, 17 November 1775
No. 308

News from the Ports.

Plymouth

Syrène sailed for America. The frigate *Apollo* left dry dock. Repairs have been discontinued on the ship *Rippon* in order to work on *Fame.*

Portsmouth

Romney arrived in port. The frigrate *Boreas* is at Spithead. She has on board 18 carpenters and 5 locksmiths for Halifax.

The frigate *Triton* is at Spithead with the ships that were there last week. The frigate *Juno* needs a new bottom: hers is full of holes and eaten by the worms. *Pallas* has not left yet. Lately, many sailors died on board the guard ships.

Chatham

The frigate *Flora* will be sheathed. *Emerald* is in need of important repairs. Work on the frigates *Galathea* and *Eolus* is done with dispatch, and the transport ships are being readied in a hurry.

The Admiralty has given order to build a ship with 74 guns and a corvette in the King's shipyard at Deptford.

A transport ship left Chatham carrying the masts, yards and riggings for the ship *Sultan* of 74 guns now being built in Harwick. This ship will be launched about next Christmas and she will then be brought to Chatham.

Isis has left dry dock. *Ardent* is in dry dock.

The mortar galiot *Thunder* is being fitted out. The two frigates of 20 guns and the six corvettes which the Government ordered to be built in the merchants' shipyards on the river, are to be launched at the end of March 1776.

[1] AMAE, Correspondance Politique Angleterre, vol. 512, LC Photocopy.

INTELLIGENCE FROM A LONDON NEWSPAPER[1]

London, November 17.

Orders were on Tuesday night sent to Portsmouth for the *Greyhound* sloop of war, now in dock, and fitting for America, to be got ready with all possible despatch. It is reported some persons are to go in this ship with powers to propose terms of reconciliation, the event of which may be known time enough to prevent the sending more forces in the spring.

The calling in foreign troops seeming to be considered an indispensable measure by the friends of Administration, it was judiciously remarked by General [Henry Seymour] Conway, that if once we set America the example, she too would apply for foreign aid; and if she offered her commerce to France, he did not doubt but that country, finding England had applied to Russia for aid, would protect America, and thus a general war be brought on.

At twelve o'clock this day arrived a mail from New-York, brought by the *Harriot* packet, Captain Lee, to Falmouth; she has brought a great many letters. This is the last mail that will arrive from thence till farther orders.

The *Charming Sally,* Wilson, a transport from London to Boston, is lost on the Goodwin Sands, and all the people perished.

[1] *Pennsylvania Evening Post,* January 30, 1776.

RICHARD CHAMPION TO WILLING, MORRIS & CO.[1]

Gentlemen Bristol Novemr [17] 1775[2]

I enclose you a Copy of the Bill which Mr [Edmund] Burke intended to have introduced into the House, as a ground of reconciliation. I also send you an imperfect abstract of what he said, and even not yet concluded, but you will see the ground which the Friends of American have taken by it. I wish it had been more perfect, but such is the dislike the present Ministry have to their Debates being heard, that in all probability one of the best, and most judicious Speeches ever made, will be lost. Mr Burke was above three hours speaking. The Propositions were supported by 105, and if Mr Burke had not been obliged to defer it for a Week, they would have been by 150, for so many are the friends to America at this time. Its Enemies are so much diminished, as not to exceed the 210 who voted against them. The rest, though disposed to Ministry, are tired of the Expence and uncertainty of the American War, and are not fond of acting.

The Number of Lords favourable to America is very considerable for fortune and Influence, but above all, for their great Characters. The Minority in both Houses are almost wholly composed of those who adhere to Lord Rockingham, who is at the head of the remains of the Whig Party, and have been ever steady friends to America, as you may judge by the Notes and Protests they have signed from the beginning of these Troubles, as well as by their Conduct when in Administration. Many Persons have endeavored to alienate the minds of the Americans from them, who alone are able and willing to serve them, by putting them out of Humour with the declaratory Act; but those who know this Country are sensible, that the declaratory Act was the price paid to the prejudices of the Country for the relief then given to America; and which if it had been in temperat hands like those who first made it, and repealed the Stamp Act at the same time, might have proved not only safe to America, but useful to her, and the whole Empire: but the new Arrangements which Lord Chatham unfortunately made upon their Ruins, which turned out the Whigs and put the Tories into place, have enabled the Latter to dominate in this Country ever since, and to revive the old Scheme of making America submit to Taxation, and to pursue it with unremiting Rancour. The Whigs in England are the only body which the Whigs in America have to trust to, if they do not mean Independence, for if they have any such Views, the Whigs in England must equally be her Enemies with the Tories who are now in Power; Though they love the Liberty of America upon Principle, because they would have all Men possess Liberty as well as themselves, & yet they have a strong predilection, even a stronger to the Interest of their own Country than the Tories, and never will abandon or give it up. They are willing to make Concessions as you see by the Bill, and trust for a grateful Return to the Duty and affection of America. They are willing to give the strongest publick assurances, which in the Nature of things can be given for the Liberty of America in the one great and essential point but must require that America should on her side abandon, or at least not insist on some Claims that tend to weaken or rather take away the rest of the general superintending legislative Authority. When Men are inclined to reconciliation, and the great point is secured, they will not be embarrassed, it is to be hoped, upon matters of less moment, and which perhaps may be of no moment at all, when the fundamental point of Liberty, relative to Taxation, is secured.

What has strengthened Administration, and weakened the Hands of the Whigs in this Country more than can be conceived is this, that it is Misrepresented here, that America is adverse to every set of Men among us, and this is urged as a Proof of their aiming at Independency. This is continually urged by Lord Mansfield in the House of Lords, and the Declaration & Resolutions of the Congress, which make no sort of distinction between that Administration, which risqued every thing for their Relief, (and in attempting it, ruined their Interest at Court, and has kept them out of Power ever since), and this subsequent Administration, who have uniformly acted against America upon System, have given but too much Countenance to this opinion. It is inconceivable how much the Whigs have suffered in the publick opinion from these Proceedings.

Lord Chatham is now so ill that it is impossible, taking his advanced Age and extreme Infirmity together that he can live long, and he is now, as he has been for some time past utterly incapable of all Business. when he did come out, he did not act in concert with the Whigs, which considering his great Name and Talents, is much to be lamented. The Propositions which he made in the House of Lords were without any consultation whatsoever with them, and were in several respects contrary to their Sentiments, and were supported by them in the House of Lords only that the Ministry might not derive any appearance of triumph from any Disunion among them. The Plan to which Lord Rockingham and the Body of the Whigs adhered is that expressed in the Bill, which I send you, and which in substance were the resolutions moved for by Mr Burke last Sessions. You are to judge, which of those two Plans you like best, but to one of those two you ought to give Countenance, or you cannot expect friends in this Country. The Duke of Grafton, and his friends, as well as several other Gentlemen have returned to the Whig Cause, from which they have been unhappily separated, and I believe, will tenaciously adhere to it. I repeat it again, and I speak it from authority, that the Whig Party, which is composed of Men of the first Rank reputation and knowledge in this Country, is the only reliance of America, supposing she means honestly and sincerely to be dependent on Great Britain. The Individuals here who act in opposition from their private purposes, or the clamours of the Mob which may be easily raised, and as easily silenced, she must pay no Regard to. But then America, instead of discrediting the Whig Party, must give them Credit and support by shewing, that it is of a bad System that they complain, and not of the whole Country. The Quarrel between a party here, and all America may be decided in favour of America, without prejudice to this Country but a Quarrel between the whole body of the two Countries must be [disastrous?] to both, and it is hard to say to which of them in the greatest [degre]e.

I am ever with the most sincere regard Gentlemen [&c.]

R Champion

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1. Morris Papers, HUL.
2. The date is approximated. Burke introduced his proposals in the House of Commons on Thursday, November 16, and the vote rejecting them was taken "just prior to 4 A.M." on Friday, November 17. The news could have reached Champion in Bristol by Friday night.

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18 Nov.

Philip Stephens to Vice Admiral Sir James Douglas, Portsmouth [1]

Sir, [Admiralty Office] 18th November 1775

My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty understanding by a Letter transmitted to them by the Lords Commrs of His Majestys Treasury that private Merchants endeavour to have Money conveyed to North America in His Majesty's Ships which is not intended for payment of His Majesty's Forces there; I am commanded by their Lordships to signify their direction to you to acquaint the Captains of His Majesty's Ships now fitting out, or that may hereafter be directed to fit out at Portsmouth for North America, that they are not to receive any

Money or Bullion on board the Ships they respectively command consigned to any Person or Persons in North America, without their Lordships permission for so doing. I am &c

P:S:

[Similar letters directed to]
Capt [Thomas] Graves, Senior Officer, Plymouth
Commodore [George] Mackenzie or Senior officer at Chatham

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 321.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO SIR GREY COOPER [1]

Sir [Admiralty Office] 18th Novemr 1775

Having communicated to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty your Letter of this date, informing them that the Lords Commissioners of His Majestys Treasury have received undoubted information that Ten Vessels which sailed about the middle of September last, from the Port of Philadelphia for Ireland, are engaged to go from thence to Russia & Hamburgh there to take on board coarse Linnens of different kinds, which it is intended they shall land in the River Delaware or at some part of the Coast near it in this present Winter; That six Vessels more are soon to be engaged in the like destination and Service, and that this attempt is made at the risque of the Province of Pensylvania, or of the associated Colonies in General, and not undertaken by private adventurers, the very great scarcity of coarse Linnens in America, and particularly those proper for the Army, being the reason of such attempt, and signify their Lordship's desire, that such directions may be given to the Commanders of His Majestys Ships in Europe, as well as in America, as shall be judged proper; I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you that Orders will be given accordingly, and that if the Lords of the Treasury have received any description of the said Vessels my Lords desire to be furnished with it I am &c

P:S:

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 322–23. Cooper was a secretary of the British Treasury.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL SIR JAMES DOUGLAS, PORTSMOUTH [1]

Sir [Admiralty Office] 18th November 1775

I have communicated to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty your Letter of Yesterday's date, informing them of His Majesty's Ship *Pallas* being sailed to the Westward, and of the Sloop *Diana,* the *Minerva* and *Abigail* Brigs American Vessels, the first two taken by the *Experiment,* the latter by the *Renown* being arrived at Spithead; and I am commanded by their Lordships to signify their direction to you, to send to Boston by the *Triton* the Petty Officers and Seamen belonging to His Majesty's Ships the *Experiment* and *Renown,* who came in the above American Vessels. I am &c P:S:

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 322.

CAPTAIN CHARLES THOMPSON, R.N., TO PHILIP STEPHENS [1]

Sir *Boreas* Spithead Novr 18 – 1775

In answer to yours of the 16th acquainting me that my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty desire to know what money I have received on freight onboard the Ship I command, from whom, and by what leave or permission, and to whom consigned: I beg you will please to acquaint their Lordships, that I have received onboard, between Seven and Eight thousand pounds, from Messrs Barnard and Apthrope Merchants in London, it is consigned to Nathaniel Coffin Esqr Deputy to the Treasurer of the Customs in America, the time I received it, was under orders for Boston and did not know it was necessary to ask leave to take it onboard and I intended acquainting the Commanding Officer at Boston on my arrival there and taken his permission before I landed any part of it. I am Sir [&c.]

C Thompson

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 1/2591.

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19 Nov. (Sunday)

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES [1]

Sir [Admiralty Office] 19h: Novemr 1775

I received on the 14h Instant by the *Pallas* Transport your several Letters of the 6h, 12th, 22d & 26h of September, and of the 3d and 9h of October last, giving an Account of the proceedings of the Squadron under your Command; also which were immediately communicated to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, and Copies thereof sent to Lord George Germaine for His Majesty's Information.

Their Lordships approve of the reasons you have offered for increasing the Complement of the New *Halifax* Schooner to 40 Men And it is their direction that you order her Complement to be increased to that number of Men accordingly.

Their Lordships also approve of the directions you have given to Captain [Edward] Le Cras to wear a distinguishing Pendant while he continues at Boston, and they will consider of your recommendation of Captain [John] Collins for a remission of the Mulct inflicted upon him by the Sentence of a Court Martial.

My Lords approve of your having permitted Captain [David] Pryce to resign the Command of the *Viper* on account of his ill state of health also of your intention to send Captain [John] Macartney to England to have his Conduct enquired into at a Court Martial here. And they have in consequence thereof, signed Commissions for Captain James Montagu of the *Kingsfisher* Sloop to be Captain of the *Mercury,* and for Lieutenant Alexander Graeme and Samuel Graves to be Commanders, the former of the *Kingsfisher,* and the latter of the *Viper* Sloop, which Commissions I send you in a separate Letter, to be delivered them, and have the honor to be &c

P: S:

Vice Admiral Graves, at Boston (By the *Triton*)

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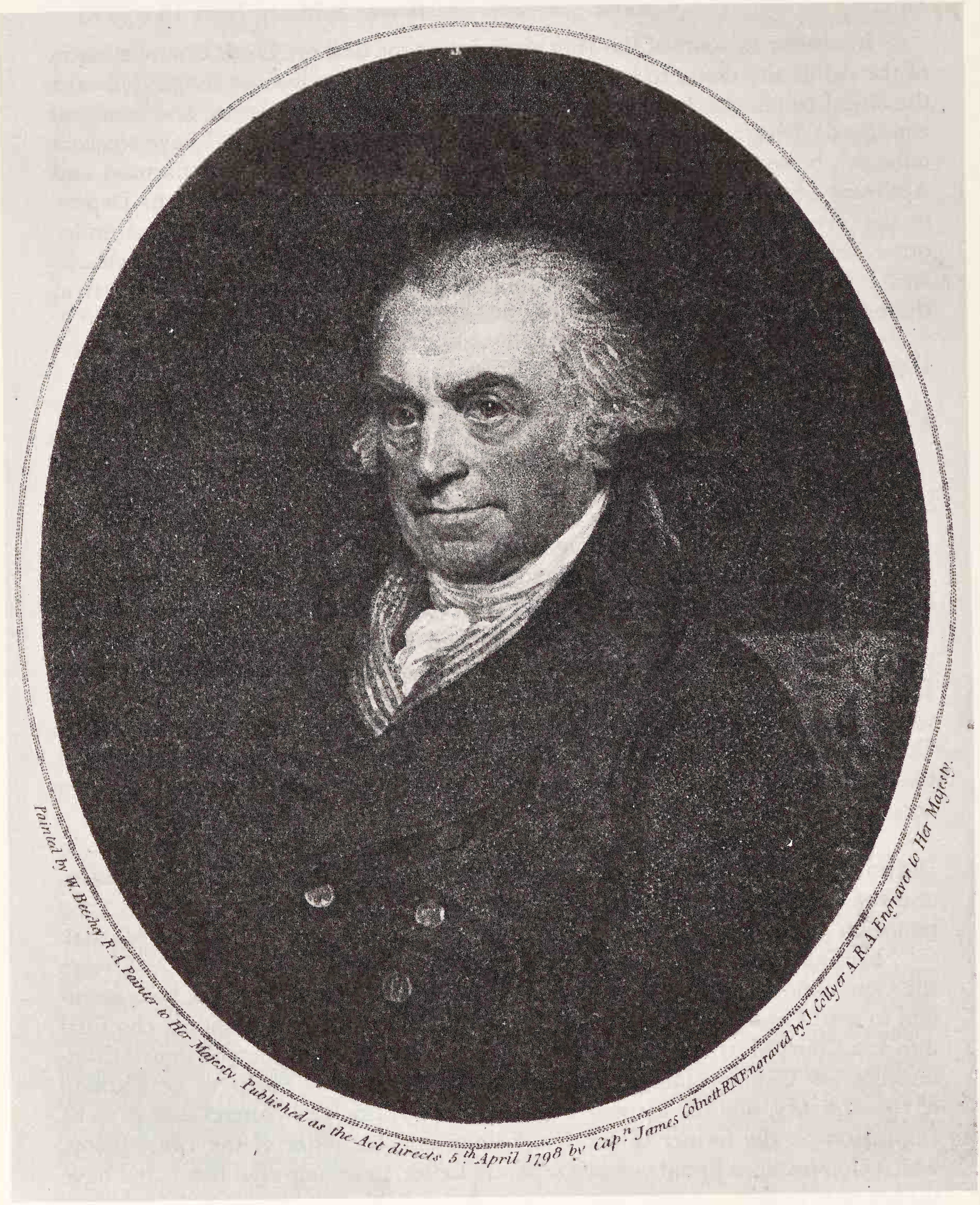
[1] PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 323–24.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Philip Stephens, Secretary of the British Admiralty.

COUNT DE VERGENNES TO COUNT DE GUINES [1]

Versailles, 19 November 1775

I had the honor to receive, Sir, the letter you wrote me on the tenth of this month and the various documents which were enclosed; they are all very interesting and I beg you to receive the sincere expression of my gratitude.

The unexpected retirement of Lord Rochford is an event to which we are particularly sensitive since we knew his manner of thinking and since we could trust his disposition in maintaining harmony and understanding between our respective Courts. It seems, Sir, that you do not hold the same opinion about his successor: indeed, Lord Weymouth is not to be recommended for his peaceful intentions judging by his behavior during the affair of the Falkland Islands; [2] he came very close to having this dispute degenerate into an open war, and, because his advice did not prevail, he resigned from the Ministry. Furthermore, whatever his principles and political views may be, it can be assumed, Sir, that the present circumstances will suspend his fighting ardor against France and Spain if at least they do not weaken it. When one considers the critical situation where England finds herself with respect to America, it is difficult to imagine that there would be a minister with so little sense that he would add a foreign war to the existing domestic problems. In the present state of affairs, it would increase by far the tendency on the part of the Americans to seek complete independence rather than a reconciliation with the mother-country. Regardless of the consequences which will sooner or later stem from this recent change in the British Ministry, the manner of thinking of the King [Louis XVI] remains unchanged: you are aware of it, Sir, and His Majesty expects from your wisdom that, while conforming to the spirit of His instructions which you received through me, you will use in their application all the modifications required by the difference of personalities. We feel that since you do not entertain with Lord Weymouth the same friendly and trustful relationship which existed between you and Lord Rochford, you must endeavor far more to learn his manner of thinking than to instill your own into him.

Whatever Lord Weymouth's disposition may be, our Newfoundland affair will hardly give you the opportunity for some time to determine his true way of thinking: his lack of instructions and the fact he will need them will make it very easy for him to evade the issue at first. In this respect, I cannot help but remind you, Sir, that, although we wish to bring this affair to an end once and for all, it is not the intention of the King, however, that you should handle it with such assiduity that the English Ministers might be led to believe that we are trying to make an issue out of it.

The debates of the House of Lords are very interesting. They bring much light on the real views of the government which, while speaking only of war and all the preparations to wage it, seems far more interested in peace and the means to make it, even at the cost of a few sacrifices. I would be obliged to you, Sir, if you continue to send us the reports of the debates. The expenses which you will incur shall be exactly reimbursed.

I conveyed to His Majesty the mark of appreciation on the part of the King of England who instructed you to do so, for the assistance given by Mr. de Robec to an English transport ship which ran aground near Dunkerque and to the Hanoverian troops she carried. His Majesty hereby instructs you to assure His British Majesty that he can expect at all times, on the part of the King, the same expression of friendship and agreement. On the order of the King, I wrote to M. de Robeck to express the satisfaction of the King and to authorize him to continue providing shipwrecked crews and troops with all the assistance they may expect or need.

I have the honor to be with perfect attachment, Sir [&c.]

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1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 512, LC Photocopy.
2. The Falkland Island crisis in 1770, when the Spanish government attempted to expel a British settlement.

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20 Nov.

LORD NORTH'S PROPOSAL OF A PROHIBITORY BILL IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS [1]

Nov. 20 [1775].

Lord North rose and moved, "That leave be given to bring in a Bill, to prohibit all trade and intercourse with the colonies of New Hampshire, Massachuset's Bay, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, the three lower counties on Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia, during the continuance of the present rebellion within the said colonies respectively; for repealing an Act, made in the 14th [year] of his present Majesty, to discontinue the landing and discharging, lading or shipping, of goods, wares, and merchandize, at the town and within the harbour of Boston, in the province of Massachuset's Bay; and also two Acts, made in the last session of parliament, for restraining the trade and commerce of the colonies in the said Acts respectively mentioned; and to enable his Majesty to appoint commissioners, and to issue proclamations in the cases and for the purposes therein to be mentioned." His lordship explained the necessity of restraining the Americans from all trade during the present rebellion, and the justice there would be in immediately taking off the restraint from such colony wherein it might cease; that the Boston Port Act, and the Acts passed last year, being framed upon other grounds and for other purposes, would stand in the way of this operation; that the restraining Bills were civil coercions against civil crimes; but we being now at war, the provisions were incapable, and other provisions were necessary: those provisions he now proposed were such as would be made use of in case of war with any country in the world; but they were framed under such provisos as might open the door of peace upon its first approach. That if we were ready also to repeal the Charter Bills, yet he could not do it while they denied the right that we had to make them; that as to the Bill for the administration of justice, there was no need to repeal that, because the country being in actual war, martial law took place, and there were no courts of justice in which it could operate; it was a temporary Bill for three years, two of which are expired; and it would cease of itself. That he should also be ready to repeal the tea duty on the same grounds, that he would suspend every exercise of the right of taxation, if the colonies themselves would point out any mode by which they would bear their share of the burden and give their aid to the common defence. The purport of the clause respecting the commissions, had been very well explained the other day by a noble lord (George Germaine,) that it meant besides the granting of pardons that they should enquire into any matter of change of circumstances in which the colonies were now, from the time they were when the laws were made: if there were any matter of real grievance that could be remedied, that they were to have the power of judging whether any part or a whole colony were returned to that state of obedience, that they might declare that colony or part to be in peace, upon which the restrictions in the present Bill were so formed as to cease. . . . That there were two grounds, upon which every minister ought to stand: the first was, that the king had an undoubted right of naming his own servants: the second, which formed the happiness of this country, that if the people by their representatives did really disapprove the measures of any minister, to that degree that they would not go along with him, the king, however he might approve such minister, could not carry on business by him, and must part with him. That this business of quarrel with the colonies about taxation, was begun and prepared for him before he engaged in it as a minister; that he took it up, not when it was a question whether it was right to tax the colonies or not, but when they disputed our having any such right, and at a time when this country was determined not to give it up: as he engaged when this dispute had actually begun, he was bound to see it through; and if the colonies, by appealing to arms, had made war the medium, although peace was the only point he ever retained in his view, he must pursue it through that medium: being thus engaged, he did declare, that unless the King dismissed him, or a majority of the House, disapproving his conduct, desired his dismission, he would not give up the conduct of this business to any body else. As to the means of conducting the war, he declared there never was any idea of employing the negroes or the Indians, until the Americans themselves had first applied to them; that general Carleton did then apply to them; and even then, it was only for the defence of his own province. As to the events of the war, things wore a much better aspect at present, than a little while ago; that Halifax was now absolutely safe; that there were indeed two expeditions against Canada, but he did hope that Canada would not fall into the hands of the rebels. He would almost venture to say that Quebec was safe; but he begged the House would not understand him as promising that: his own opinion was, that it would not fall into the hands of the rebels.

1. Hansard, ed., *Parliamentary History*, XVIII, 992–94.

INTELLIGENCE FROM A LONDON NEWSPAPER[1]

House of Commons Monday, November 20, 1775.

Lord North made a motion to the following purport: For leave to bring in a bill to cut off all intercourse between Great-Britain and the colonies of America, now in actual rebellion, so long as they shall continue in rebellion, and to repeal the Boston port bill, the fishery bills, and another bill passed last sessions against the Americans; and to authorise his Majesty's naval commanders to seize all ships belonging to America as lawful prizes. For the motion, one hundred and ninety-two; against it, sixty-four.

[1] *Pennsylvania Evening Post,* February 13, 1776, "The ship *Centurion,* Capt. Allen, is arrived at the Capes, after a passage of eight weeks and five days from Newry; and from the papers brought by the vessel, we have made the following extracts, viz."

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN JOHN MORRIS, R.N.[1]

You are hereby required & directed to proceed without a moments loss of time, in his Majestys Ship under your command to Spithead, & there wait for further Order.

Given &c 20th Novr 1775

Sandwich Lisburne H.Penton

Capt Morris, *Bristol* – Sheerness
By &c PS

[1] PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 271.

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21 Nov.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN ROBERT P.COOPER, H.M. SLOOP *Hawke*, SPITHEAD [1]

You are hereby required & directed to put to Sea in the Sloop you command the very first opportunity of Wind & Weather; And, when you get out of the Channel, you are to open the inclosed Sealed Pacquet, & put in execution the Orders you will find contained therein for your further proceedings.

Given &c 21st Novr 1775

Sandwich Lisburne H.Palliser

By &c PS

[1] PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 274.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN ROBERT P. COOPER, R.N.[1]

The Inhabitants of several of His Majestys Colonies & Plantations in North America Vizt in New Hampshire Massachusets Bay, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pensylvania the three lower Counties on Delaware, Maryland Virginia North Carolina & South Carolina having traiterously combined together for the general purpose of resisting the Authority of this Kingdom & having in a Hostile manner arrayed themselves in Arms & committed Acts of open and actual rebellion; You are hereby required & directed in pursuance of the Kings pleasure signified to Us by the Earl of Darmouth, one of His Majestys Principal Secretaries of State to seize all Ships & Vessels belonging to any of the said Colonies and also to Georgia or owned by the Inhabitants thereof except only in Cases where it shall clearly appear from their papers or from other Evidence that they are bound to, or returning from, some port or place in Great Britain, Ireland or His Majestys Islands in the West Indies; But you are to observe that this exception is not to extend, or be applied to such Ships or Vessels as may have Arms & Ammunition on board, which Ships & Vessels are to be seized in all Cases whatsoever unless it shall appear that the Arms & Ammunition shall have been shipp'd with Licence either from His Majesty in Council, from the Master General & Principal Officers of the Ordnance or under the usual Clearances from the Commissrs of His Majestys Customs: And you are to send all such Ships or Vessels as you may seize under the above Circumstances into the first convenient Port of Safety, there to be detained 'til further Order or proceeded against according to Law as the nature of the Case may require.

And it having been represented to His Majesty that a resolution had been taken in the Congress of Delegates from the Twelve associated Colonies assembled at Philadelphia that after a certain Day all exportation from the said Colonies to great Britain, Ireland & the West Indies should be discontinued and there being great reason to suspect that the Ships & Vessels belonging to those Colonies & hitherto employed in those Channels of Commerce (many of which Ships are of large burthen) may be fitted out for the purpose of supporting the unnatural rebellion now carrying on; You are in pursuance of His Majestys further pleasure signified as aforesaid in case you find any Ships or Vessels which come within the above description in any of the Ports or Harbours you may visit within the said Colonies to take away their Masts & Rudders or otherwise so disable such Ships & Vessels that they may not be fitted & employed for the purpose abovementioned And if you find that the Inhabitants of any of the above Colonies are collecting & fitting out Armed Vessels for affecting their rebellious purposes; You are to exert your utmost endeavours to prevent such preparations and to burn & destroy every Vessel that shall appear to be fitted out with such traiterous designs. Given under our Hands the 21st Novr 1775

Sandwich Lisburne H.Palliser

Capt.Cooper – *Hawke* – Spithead
By &c PS

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1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 274–76.

Philip Stephens to Captain Robert Cooper, R.N.[1]

Sir, [Admiralty Office] 21st Novemr 1775.

In addition to the Order of this date from my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty (which you will receive herewith) for proceeding to the Carolinas, Georgia & East Florida; I am commanded by their Lordships to signify their direction to you to engage, upon your arrival at those Provinces, as many Pilots as you can who may be acquainted with any part of the Coasts thereof, and to keep them on board until the arrival of Sir Peter Parker; And you will communicate this part of my Letter to the Commanders of any of His Majesty's Ships or Vessels which you may fall in with on the said Coasts, and acquaint them that it is their Lordships directions that they do the like.

I have also their Lordships commands to send you herewith two Press Warrants empowering you to impress Seamen in North America, and to signify their further direction to you, in case the Pilots abovementioned should not be willing to engage in His Majesty's Service, to impress them by virtue of those Warrants, and to keep them on board the Sloop you command until you receive directions from Sir Peter Parker, or the Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships in North America, for their further disposal; And I send you herewith by their Lordships orders a Manuscript Copy of a Plan of Cape Fear River in North Carolina, and of a Survey of the Coast about Cape Look-Out; also an engraved Plan of the Entrance into Cape Fear Harbour with printed directions for anchoring at that Cape; and an engraved Plan of Jeckyl Sound in the Province of Georgia; as the same may be useful to you in your present intended Voyage; And am &ca

Php Stephens.

PS. It is their Lordships directions that you keep this Letter and the Order it refers to a profound Secret, and on no account to make known (except as beforementioned) to any person whatever any part thereof, more especially what relates to the Pilots and to your being directed to cruize for Sir Peter Parker.

Capt. Cooper, *Hawke* Sloop, Spithead.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/1333, LC Photocopy.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES [1]

Sr [Admiralty Office] 21st Novr 1775.

The Lords of His Majts Treasury having acquainted my Lords Commrs of the Admty that they have received undoubted information that Ten Vessels wch sailed about the middle of September last from the Port of Philadelphia for Ireland are engaged to go from thence to Russia & Hamburgh there to take on board coarse Linnens of different kinds which it is intended they should land in the River Delawarre or at some convenient part of the Coast near it, at a time, in the present Winter when it is expected His Majts Ships will not be able to cruize upon the Coast or lay with safety in the River; And that Six Vessels more are soon to be engaged on the like destination & Service That this Attempt is made at the risque of the Province of Pensylvania or of the associated Colonies in General, & not undertaken by private Adventurers And that the very great scarcity of coarse Linnen in America & particularly those proper for an Army is the reason of this Attempt; I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you therewith & to recommend it to You, as it is of the highest importance that the said project should be defeated to take every measure in your power to prevent it taking effect &c

P S

By the *Albion* Victualler
Duplicate
By the *Prs Augusta* Victualler
Both enclosed in 2 Letters of this Date to the
Commrs for Victualling –

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 331–32.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO JOHN ROBINSON [1]

Sr [Admiralty Office] 21 Novr 1775

Having laid before My Lords Commrs of the Admty your Letter of the 18th Inst transmitting a Copy of One the Lords of the Treasury have received from the Commrs of the Customs relative to two Vessels that had been hovering in Exeter Bay supposed to have come from France or Holland with Ammunition for

America; I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you that directions were given to the Commr of His Majs Cutter the *Meredith* to look out diligently for the said Vessels & to seize & carry them into the first convenient Port, if they prove to be laden in the manner suspected; And that Capt [Thomas] Graves Senior Officer of His Majs Ships at Plymouth hath informed their Lordships that the Collector of His Majs Customs at Exeter haveing given Mr Ourry Commissr of His Majs Customs at Plymouth an Account of the two Vessels beforementioned & the Commissioners having acquainted him therewith he has ordered the Commr of His Majs Cutter the *Folkestone* to Cruize off Exmouth in quest of the said Vessel &c PS

[1] PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 333–34. Robinson was Treasury Secretary.

Philip Stephens to Vice Admiral Samuel Graves [1]

Sr [Admiralty Office] 21st Novr. 1775

The Commrs for Victualling being directed to send to Boston on board the *Albion* Victualler a quantity of Potatoes & other Vegetables, also on board the *Prs Augusta* Victualling Sloop a Quantity of Sour Krout for the use of His Majestys Ships under your command And His Majesty having been pleased to signify His Pleasure that the whole thereof shall be issued as his Gift to the Crews of the said Ships, in such manner as you shall direct; I am commanded by my Lords Commrs of the Admty to acquaint you therewith And to signify their directions to You to give Orders for the said Vegetables & Sour Krout being issued accordingly &c

P S

Duplicate by the *Prs Augusta* Victuallg Sloop

[1] PRO, Admirality 2/550, 336.

Philip Stephens to Vice Admiral Samuel Graves [1]

Sr [Admiralty Office] 21st Novr. 1775

The Lords Commrs of His Majts Treasury having this Day transmitted to my Lords Commrs of the Admty an Extract of a Letter from Port L'Orient containing some Intelligence of a Philadelphia Vessel consigned from hence to Messrs Botards [Bérard Frères & Co.] of that Place for a Cargo of Salt Petre I am commanded by my Lords to send you a Copy of the said Intelligence for your information that you may give Orders to the Commanders of such of His Majts Ships of your Squadron as you shall judge most likely to fall in with her upon her return to America, to use their utmost endeavours to intercept & seize her I am &c

P S

Vice Adml Graves, or the Commr in
Chief for the time being of His
Majts Ships &c at Boston
} By the *Albion* Victualler

[1] PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 340–41.

INTELLIGENCE FROM A LONDON NEWSPAPER [1]

London, Nov. 21.

Numbers of seamen are out of employment at port Glasgow, Greenock, &c. owing to the stagnation of the American trade.

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[1] *Pennsylvania Evening Post,* February 15, 1776.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Speedwell*, CAPTAIN RICHARD PEARSON [1]

Novr 1775	Remarks &ca *Speedwell* Sloop
Tuesday 21st	at 10 AM spoke a duch ship Called the *Eufrou Agatha*, Tadamondert Mastr bound to Burdeux laden with deals. So Foreland NNE 9 or 10 Miles The first part mode and Clear middle & latter squally P M at 1 gave chace to a Danish ship at 2 fir'd 2 shot and brought too the Chace A ship from Copenhagen Frederick Fredericks Mastr bound to santa Craix laden with sundry marchandize belonging to London.[2] at 6 Shortned saile & took in the 2d reefs in the topsailes at 11 Do in the 3d reefs topsailes

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 51/918.

[2] The *Speedwell* probably lost a prize by not seizing the ship. She was undoubtedly the vessel about which John Pownall advised Philip Stephens, although Pownall called her Dutch from Amsterdam. See Pownall to Stephens, December 1, 1775.

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22 Nov.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN BENJAMIN CALDWELL, H.M.S. *Emerald*, CHATHAM [1]

Having appointed you Captain of His Majesty's Ship the *Emerald* at Chatham, which we have order'd to be fitted and stored at that place for a Voyage to North America, – mann'd with Two hundred Men & victualled for six Months with all species of Provisions except Beer, of which she is to have as much as she can conveniently stow, and to be supplied with a proportion of Wine or Spirits for two Months in lieu of the remainder; You are hereby required and directed, to use the utmost dispatch in getting her ready for the Sea accordingly, and then falling down to Blackstakes take in her Guns and Gunners Stores at that Place and proceed to the Nore for further Order.

Given &c. the 22d Novr 1775.

J.Buller Palmerston H.Palliser

By &c. P.S.

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 279–80.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN ROBERT DRING, H.M. BOMB VESSEL *Carcass*, WOOLWICH [1]

Having appointed you Commander of His Majts Bomb Vessel the *Carcass* at Woolwich, which we have order'd to be fitted and stored at that place for foreign Service, mann'd with sixty Men & victualled to six Months with all Species of Provisions except Beer of which she is to have as much as she can conveniently

stow, and to be supplied with a proportion of Wine or Spirits for two Months in lieu of the remainder; You are hereby required and directed to use the utmost dispatch in getting her ready for the Sea accordingly, and then falling down to Galleons Reach, take in at that place her Guns, Mortars and such a proportion of Ordnance Stores, as may be necessary for her on the said Service, and, having so done, proceed to the Nore and remain there until you receive further Order.
Given &c. the 22d November 1775

Sandwich J.Buller Palmerston

By &c. P.S.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 280–81.

Lords Commissioners, Admiralty, to Captain William Anthony Halsted, H.M.S. *Jersey*, Chatham [1]

Having appointed you Commander of His Majestys Ship *Jersey* at Chatham which we have ordered to be fitted & Stored at that Place for Foreign Service, manned with One Hundred & Forty Men & Victualled for Six Months with all species of Provisions except Beer of which she is to have as much as she can conveniently [stow] & to be supplied with a proportion of Wine or Spirits for two Months in lieu of the remainder; You are hereby required & directed to use the utmost dispatch in getting her ready for the Sea accordingly, and then falling down to Blackstakes take in her Guns & Gunners Stores at that Place & proceed to the Nore for further order.
Given &c. 22d Novr 1775

Sandwich Lisburne H.Palliser

By &c PS

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 283.

Intelligence from a London Newspaper [1]

London, November 22.

The transports which sailed from the downs on Saturday last for Boston, were spoke with on Monday last, off Plymouth, all well.

It is said that every vessel in the navy under 40 guns, is ordered to be ready for sea by the first of next month, manned and victualled.

1. *Essex Journal,* March 15, 1776.

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23 Nov.

Jonathan Williams, Jr. to Benjamin Franklin [1]

[Extract] London Nov. 23 1775 –

The mention of Politics in these unhappy Times is almost sufficient to prevent a Letter from arriving safe in America, but there surely can be no harm in writing, what is not designed to be secret, & no Man can disapprove of Sentiments that tend to Peace & Reconciliation.

You will see by the Papers that a Bill is to be brought in to cut off all Intercourse with the Colonies, & to repeal some of the late Acts. The principle upon which this is founded I am told is – That as America has declar[e]d She will not trade with Britain, this Country is determined she shall not trade with any other Power if it can be prevented. That the Boston Port Bill & others were intended as a Punishment on that Colony, as being then the most refractory one; since that Time, all have come into the same Measures, therefore all are equally culpable, it is therefore they say unjust to make a Distinction and they propose by repealing these Bills to put them into one Situation & then to punish them all.

I am inclined to believe that the M[inistr]y [is] sick of this Business, and as to the Nation in general those who have the Liberty of thinking for themselves must see the fatal Consequences of the Controversy, & of Course wish for a Reconciliation. The Question then only is how this can be effected. I know not the Powers of the proposed Commissioners, nor the real Intention in sending them; but I am told that the former are very extensive, and that the Latter is to finish the Dispute. If the Design is founded on a Wish to settle with Justice to both Sides, and the Men are as good & as honest, as the Trust will be great, I hope Peace & Happiness will succeed to War & Distress; but if there is any artfull Intention, cloaked under a specious appearance, & the Measure should turn out to be a Trick of State; America knows her Rights and her Ability to defend them – I have therefore only to add my Wish, that Virtue and Justice may be always [serve]d with deserved Success. –

[To] Doctor B Franklin Market Street Philadelphia
Favoured by Capt Hunter via Virginia

1. BM.

London Chronicle, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21 TO THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1775

London. Nov. 23.

Yesterday his Majesty in council was pleased to continue the prohibition on the exportation or carrying coastwise of salpetre, gunpowder, and other military stores, for three months longer.

A person just arrived from Cadiz brings an account, that two vessels laden with ammunition &c. going to America, were stopt there by request of the English Consul from proceeding any farther.

CAPTAIN CHARLES THOMPSON, R. N., TO PHILIP STEPHENS [1]

Sir *Boreas* Spithead Novr 23. 1775

In answer to your Letter of the 21st I beg you will please to acquaint my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that Mr Stiles Comptroller of the Customs at this Port came onboard His Majestys Ship under my Command and told me he had an order to seize some Money that was onboard going to the Rebels I answered him that I had two boxes of Portugal Money consigned, one to the acting Treasurer of the Customs at Boston the other to the acting pay Master of His Majestys Forces I permitted him to put his seals upon them and gave a Certificate of his having done so but would not suffer him to take them out of the Ship as it did not appear to me that they were subject to seizure Mr Apthorpe before he put the money onboard having wrote a publick letter to the Board of Customs desiring to know what Steps he was to take previous to sending it out and having received an answer from their Sollicitor that no Steps were necessary if it was going in a Ship of War there being an act of Parliament to enable them to carry Bullion or Jewels I beg you will please to signify to me their Lordships directions how I am to act on the occasion as I thought I had given the Comptroller of the Customs every assistance he had a right to demand and fully complied with the 44th article of the general printed Instructions I hope their Lordships will believe that I should be as ready as the Comptroller of the Customs to stop money or any Contraband articles going to the rebels which am certain will appear was not the case with the Money now onboard the *Boreas* I am Sir [&c.]

C Thompson

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1. PRO, Admiralty 1/2591.

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24 Nov.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE [1]

Sir Admiralty Office 24th No[v]ember 1775

Having laid before my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty your Excellency's letter of the 3d ultimo enclosing a Memorial of the Officers belonging to the Two Battalions of Marines serving in America and expressing Your wishes that the Vacancies which had then happened might be filled up by the Officers on the Spot; I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you that they have had an attention to your Recommendation in the Officers they have proposed to the King to fill up the said Vacancies. I have the honour to be Sir [&c.]

Ph^p^ Stephens

His Excellency General Gage. Town.

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1. Gage Papers, CL.

COUNT DE GUINES TO COUNT DE VERGENNES [1]

[Extract] London, 24 November 1776
No. 310

The particular news I have concerning Canada confirm the very natural idea I have that the Rebels will not lose precious time, and that their conquest or, which is the same, their seduction before next spring of this interesting part of the American continent will present unsurmountable difficulties for the forces and even the commissioners of Great Britain.

Among the persons destined to fulfill this function the names of Admiral [Richard] Howe and General [Jeffrey] Amherst are mentioned. If this is confirmed as I presume it will be, we must not lose from sight the fact that England will have in America and at the head of its forces, although disguished as negotiators, the two best land and sea officers it now has in its service

News from the Ports

Plymouth

The order to be in readiness within a few days has been given to the frigate *Solebay.*
The frigate *Aldborough* arrived from Newfoundland.
A ship arrived from Liverpoole with 100 men on board for *Foudroyant.*

Portsmouth

Hawke arrived in Spithead from the Dunes. *Hazard,* carrying troops, arrived from Scotland. *Triton* sailed in destination of America with 20 workmen for Halifax. *Pallas* sailed for the Coast of Guinea.

Barfleur returned to ordinary service; she will be repaired and another ship will be commissioned in her place.

Romney Action [*Actaeon*], *Boreas* and six guard ships are still in Spithead; *Thetis, Pearl, Fox, Greyhound, Active, Seaford, Sphynx, Juno* and two guard ships are in commission in the port.

Chatham

The transport ships are being fitted out; they will take flat bottom boats on board. Resolution is being readied for another trip in the South Seas.

The order to build a ship with 74 guns in Deptford has been countermanded; she will carry only 64 guns.

A brigantine arrived from Newfoundland.

[1] AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 513, LC Photocopy.

INTELLIGENCE FROM A LONDON NEWSPAPER [1]

London, Nov. 24.

Wednesday several more large ships were contracted for by agency, for the transport service, which are to go to Ireland to take in provisions there for the use of the soldiers at Boston.

[1] *Essex Journal,* March 15, 1776.

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25 Nov.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN THOMAS SYMONDS, H.M.S. *Solebay,* PLYMOUTH [1]

So soon as His Majestys Ship under your command is in all respects ready for the Sea; You are hereby required & directed to proceed in her without a moments loss of time to Corke in Ireland & there wait for further Order.

Given &c 25th Novr 1775

Sandwich H.Penton H.Palliser

By &c. PS

[1] PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 283.

London Gazette, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25 TO TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1775

St. James's, November 25.

At the Court of St. James's, the 22d Day of November, 1775, Present, The King's most Excellent Majesty in Council.

Whereas the Time limited by His Majesty's Orders in Council of the 23d of August and 27th of September last, for prohibiting the exporting out of this Kingdom, or carrying Coastwise, Gunpowder, Saltpetre, or any Sort of Arms or

Ammunition, will expire on the 23d of this Instant November; and whereas it is judged expedient that the said Prohibition should be continued for some Time longer, except in those Cases where (for the Benefit and Advantage of Trade, and for the Use and Defence of Ships trading to Foreign Parts) His Majesty, by His several Orders in Council of the 13th and 27th of October last, and of the 6th of this instant, has thought proper to permit and allow the Exportation of, and carrying Coastwise, Gunpowder, Saltpetre, Arms and Ammunition, under certain Conditions and Restrictions mentioned in the said Orders: – His Majesty doth therefore, by and with the Advice of his Privy Council, hereby Order, Require, Prohibit, and Command, That no Person or Persons whatsoever (except the Master-General, Lieutenant-General, or Principal Officers of the Ordnance, for His Majesty's Service) do at any Time, during the Space of Three Months, to commence from the said 23d of this Instant November, presume to transport into any Parts out of this Kingdom, or carry Coastwise, any Gunpowder, Saltpetre, or any Sort of Arms or Ammunition, or ship or lade any Gunpowder, Saltpetre, or any Sort of Arms or Ammunition, on Board any Ship or Vessel, in order to transporting the same into any Parts beyond the Seas, or carrying the same Coastwise, except in the Cases comprized within the aforementioned Orders in Council of the 13th and 27th of October last, and 6th of this Instant November, without Leave or Permission in that Behalf first obtained from His Majesty, or his Privy Council, upon Pain of incurring and suffering the respective Forfeitures and Penalties inflicted by an Act passed in the 29th Year of His late Majesty's Reign, intituled, "An Act to empower His Majesty to prohibit the Exportation of Saltpetre, and to enforce the law for empowering His Majesty to prohibit the Exportation of Gunpowder, or any Sort of Arms and Ammunition; and also to empower His Majesty to restrain the carrying Coastwise of Saltpetre, Gunpowder, or any Sort of Arms or Ammunition." – And the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, the Commissioners for Executing the Office of Lord High Admiral of Great Britain, the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, the Master General of the Ordnance, and His Majesty's Secretary at War, are to give the necessary Directions herein as to them may respectively appertain.

W. Blair.

B. RNT. CASTELEYN TO CORRESPONDENT IN VIRGINIA [1]

My Lord – Dunkirk, the 25th November, 1775

As the troubles which England has extended to your Colony and the interdiction of all correspondence and trade with her, must necessarily not only cause a general, but partly interruption, in hindering the exportation of her products. I hope your Excellency will agree to the respectous liberty I take to write her, in view that if you judge it convenient, you would make it communicated to the merchants of your Colony to whom it may be of any advantage.

Our town and our harbour are a port frank, in which all sorts of merchandises, from whatsoever strange or foreign places they are coming, may be imported by sea, stay in it any time pleases, be sold or imported by sea, without being liable to any duty whatsoever; she is the only one of all the ports of France that has such an extended privilege, and which by its situation is more fit to communicate in trade way with England, Holland, Hambro, Sweden, and all this part of the north. This port franks has provoked here a considerable trade, and has made of this town an enterport for all those countries, so as for France and all his other harbours, the trade that goes on in the leaf, sweet scent and orokono tobacco, which were brought here from London, Glasgow, Bristol, Liverpool &c. is very great. There are years that I sold for my share as far as 4000 hhds.; part of which I bought on my account in the above places, and part that my correspondents there sent me on sale for their accounts, mostly when the time of payment of the duty to the custom house was expiring, and that they had not found opportunity to sell them there; moreover, the quantity of leaf tobacco that sold here is immense, and it will more increase by the means of the French farmers which lately bought here 500 hhds; and who, finding no more to provide themselves in England, will make their purchases in this town, when the tobacco will been to be got here. It will be the same in regard to the Hollanders, and all the people of the part of the Northern sea.

The trouble for the Colony in the actual circumstances, will be the difficulty to transport here their merchandises, but I fancy to have found the means to do it, without any risk in regard of the English.

There is some years that the King of France, under whose domination is our town, has rendered the town and harbour of Mole St. Nicolas in French St. Domingo, a port frank; and it must not be uneasy to the Colony to transport there her tobacco and other productions in regard of their proximity notwithstanding the vigilance of the men of war of Great Britain.

This production being at the Mole St. Nicolas, I will have them loaded there for this town in one of my ships, or in any other French ship, as being French and my own property, at the destination of this town, which is the only port of all France where the tobaccoes are admitted to be landed, kept and sold, paying, as all the other merchandises arriving from the French Colonies, but the usual duty of 3½ to 4 percent of the value.

The merchants of your Colony who should prefer to sell to me their York river, James river &c. tobacco rendered at their charges and risk, at the Mole St. Nicolas, (rather than to send them here for sale on their own account, and to get back the merchandises of Europe which they want,) I will agree with them at a price according to quality; and make pay to them the amount at Mole St. Nicolas when, and at same time my ship will load them. In which case whoever would prefer to sell to me their tobacco, it would be convenient that they should write to me the price in English money; they should ask to deliver me the tobacco at the said Mole, payable there or in any other place in Europe. Should they deliver their letters directed to me, and put in the post-office of Mole St. Nicolas, Port au Prince, or any other of French St. Domingo ports will be handed me.

As I never had occasion to correspond with any of the merchants of your Colony, and that I have not the advantage to be known by them, they may take information on my solidity and character in London, of Mr. Lewis Teesner, Messrs.

Hudson & Worthington, Mr. Wm. Du Bois, Mr. John Campbell, Messrs. Pre Simond & Hankey, & Co. they will find that in all security my house may be trusted. Amongst the above mentioned trading houses, there are of them who should already have wrote, and have caused their friends there to write, in order to make me known to their correspondents in your Colony; if the fear of the danger they should run from the part of the Government, if their letters were intercepted, did not hinder them of doing it.

This is what I had to expose to your Excellency; if any of your merchants have enough confidence to favour me with their correspondence, and to enter into trading business with me, on my part I shall esteem myself happy at being of any service to them, and on their side they will meet with me both candour, probity and solidity in the transactions we may have together.

I remain, with the utmost respect of your Excellency [&c.]

B. Rnt. Casteleyn.

1. *New York Provincial Congress,* II, 98–99. This letter, while found in the papers of the New York Provincial Congress, seems to have been addressed to a prominent Virginian. The writer, Casteleyn, French merchant, used the salutation "My Lord," and referred, in the body of the letter, to "Your Excellency."

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26 Nov. (Sunday)

COUNT DE VERGENNES TO COUNT DE GUINES [1]

[Extract]

No. 164 Versailles, 26 November 1775

We must not conceal the fact from ourselves, Sir, regardless of the consideration we show the English, that we should not expect any reciprocity on their part. It is nevertheless strange in the present circumstances when it is in their best interest not to give us any cause of dissatisfaction which might bring us to give direct or indirect assistance to their rebellious settlers, in North America, they should choose this time to encourage an English establishments among the Mosquitoes. One need only look at the geographic position of this peninsula to realize that, should this establishment be fortified, it might one day be fatal to the Spanish. I hope that those who were warned in time, thanks to your vigilance, are now in the process of heading off this undertaking. Their intentions are unknown to me, but if I were in their place I would know how to make good use of their position in Louisiana to pay back the English with their own coin.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 513, LC Photocopy.

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27 Nov.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN JAMES WORTH, H.M.S. *Deal Castle*, SHEERNESS [1]

So soon as you shall have received on board the Ship you command her party of Marines from Chatham and Twenty supernumerary Seamen which we have

order'd to be discharg'd into her from the *Mars* towards completing her Complement; You are hereby required & directed to repair, in her, without a Moments loss of time, to Spithead, and remain there until you receive further Order
Given &c. the 27th Novr 1775

Sandwich Palmerston H.Palliser

By &c. P.S.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 284.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN RICHARD PEARSON, H.M. SLOOP *Speedwell*, DOVER [1]

You are hereby required & directed to repair forthwith in the Sloop you command to Spithead, where you are to receive on board Ten Supernumerary Seamen which Vice Adml Sir James Douglas is order'd to discharge into her, from the *Barfleur* towards making up the deficiency in her Complement, And, having so done, return & cruize agreable to the Orders you are now under, for the purpose of intercepting & seizing the suspected Ships & Vessels which you have lately been in quest of.
Given &c. the 27th Novr 1775.

Sandwich Palmerston H.Palliser

By &c. P.S.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 284.

LORD GEORGE GERMAIN TO THE LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY [1]

My Lords Whitehall 27 Novr 75

Inclosed I have the honor to send your Lordships, by His Majesty's Command, a Paper of Intelligence respecting the Channels thro' which Correspondence & Commerce are carried on with the King's Rebellious Subjects in America; and I am to Acquaint Your Lordships, that it is His Majesty's Pleasure, that you do transmit the same to the Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships in North America, to the end, that being informed of the Manner in which this dangerous Correspondence is carried on, he may be enabled to make such Disposition of the Ships under his Command, as shall be most likely to prevent it, and to intercept the Supplies that are preparing to be sent to the Inhabitants of the Colonies now in Arms against the King. I am &ca

Geo. Germain

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 41.

DR. JONATHAN BOUCHER TO WILLIAM KNOX [1]

[Extract] [London] Novr the 27th 1775.

. . . If You can bear with the Tediousness of the Disquisition, I will, if You please, take a short View of the present State of all the Colonies from New York downwards, giving my Opinion, as We go along, what Effect any military Operations are likely to have in Them.

New-York, the City, I mean, is peculiarly fitted both by its Situation, & the Sentiments of the People, to be made a Place of Arms. Not less than 10,000

Men shou'd be sent thither. If they embarque in the Winter, They may expect a tempestuous Passage; &, of Course, will require Rest & Refreshment after Landing. They are more sure of These in New York than any where else. Armed Vessels can go up to Albany, &, with infinite Ease, cut off all Communication between the Northern & Southern Governments. This will be a most essential Service. If possessed of the Passes, they may go still farther back in Batteaus, should it be found necessary. And, possess'd of so large an Extent of Country, all on the Banks of a fine River, no Doubt, they will be well supply'd with Provisions. But the Interruption of all Intercourse between the united Colonies is an Advantage that can hardly be purchased too dear. And, it is most certainly practicable. The King's Troops too will find more Friends & Assistance in that Government, than in any other: in Truth, I cannot but think, they have some Reason to complain of the Neglect of Government. They have long solicited Protection, which, had it been granted, I am confident, a respectable Number of Loyalists wou'd have declar'd Themselves. There is no saying what a happy Effect this would have had all over America: I fear, it is now too late, for this. The Men of chief Note have, in general, been driven away, both from thence & every where else. Yet, the latest Advices still speak honourably of the Zeal of large Numbers: & 'twere a Pity so good a Spirit shou'd not be cherished. If there be one, among the confederated Colonies, that could yet, without Force, be brought back to Allegiance, it is New-York: at any Rate, the Strength of Government shou'd first be try'd there. Their Example wou'd have more Force than better Motives in determining others; as, to try elsewhere, & fail, might defeat the Attempt every where. Five thousand Men, stationed in New-York, so supported as, I am confident, They would there be, & with the Assistance of the armed Vessels on the River, I consider as fully sufficient to resist every military Effort of every Government to the Southward of it.

It is difficult to speak of the prevailing Sentiments of the People of Pensylvania. They seem desirous to serve two Masters, valuing Themselves on this, that they have so very dexterously managed Matters as equally to have avoided the Imputation of Toryism, & any ouvert Act of Treason. Were They really in Earnest, They, doubtless, have Men to spare: but You will judge of their Eagerness for War, by this, that, maugre all the Ordinances of their Lords, they have not yet rais'd a single Minute Man. And, I think I am pretty positive, that none will be rais'd either there or in the more Southern Governments. I foresee little Good that can be done by any military Exertions there; unless Recruits & Provisions were to be drawn from them, and they will be more easily got in the adjoining Provinces. They shou'd, however, be well watch'd, & kept in constant Fear of the Navy: not that I think it wou'd answer any good Purpose to destroy Philadelphia, which They affect to dread; tho' it might, notwithstanding their Booms & one-gunn'd Gondolas, easily be laid under Contribution; which it deserves.

In the Aggregate of American Strength, the two Carolinas Virginia & Maryland cannot fairly be reckon'd as making any Part: it is well, if They are equal to their own internal Enemy. How far it may be prudent to keep their Fears perpetually awake, either by Apprehensions of having their Slaves armed against Them, or their savage Neighbours let loose on their Frontiers, Circumstances must determine: the actually embodying Them is, however, an Expedient which, were Humanity out of the Question, sound Policy wou'd reprobate. They resemble the Elephants in the Armies of old: they may, it is true, exceedingly annoy your Enemy, but You have no Security that, even in the Moment of Victory, They will not turn on Yourselves. — About fifteen Years ago, by Order of Government, the Men able to bear Arms in Maryland were numbered, & amounted to 15000. I cannot, from Memory, say how many there may be in Virginia, & the Carolinas; but, having liv'd fifteen Years & upwards in the two former Provinces, I think I may venture, with some Authority, to promise You, that, unless sought for in their Woods & Fastnesses, They never will seek regular Troops in a hostile Way. I mean not, by this, to reflect on their Courage; thinking, with Them, that it is as little their Interest, as their Inclination, to come to Blows. As to their Arming, & all their boasted Pomp of War; I look upon it as a mere Bravoe, intended only to alarm & intimidate England. — At any Rate, however, it would be ill Policy to carry War amongst them: for, in the first Place, they never will come to an Engagement, but, in their own Way, in Woods & behind Trees; & shou'd They be defeated again & again, the only Consequence will be, that They will retreat out of Reach; & return to inflict Vengeance on any such as, under Protection of the Soldiery, may have avow'd their Loyalty, whenever that Protection shall be withdrawn. — These Colonies, beyond all Question, are most easily to be subdued by Embargos on their Trade, the Distresses this will bring on Them will exceed those of any others, & they are the least able to bear Them. I dread to think what will become of my own poor Slaves, next Winter. — But, besides the Slaves, the two Tobacco Colonies have, in their very Bowels, another Enemy, not a little to be dreaded: I mean, their white Servants. The Case of this Class of Men is singular. They are decoyed from hence by romantic Promises, &, on their landing in America, are sold for their Passages; & for three, four, or five Years, are, to all Intents & Purposes, Slaves. It appears to Me to be worth while to send Troops thither, if for no other Purpose than the enlisting of these Men, whom I cannot but think peculiarly fit for the American Service. They will bring with Them an ill Humour & Prejudice against the Country, which it will not be unuseful to have propagated amongst those with whom They may be incorporated; They have some Knowledge of the Country, the Manners, & Mode of living of the People; &, above all, They have been seasoned to the Climate. How many of Them may be had, which is a very necessary Enquiry, I am almost afraid to guess, confident of This only, that there is not One in ten, who will not enlist, if He can. A Gentleman of Baltimore, not addicted to random Declarations, is positive, that five hundred may be got in that Town, & its Environs: it is certain, the richest Harvest of Them may be gleaned there, at Elk-Ridge, the Iron Works & Annapolis. If, haply, This should be thought an Object deserving Attention, I shall hardly need to say, that it will require some Address & Management: as, in this & every Thing else, the Commander may lay it to his Account to meet with every Difficulty which a peculiar Shrewdness & Subtlety can throw in his Way. Parties should be detached, at one & the same Time, in armed Vessels to the various Towns at the Heads of the Rivers in Pensylvania, Maryland & Virginia: with Instructions to have Notice spread, if possible, to the back Settlements, where most of these People have been carried. If any Natives of Consideration enter into the Service, which They should be tempted to do, They may greatly facilitate this measure: for, sanguine as I am in recommending it, it is but fair that I apprise You of the Difficulties that will attend it. No Man, whether Native or Foreigner, Bond or free will be permitted to join the Regulars, but by Stealth: this, however, will not prevent their attempting it; Many have already run away from their Masters in Maryland, with the Hope of joining the King's Army in Boston; & I doubt not but some have succeeded.

Heretofore, Virginia was distinguished for her firm Attachment both to Church & State: They still profess the same Principles, & many do hold them, however incompatible with their present Practice. The chief Abettors of Violence among them are young Men of good Parts, but spoil'd by a strange, imperfect, desultory Kind of Education which has crept into Fashion all over America. Some of the Northern Academies, which, in my Wrath, I can scarce forbear calling Seminaries of Sedition, led the Way; &, like other Plagues, it soon spread. – With Respect to the sending of Troops thither, what I have said of Maryland applys equally to Virginia: at present, They can be serviceable only in the Way abovementioned, & in foraging. All these three Provinces are every where pervious to Shipping; all abound in Grain, Stocks, & Herds, all on the Banks of Rivers, or Islands. It cannot be then, One wou'd think, but that, in such a Country, Descents may be made to some Purpose.

North Carolina is, in general, the poorest Country on the Continent, Nova Scotia excepted, & one of the Floridas. With a few very honourable Exceptions, much the same Character may ge given of the People, the Bulk of Them have been Renegadoes from the other Colonies. They are just emerging into Notice & Consideration; but have hitherto, I think, distinguished themselves only by an Insurrection about four Years ago. Early in these Confusions, some of the Counties there made a very gallant Stand against Congressional Tyranny; but, for Want of Support, like many others, I imagine, they soon fell off: tho' I was told, I remember, not many Months before I left America, that Thousands would still repair to the royal Standard, could They but see it erected. I fear, the Opportunity for this has been suffered to elapse; & a Gentleman, just arrived, from thence, confirms Me in the Opinion. In Truth, I know not well how, under the present Circumstances, even the most Loyal could declare Themselves. They live dispersed, &, of Course, can have no collective Strength; they must, therefore, fall an easy Prey to the Committees, & the Independent Companies, who, on the first appearance of a Suspicion only of their Defection, as it wou'd be called, wou'd be sure to fall on them: and, I beg Leave to ask how any Armament cou'd give Assurances of Protection to their Persons, when, perhaps, in a few Weeks, they might be ordered away, or to their Properties, in the interior Parts of the Country. On the whole, tho' persuaded that there are in all these Governments a respectable Number of People, adverse to the Measures now pursuing there, yet, anxious as I am not to misinform or mislead You, I dare not flatter You with the Hope that Many wou'd step forth, in the Cause of the Constitution, even tho' They had Troops there.

Of South Carolina I know nothing from my own Observation, having never been in it. In the Nature of Things, however, it must be weak; but, were it otherwise, shou'd the Plan I spoke of respecting N: York, be adopted, I see not how either They, or any others cou'd possibly furnish Men to the Northern Army: and it will exceed any Ideas I can form even of American Madness, for them to think of forming One in the South.

It fell not within my Province to speak of the Navy: yet, if I guess aright, the War carried on by the Ships, especially in the South, will not be the least efficacious. The Seizures that probably will be made from the Americans themselves, promise to be well calculated for the Purpose of scouring their Rivers & Creeks; a Service, in which it will be as proper to avoid giving any personal Insults, or offering any personal avoidable Injuries to unarm'd & unoffending Colonists, as it will, to be active, vigilant, firm, & determined.

All depends on the Issue of the first general Action: not to be thoroughly & totally defeated may again have the Effect of a Victory: and so not only tempt the Country at large still to go on with the War, but actually do, what nothing else could – that is, make Soldiers of their Men. But, I augur better things; & God forbid, I should be mistaken! . . .

Unwilling to leave any Enquiry unsatisfied, which I cou'd suppose You likely to make, I am sorry to find what a Task I have imposed on You: but, I am not afraid to trust to your Candor to excuse this, as well as its other Demerits, to which, however, I will not add, by teizing You with Apologies.

I am, with infinite Regard & attention sir, [&c.]

Jona^{n} Boucher.

P.S. I have mentioned 10,000 Men are necessary for N. York, only from an Apprehension that [David] Wooster & his trowser'd Ragamuffins might, possibly, muster up Spirits enough to attack a smaller Number, 'ere They cou'd get any Works erected. When This is done, They may be draughted out on Parties to the South. The considerable Towns shou'd always be fix'd on; &, in these, they must instantly publish fair, full & liberal Manifestoes, promising all loyal & good Subjects, a free Press, free Enquiry, & free Trade. To this last especially they should, by all means, be invited; &, if the next Campaign be but tolerably successful, I think, they will not be invited in vain. News-Papers every where greatly bias the Multitude, in America altogether — When the King's Arms shall have acquir'd some Eclat in N. Engld, which I trust will soon be the Case, perhaps N. York will be found to be the best Station for the main Army.

1. Germain Papers, CL. Knox was Under Secretary of State.

28 Nov.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO CAPTAINS RICHARD PEARSON AND DIGBY DENT, R.N.[1]

Sir, [London] 28th Novemr 1775.

I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith a Copy of some late Intelligence which has been transmitted by Mr Mathias to the Earl of Suffolk, One of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, in relation to a Ship said to be laden with Warlike Stores for the Rebels in North America by Captain Slander, and to have been on the point of sailing from Gluckstadt about the middle of this Month; in order that you may look out for and endeavour to intercept and seize her, as well as the others which you have already been directed to go in quest of. I am &ca

Php Stephens.

Capt Pearson, *Speedwell* Sloop, Dover.
Duplicate [to] Spithead.
Capt Dent, *Arethusa*, Downes.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/1333, LC Photocopy.

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29 Nov.

COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER TO PHILIP STEPHENS [1]

Sir Queens Square 29 Novr 1775

The Right Honble the Lords Commissrs of the Admty having been pleased to direct His Majesty's Ship *Bristoll* to be supplied at Sheerness, with as much more Wine or Spirits, in addition to what has been allready ordered, as with the Beer she can [co]nveniently Stow, will be sufficient [fo]r her Complement for Six Months, and [as] there is [now] Wine at present in Store [in] London, I [de]sire you will please to move their Lordships, that the said Ship may be supplied with no more Spiri[ts] at Sheerness, than will admit of her being supplied with Two Months Wine at Portsmouth to compleat to Six Months. I am Sir [&c.]

P: Parker

[Endorsed] 30 Nov Directn to V. Bd acc[ordingly] Let him know it.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/486.

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30 Nov.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL SIR JAMES DOUGLAS, PORTSMOUTH [1]

Sir [Admiralty Office] 30th November 1775

I have communicated to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty your Letter of the 27 Instant, representing that if agreeable to their Lordships orders the Petty Officers belonging to the *Experiment* and *Renown*, who came home in the American Vessels are sent out with the Seamen to their respective Ships, there will not be any persons left for Evidences should any Trial commence concerning the said Vessels; I am commanded by their Lordships to signify their direction to you to transmit to them a List of the names and quality of the Petty Officers, and names of the Men abovementioned distinguishing the Ships to which they properly belong, and where they now are. I am&c—

P: S:

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 367–68.

WILLIAM LEE TO HIS OVERSEER IN VIRGINIA [1]

Sir! London 30 Novr 1775

As 5000 Troops are orderd to sail from Ireland in 8 or 10 daies for Virga & North Carolina & Genl Clinton is orderd by an express sent from hence 6 daies ago to go from Boston to Virga to take the command of these Troops, I apprehend much injury to my own private Estate now under your management, therefore request you will instantly on receipt of this go to either of my Brothers Richd Henry or Frances Lightfoot if they are in the way or to Richd Lee Esqr of Lee hall & the Honble Colo Taylor & consult with them on the following plan if it can be put in Execution, which is, to remove all the Negroes immediately to some part in the back Country, except those who are too old or too young to travel, The very young ones may be left in the care of the old ones. The Stocks &c shoud be also removed and all the Provisions, as far as you can, in the Country remote from the water side – I suppose you will at first day, where can the people be removed to – you must have seen an advertisement in the Virga papers, from the County of Buckingham wherein they offer an asylum and lands to work for any of the people in the lower Counties and I suppose the people in Hanover & Amelia will chearfully do the same if you apply to Colo [Patrick] Henry or the Council of Safety – It is impossible for me at this distance to form so proper a judgment of what ought or can be done, in this alarming state of Affairs, as you and the Gentlemen I have already mentioned can do, because you are on the spot – but I rely on your ability diligence firmness and Integrity to do every thing that is possible to be done, for preserving any Estate free from any kind of Injury. I am [&c.]

William Lee

NB It may not be improper to make the Treasurer acquainted with the above as soon as this comes to hand –[2]

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[1] PRO, Colonial Office, 5/40.

[2] The letter never came to hand. It was intercepted and stopped in the London Post Office, as Lee was informed later, that it and other letters "are now in the Secretary of States Office." *Ibid.*

PRÉCIS PREPARED FOR THE KING OF EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE EXPEDITION AGAINST THE SOUTHERN COLONIES[1]

[Extract] [November 30, 1775]

The plan & extent of the Expedition to the Southern Colonies having been accordingly settled, & the necessary Instructions and orders issued in consequence thereof, the Earl of Dartmouth, very early in the beginning of Novr wrote letters to the Govrs of the said Colonies acquainting them therewith, and signifying to them His Majesty's Pleasure, that they should lose no time in sending emissaries among the Inhabitants of the well disposed Counties, with authority & Commissions to the principal persons of trust & confidence, for raising & embodying as many men as could be procured, & informing them of His Majesty's Intentions of supplying them with Arms, and giving them the same pay as the Regular Troops, as soon as they should come down, which they were to be encouraged to do, as soon as they heard of the arrival of the Troops, & to bring down with them their horses and Waggons for the use of the Army, for which they were to be very liberally paid & rewarded.

It was further directed that these Emissaries, should also be instructed, to assure the Men so raised, that they would not be obliged to serve out of the Province without their consent, & that besides the abovementioned encouragement they should have a remission of all arrears of Quitrents for their lands; & further grants in proportion to their rank & merit, with an exemption from the payment of Quitrent for 20 Years.

At the same time that these Dispatches were wrote, it was ordered by His Majesty, that the Force destined for the Southern Expedition should be augmented by an addition of the 28th & 46th Regts which had sailed from [*sic* for] Quebec, but had been forced back in a hard gale of wind, except three Companies of the 46th which had been separated from the rest, & were supposed to have proceeded on their voyage.

The necessary orders were accordingly issued for this purpose, & Lord Dartmouth, in a Dispatch of the 8th Novr acquainted Major Genl Howe with this Arrangement & with the directions which had been given respecting the Expedition, to the Govrs of the Southern Colonies: to his observations upon which he adds, that if the Expedition should succeed according to the assurances that have been given us, in encouraging the friends of Govt to stand forth in the defence of the Constitution, & in enabling them to wrest the sword out of the hands of the Rebels, it will be a great point gained, but even if it should fail of that consequence, it can have no effect to weaken the operations to the northward, as there are many situations in the Southern Provinces, where the Army may be posted with great security, and with every advantage of a healthy climate, until the season arrives for their joining the Body of Forces under his command, a junction that will be made with great advantage, & at a much earlier period than it could be from England.

In consequence of the orders issued, & Instructions given, by Lord Dartmouth as abovementioned respecting the Expedition to the Southward, Lord Geo: Germain, who received the American Seals on the 10th Novr directed on the 13th that an account should be laid before him by the Board of Ordnance, of the Artillery, Stores, & Ammunition intended for the said Expedition, with the names of the Vessels on board which such Stores were intended to be embarked. His Lordship at the same time, signified His Majesty's Pleasure to the Lords of the Admiralty, that they should provide Victualling for the two Companies of Artillery intended for that Service, & that they should also appoint such a number of His Majesty's Ships & Vessels, & of such a rate, to accompany that armament, as they should think proper, acquainting his Lordship at the same time, for His Majesty's Information, with the names of the ships so appointed, & also the name of the Officer who was to have the Command of the whole.

On the 15th November, the Lords of the Admiralty acquainted Lord Geo. Germain, that in pursuance of His Majesty's Commands signified in his Lordship's letter of the 13th they should appoint Sir Peter Parker to command the Armament for the Southern Expedition which was to consist of the following Ships & Vessels Vizt

	Guns
The *Bristol*	50
Actaeon	28
Boreas	28
Solebay	28
Syren	28
Dealcastle	20
Sphynx	20
Hawke Sloop	10
Thunder Bomb	8

On the 26 of November, Lord Geo. Germain in consequence of a Note from Mr [John] Boddington, acquainting Mr [John] Pownall, that the two Companies of Artillery ordered on the Southern Expedition were ready to embark, together with the Artillery & Stores on board three Transports, taken up for that purpose, signified to the Master General of the Ordnance His Majesty's Pleasure, that so soon as the Embarkation was compleated, the Transports should proceed to Corke, where a Body of Troops destined for the intended Expedition, would be assembled.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/232, 379–430.

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1 Dec.

Nathaniel Bayley's Remarks in the House of Commons Against the Prohibitory Act[1]

Dec. 1 [1775].

Mr. Bayley said, he must tell those vociferous gentlemen, who were calling out in such a hurry for the question, that he must first call on the noble lord (North) for his estate which was going to be taken from him by this Bill. He said, if all trade and intercourse were stopped between the West Indies and North America, the plantations were at once ruined, as it was impossible to make either sugar or rum, or send it to this country, without American supplies. That as soon as it was made lawful to take American vessels, he did not doubt but all the sugar ships would be made prizes of; for as they were obliged to come home by the coast of America, it would be easy for a petty officer of a man of war to say those ships were found hovering upon that coast, and that they had arms and gunpowder on board (which no merchant ship is without) and were going to supply the rebels with them: this pretence is sufficient to condemn them, so that every planter's property would be confiscated and shared amongst the favourites of the minister. Proof had been given to the House, that the annual exports to North America, before this fatal war broke out, amounted to three millions and a half, of which more than three-fourths were of our own manufacturers, and that we got great profit from the other fourth, but that the whole of this exportation was lost, as also 600,000*l.* exported in the same manner from Scotland. That the West Indies took more than 1,100,000*l.* annually of British manufactory, and 470,000*l.* worth of goods were annually exported to Africa, to carry on the West India trade; all this added together, amounting to the amazing sum of nearly six millions sterling; and if this Bill passed, the whole of this immense export would be stopped, and thereby so great a national benefit would be lost, besides the infinite advantages we reaped on our trade and imports from thence, and a million of net money annually paid into the Exchequer. Therefore he implored gentlemen would consider whether it was not madness to risk so great a loss, and put the nation to so immense expence of blood and treasure, in order to establish an unjust right in America.

[1] Hansard, ed., *Parliamentary History,* XVIII, 1037–38.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN DIGBY DENT, H.M.S. *Arethusa,* AT THE DOWNS [1]

You are hereby required and directed to return and cruize in the Ship you command between Dungeness and the Coast of France, and use your best endeavours to intercept seize and bring into Port the suspected Vessels concerning which you have already received our directions; calling once in a Week or Ten days in the Downes to enquire for Orders, and not finding any to return and cruize in like manner until you receive further Order.

Given &c. the 1st Decr 1775 Sandwich J. Buller H. Penton.

By &c

[1] PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 287.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN HUGH DALRYMPLE, H.M.S. *Juno,* PORTSMOUTH [1]

Having appointed you Commander of His Majesty's Ship *Juno* at Portsmouth, which we have order'd to be fitted & stored at that place for a Voyage to North America, manned with Two hundred Men, & victualled for six Months with all Species of Provisions except Beer, of which she is to have as much as she can conveniently stow; with Wine or Spirits in lieu of the remainder, You are hereby required and directed , to use the utmost dispatch in getting her ready for the Sea accordingly, and then repair to Spithead, & remain there until you receive further Order.

Given &c. the 1st Decr 1775

Sandwich J. Buller H. Penton

By &c. P.S.

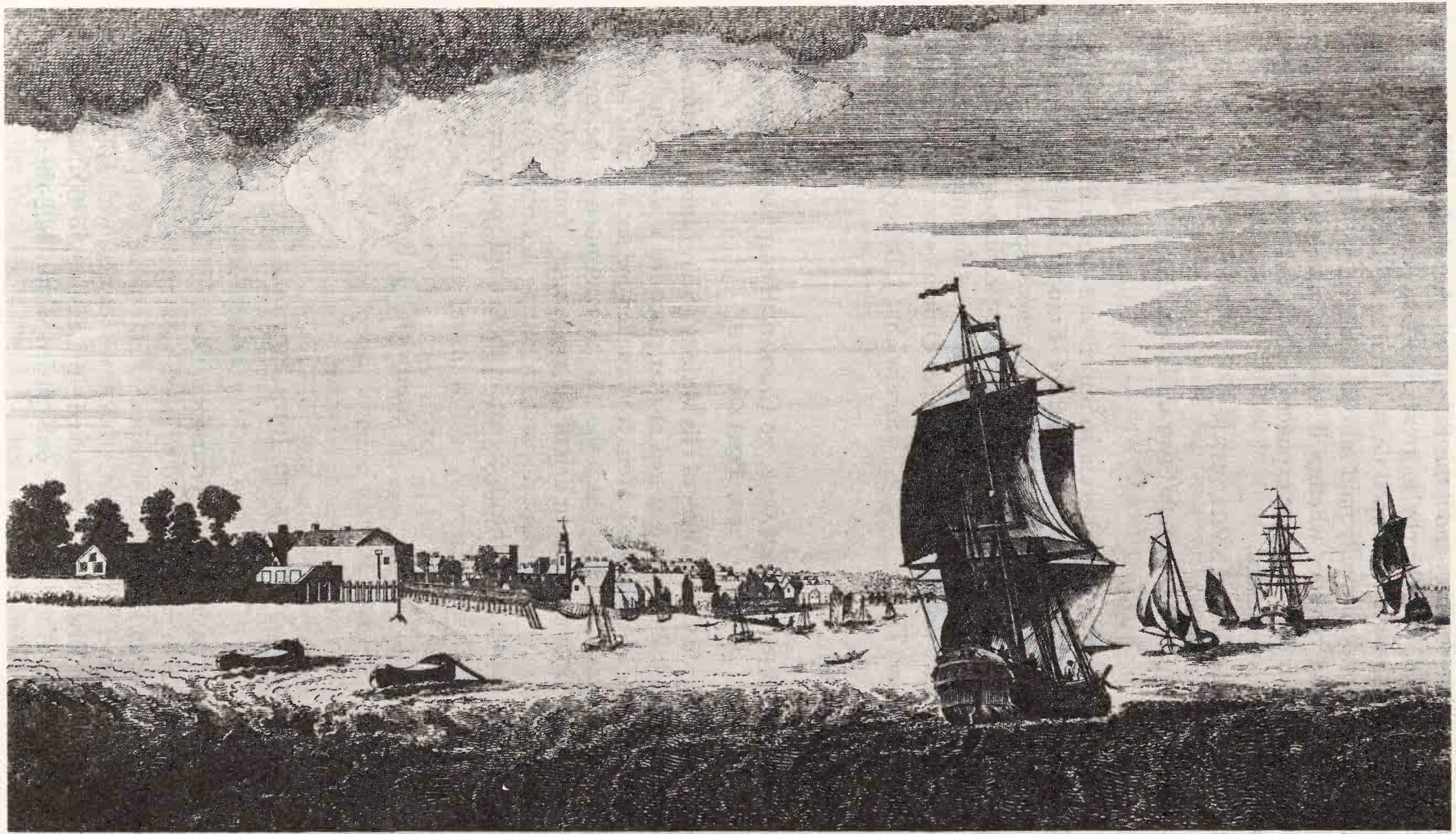
[1] PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 288.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO JOHN POWNALL [1]

Admty Office 1 Decr 1775

Sir

Lieutenant Tonken, Agent for the Transports, now in Milford Haven, having by his Letter dated the 27th past, informed by Lords Commissrs of the Admty, that a few days before, arrived in Dale Road, within that Haven the *Commerce* Brigantine, Thomas Rice, Master, from North Carolina, who spoke, with His Majesty's Ship the *Lizard,* with a Brig in tow dismasted, in Latitude 46°00 N.Longitude 48°30^{m} West of London; And that as she only passed within hail, she brought no



A View of Gravesend in the County of Kent. Vüe de Gravesend dans le Comte de Kent.

London Printed for Robert Sayer Map, & Printseller near Serjeants Inn Fleet Street.

Letters; I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint You therewith for the information of Lord George Germain. I am Sr [&c.]

Php Stephens

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 43.

JOHN POWNALL TO PHILIP STEPHENS [1]

Sir Whitehall 1st December 1775.

In Addition to the Intelligence of improper intercourse with the Rebellious Colonies, a State of which was inclosed in Lord George Germain's Letter to the Lords of the Admiralty of the 27th of last Month; I am directed by his Lordship to acquaint you that there is a great probability that a Dutch Ship ready to sail from Amsterdam to Santa Cruz on the Coast of Barbary with a large quantity of Gunpowder on board, will upon her Arrival there deliver her Powder over to a New York Ship the *Minerva* Captain Jos. Jauncey who is also preparing to sail at the same time from Amsterdam for the Coast of Barbary. I am &ca

J Pownall

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 42.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL SIR JAMES DOUGLAS, PORTSMOUTH [1]

Sr [Admiralty Office] 1st Decr 1775

I have communicated to my Lords Commrs of the admty your Letter of yesterdays date informing of the *Falkland* Brig, another of the American Whaling Vessels from Rhode Island bound to Falklands Island & seized by Capt [Robert] Keeler of the *Experiment* being arrived at Spithead from Fayal, and of the request of Capt [Mark] Milbank of the *Barfleur* to have Ten Days leave of absence on his private Affairs. And I am commanded by their Lordships to signify their direction to you to comply with Capt Milbank request &c P S

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 370–71.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO JOHN ROBINSON [1]

Sr [Admiralty Office] 1st Decr 1775

Having communicated to my Lords Commrs of the Admty your Letter of the 29th past enclosing by the direction of their Lordships of the Treasury Copy of a Petition that had been presented to them by Messrs Rotch & Smith relative to the seizure of Five Vessels of their property by the Commanders of His Majs Ships the *Renown* & *Experiment;* And signifying their Lordships desire to be acquainted with the cause of those Vessels being seized, & with the Circumstances relative thereto; I am commanded by my Lords of the Admty to acquaint you that in consequence of the Kings pleasure signified to them by the Earl of Dartmouth in his Letter of the 29th of August last directions were sent to Vice Adml Graves Commr in Chief of His Majs Ships in No America & to the Commanders of all Ships of War going to those parts to seize all Ships & Vessels they should meet with belonging to the Colonies of New Hampshire, Massachusets Bay, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pensylvania and the three lower Counties on Delaware, Maryland Virginia, North Carolina & So Carolina or owned by the Inhabitants thereof, except only in cases where it should clearly appear that they were bound to, or returning from some Port or place in Great Britain Ireland or His Majs Islands in the West Indies; That in consequence of these Orders Capt [Francis] Banks of the *Renown* & Capt [Robert] Keeler of the *Experiment* having fallen in with several American Vessels bound to Falkland Islands on the Whale Fishery made seizure of them & sent them to England; That Ld Geo Germain has been made acquainted with the arrival of these Vessels & the Circumstances attending their Capture, and that their Lordships are now waiting to receive His Majs pleasure

I return to you the petition abovementioned I am &c

P S

[1] PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 377–78.

John Robinson to John Pownall [1]

Sir, Treasury Chambers 1st Decr 1775.

My Lords Commrs of His Majesty's Treasury having just received Information, by a Return from the Custom house, that the Ship *Commerce* arrived at Milford the 21st of Novr last, Capt Patrick Rice from Edenson [Edenton] in No Carolina, that the Captain on the 20th of Octr last spake with the *Lizard* Frigate having a Brigantine in Tow Lat. 46 Long. 48 & 30 West of London; And their Lordships having been also acquainted by the Collector & Comptroller of Plymouth that by the *Ranger* of Jersey, Capt James Remon, from the Danish Island of St Croix in the West Indies, they learn that about the latter end of August sailed from thence for some part of No America a double decked Sloop of about 120 Tons, with about 300 Barrels of Gunpowder, and that several other Vessels were smuggling of Gunpowder in small Quantities. As it was not allowed to be exported, I have their Lordships Orders to communicate this Intelligence to you for the Information of Lord Geo: Germain. I am &c.

John Robinson.

[1] PRO, Colonial Office, 5/248, 174–75.

Count de Guines to Count de Vergennes [1]

[Extract] London [1] December 1775

News from the Ports. –

Portsmouth.

It is believed that the frigate *Triton* sailed for Halifax and the corvette *Hawke* for Boston. The Admiral himself wrote the orders for this corvette; an officer carried the package on board and she sailed immediately.[2]

The transport ships which are to take the 36th regiment in Ireland have arrived. There are very few men on board the ships and the frigate *Pearl* does not have a single one even though she had been commissioned for three weeks.

Plymouth.

The corvettes *Wasp* and *Wolfe* arrived with recruits from Ireland.

The cutter *Folkstone* sailed, destination unknown. It is believed it will be used against the smugglers in the Channel because it is fit only for this duty.

Chatham

The frigate *Repulse,* 32 guns, will be repaired.

The holds of almost all the frigates are being prepared as if they were going to be commissioned. They are still working on the frigates *Blonde, Eolus,* and *Galathea.* The corvette now being build in Harwich will be called *Cormoran.* Two fire ships, *Strombolo* and *Carcass,* are being commissioned. The latter has on board 60 sailors and 20 artillery men from Woolwich.

Destination: *Carysfort* is destined for North America; *Aldborough* and *Ranger* for the Channel; *Carcass* and *Strombolo,* two fire ships to serve outside.

[1] AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 513, LC Photocopy.

[2] "Boston, February 29. The *Hawke* sloop of war, with the *Hope* and *Adventure* transports, sailed from Portsmouth for this place the 27th of November." *Boston Gazette,* March 4, 1776.

"Extract of a Letter from Gosport, Dec. 1" [1]

Since my last the *Pearl* and *Seaford* frigates came out of dock, and are now fitting for sea.

Capt. Halsted, of this town, is appointed to the command of the *Jersey,* of 50 guns, and is to go to Boston, there to lie as an hospital ship for the use of the sick.

[1] *London Chronicle,* December 5 to December 7, 1775.

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2 Dec.

Lords Commissioners, Admiralty, to All Commanding Officers in Home Waters [1]

The King having been pleas'd, by His Order in Council of the 22d Novr 1775 to prohibit under certain restrictions, and with certain exceptions therein mention'd, the exporting out of this Kingdom, or carrying Coastwise Gunpowder, Salt Petre, or any sort of Arms or Ammunition for three Months longer; We send you herewith a Copy of the said Order in Council, and do hereby most strictly require and direct you to use your best endeavours to intercept seize and bring into Port, during the Time therein specified, all Ships and Vessels whatever having on board Gunpowder, Salt petre, or any sort of Arms or Ammunition shipp'd or laden on board them in the Ports of this Kingdom (except as in the said Order in Council is excepted) and intended to be transported into parts beyond the Seas, or carried Coastwise, without leave or Permission in that behalf first obtained from his Majesty or His Privy Council.

Given &c. the 2d Decr 1775 –

To The respective Flag Officers,
Captains & Commanders of
His Majts Ships & Vessels [2]
By &c. P.S.

Sandwich
J. Buller
Palmerston

[1] PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 289–90.

[2] The order book lists the names of fifty-seven commanding officers to whom the above was sent.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO WILLIAM EDEN [1]

Sir [Admiralty Office] 2d December 1775

Captain [Digby] Dent of His Majesty's Ship the *Arethusa,* who was ordered to cruize between Dungeness and the Coast of France, and is arrived in the Downs from his said Cruize, having informed my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that during his Cruize he spoke with and examined a variety of Vessels, but had not the least suspicion of any except a Dutch Snow american built of about 200 Tons burthen, but on sending his Boat on board, she appeared to be from Amsterdam, belonging to Merchants there, bound to St Eustatia with only fifty Barrells of Gunpowder on board, and no small arms; and that on examining her orders, he did not think himself authorized to detain her; I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you therewith for Lord Suffolks information. I am &c – P:S:

[1] PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 380–81.

London Chronicle, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30 TO TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1775

London. Dec. 2.

A letter from Portsmouth, Nov. 30, says, "Just came into harbour, the *Falkland,* from Fial, a prize taken by Capt. [Francis] Banks, on his voyage to Boston." [1]

[1] Banks was captain of H.M.S. *Renown.*

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3 Dec. (Sunday)

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CHATHAM, DEC. 3." [1]

Orders are received at the Commissioner's office here, for the sail-makers of this dock-yard to work double days, in order to give the greatest dispatch in making sails for the ships that are fitting at this port for America.

The *Milford* of twenty-eight guns, commanded by John Burr,Esq; is nearly fitted, and will sail from hence in a few days for America.

The *Carysfort,* of twenty-eight guns, is put into commission at this port, and the command given to Robert Fanshaw, Esq. She is also to go to America.

[1] *Pennsylvania Evening Post,* February 20, 1776.

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4 Dec.

LORD GEORGE GERMAIN TO THE MASTER GENERAL OF THE ORDNANCE [1]

My Lord, Whitehall 4th Decr 1775.

It having been represented to the King that it may be a great Convenience to the Troops, now preparing to go upon Service in North America, to have some small Carts, to be drawn by Men, for the purpose of attending the Field Train, and conveying Ammunition from Place to Place, as occasion shall require; I am commanded to signify to Your Lordship His Majesty's Pleasure, that, if such small Carts can be prepared, to be put on board any of the Transports now in the River, or upon their Arrival at Portsmouth, without creating any Demurrage or Delay, Your Lordship should order as many of the said Carts as you shall judge proper to be shipped accordingly. – I am &c

Geo: Germain

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[1] PRO, Colonial Office, 5/161, 118.

5 Dec.

Philip Stephens to John Pownall [1]

Sr Admiralty Office, 5th Decr 1775

Inclosed I send you a List of Transports which arrived in the Downes on the 3d Instant, and remained there yesterday when the Post came away, and am Sr [&c.]

Php Stephens

PS. Those ticked Thus √ are Vessels that are to carry the Troops from Portsmouth to Ireland.

[Enclosure]

Transports in the Downes

The *Thetis*	Burns	√*Nancy*	Tyrrel
√*Marqs of Rockingham*	Boyman	√*Union*	Burton
√*Seville*	Brown	√*Myrtle*	Wallis
Neary	Wilson	√*King George*	Kelly
Emmanuel	Spencer	*Myrtle*	Burton
Earl of Oxford	Twyman	*Union*	Wallis.
Golden Rule	Thompson		

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[1] PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 45a, 45b.

Invoice of Goods Shipped On Board the *Susannah* [1]

Pack'd for the 65th Regt Foot Lieut General Urmston's

No 1. A Cask contg	2 Serjts & 40 Private	Lt Infantry Cpas	
2. A Do contg	2 Do & 39 Do	Grenadiers Do	
3. A Case contg	30 Yds Supr fine Scarlet Cloth		For Capt Mackay
	20 Yds Do white Do		
	4 Pieces Do Do Shalloon		
	A Papr parcel Lace &c		
	20 Setts Regimtl Buttons		

Ship'd on board the *Susannah* Capt Fraser for Boston –[2] 5th December 1775.

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[1] US Revolution, LC.

[2] The *Susannah* was taken March 6, 1776, by three of Washington's armed schooners and sent into Portsmouth, N.H.

Lords Commissioners, Admiralty, to Captain John Brisbane, H.M.S. *Flora*, Chatham [1]

Having appointed you Captain of His Majesty's Ship *Flora* at Chatham, which we have order'd to be fitted and stored at that Place for Foreign Service, mann'd with Two Hundred Men and victualled for six Months with all Species of Provisions except Beer, of which she is to be have as much as she can conveniently stow, and to be supplied with a proportion of Wine or Spirits in lieu of the remainder; You are hereby required and directed, to use the utmost dispatch in getting her ready accordingly and then falling down to Blackstakes take in her Guns and Gunners Stores at that place and proceed to the Nore for further Order.

Given &c. the 5th Decr 1775.

Sandwich J. Buller H. Palliser

By &c. P.S.

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1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 294. A similar letter was sent at the same time to Captain Philemon Pownall, commanding H.M.S. *Blonde,* also at Chatham.

COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER TO PHILIP STEPHENS [1]

Sir Queen's Square Westmr 5 Decbr 1775

His Majesty's Ship the *Bristol* being almost Ready to proceed to Sea, and Her allowed Complement of Seamen, nearly completed, I beg you will please to move Their Lordships to Order Her Rendezvous to be broken up. I am Sir [&c.]

P: Parker

[Endorsed] 5th Decr
Usual Order to the Lieutt Cauldfield
Acq Sir Peter

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1. PRO, Admiralty 1/486.

LORD STORMONT TO COUNT DE VERGENNES [1]

Sir, Paris, 5 December 1775

A few American ships have appeared lately in several European ports; their Captains have openly admitted that they intend to obtain arms and ammunition. I have the honr to forward this information to Your Excellency because I am convinced that you will dispatch the required orders to forbid in the ports of the Kingdom the exportation of war ammunition of all kinds on British vessels and even on vessels of other nations bound to America.

I have the honor to be with the most respectful consideration [&c.]

Stormont

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1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 513, LC Photocopy. Stormont was British Ambassador to France.

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6 Dec.

LORD GEORGE GERMAIN TO LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY [1]

My Lords, Whitehall, 6th Decemr 1775

Having laid before the King the States which have been from time to time transmitted to Mr Pownall by Mr Stephens of the Vessels taken up for the Transportation to America, of five Regiments ordered to be embarked at Corke; I am Commanded by His Majesty to signify to Your Lordships His Majesty's pleasure, that directions be given for their proceeding to Corke with as much Expedition as possible, and that Sir Peter Parker be also ordered to proceed thither directly, with the Ships under his Command. It is necessary your Lordships should be informed of the Object and purpose of the Armament intended to be sent to the Southern Colonies; and I am therefore further Commanded by the King, to make a confidential communication to your Lordships of the orders given respecting the operations of the Land Force, which you will find in the inclosed Copy of my Letter to the Major General, who shall be appointed by Major General Howe, to command that Force, upon its arrival on the Coast of America, and of my Letter to the Earl Cornwallis, who will have the Command of the Troops untill they arrive at Cape Fear; And I am to signify to Your Lordships His Majesty's Commands, that You do give such Instructions to Sir Peter Parker, as shall correspond therewith, and as your Lordships shall think may enable him, to give every possible Assistance and Facility towards effecting the Object and End of this Expedition. – I am &c

Geo. Germain

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 46.

George Jackson to John Pownall [1]

Sir

Admty Office 6 Decr 1775

The honble Captain [Keith] Elphinstone having informed my Lords Commrs of the Admty that he has received a private Letter by His Majesty's Ship the *Surprize*, which is arrived at Portsmouth from Cadiz, advising that there were near Twenty American Vessels in that Port when the said Ship sailed from thence; I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you therewith for the information of Lord George Germain. I am [&c.]

Geo: Jackson D S

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 47. Jackson was Deputy Secretary of the Admiralty.

George Jackson to Rear Admiral Clark Gayton [1]

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 6th Decr 1775

I am commanded by my Lords Commissrs of the Admty to send you inclosed a Copy of a Letter from Mr [John] Robinson Secretary to the Lords Commissioners of His Majs Treasury giving Intelligence of Vessels employed in carrying Powder and small Arms from Cape Nichola Mole to America and of others which Trade from the Island of Bermuda to Europe, And to signify their direction to you to give Orders to the Commanders of His Majesty's Ships & Vessels under your command to cruize for such of the Vessels beforemention'd &c as may be within the Limits of your Station, and in case of falling in with them to seize them agreable to the Orders you have received from their Lordships for that purpose. I am &c.

Geo Jackson D.S.

Vice Adml Gayton at Jamaica.
Duplicate sent by the *Winchelsea*
Vice Adml Young at Antigua
Duplicate by the *Shark*
By the Packet the same day/

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 393.

INTELLIGENCE FROM A LONDON NEWSPAPER [1]

London, December 6.

Most of the American Governors will be appointed Commissioners, and the reason of sending so many Commissioners (thirty-six) to America, is, to treat with each province separately about an accomodation, and so despatch the business; — they are not now to treat with the Congress, as was first reported.

1. *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, February 20, 1776.

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7 Dec.

GEORGE JACKSON TO JOHN POWNALL [1]

Sir Admty Office 7 Decr 1775

The several Transport Vessels mentioned in Mr Stephen's Letter of the 5th instant, also the *Robert and Elizabeth* another of the Transports under Orders to proceed to Corke, having sailed yesterday forenoon, from the Downes to the Westward; I am commanded by my Lords Commissrs of the Admty to acquaint you therewith for Lord Geo: Germaine's information. I am Sr [&c.]

Geo: Jackson

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 49.

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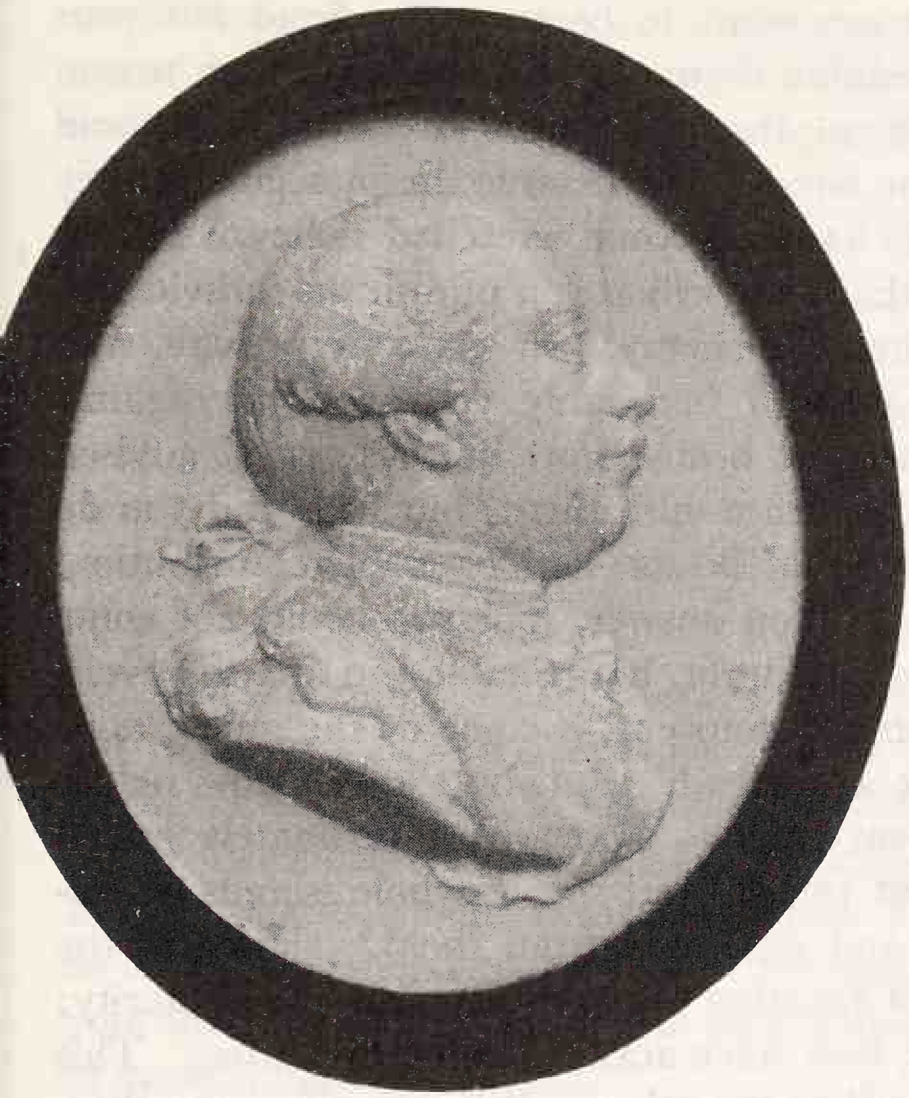
8 Dec.

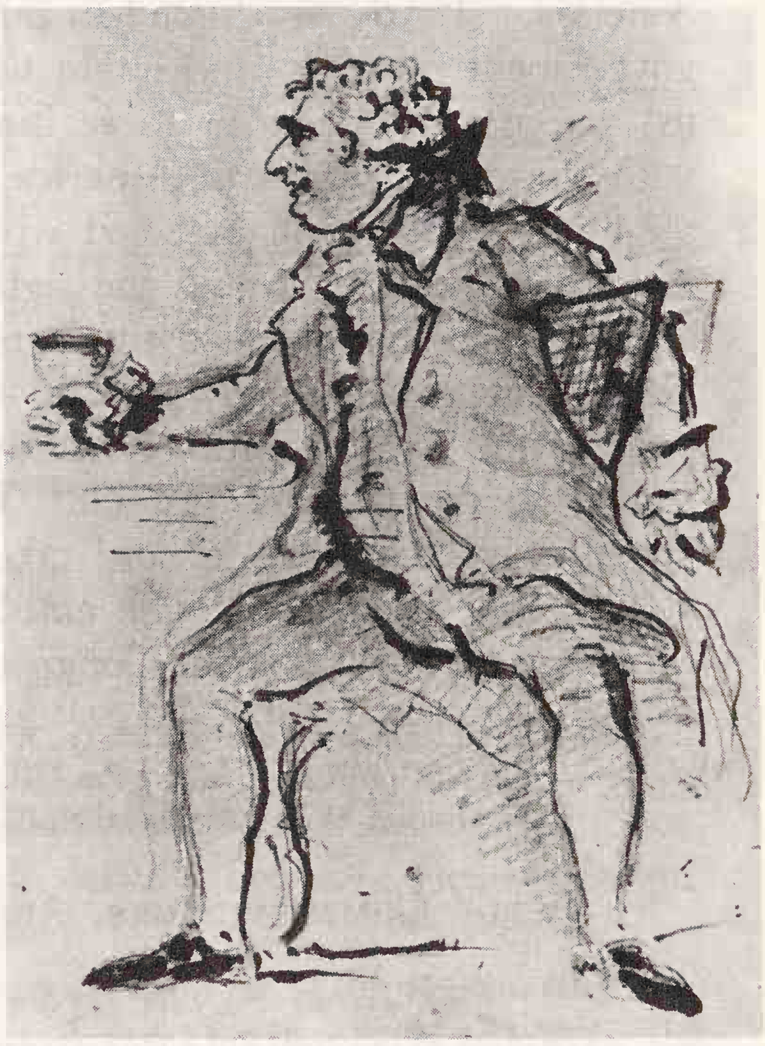
CHARLES JAMES FOX'S REMARKS IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS UPON THE PROHIBITORY ACT [1]

Dec. 8 [1775].

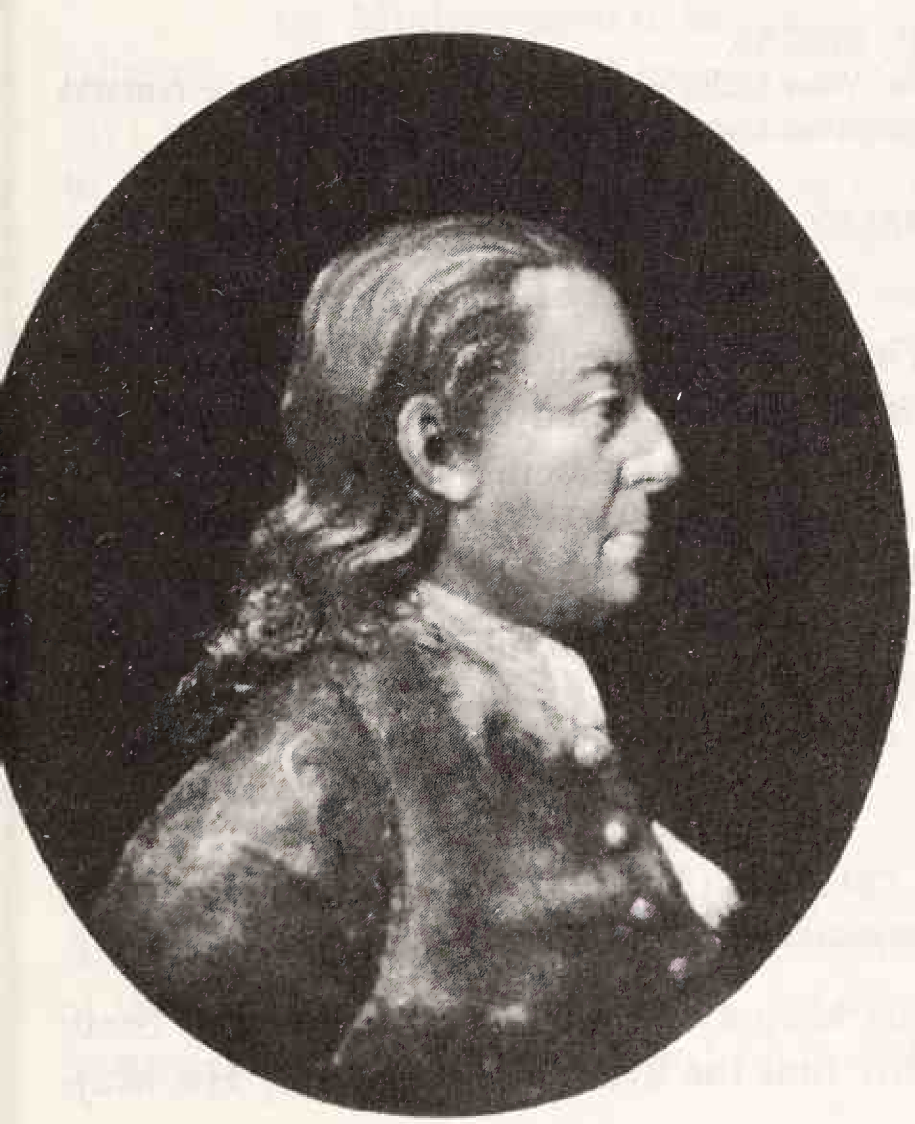
I have always said, that the war carrying on against the Americans is unjust, that it is not practicable; but admitting it to be a just war, that it is practicable, I say, that the means made use of, are by no means such as will obtain the end. I shall confine myself singly to this ground, and shew that this Bill, like every other measure, proves the want of policy, the folly and madness, of the present set of ministers. I was in great hopes, that they had seen their error, and had given over coercion, and carrying on war against America by means of acts of parliament. In order to induce the Americans to submit to your legislature, you pass laws against them, cruel and tyrannical in the extreme. If they complain of one law, your answer to their complaint, is to pass another more rigorous than the former: but they are in rebellion, you



George III.



Charles James Fox.



Benjamin Franklin.

say; if they are, treat them as rebels are wont to be treated. Send out your fleets and armies against them, and subdue them; but let them have no reason to complain of your laws. Shew them, that your laws are mild, just, and equitable, that they therefore are in the wrong, and deserve the punishment they meet with. The very contrary of this has been your wretched policy. I have ever understood it as a first principle, that in rebellion you punish the individuals, but spare the country; in a war against the enemy, you spare individuals, and lay waste the country. This last has been invariably your conduct against America. I suggested this to you, when the Boston Port Bill passed. I advised you to find out the offending persons, and to punish them; but what did you do instead of this? You laid the whole town of Boston under terrible contribution, punishing the innocent with the guilty. You answer, that you could not come at the guilty. This very answer, shews how unfit, how unable you are, to govern America. If you are forced to punish the innocent to come at the guilty, your government there, is, and ought to be at an end. But, by the Bill now before us, you not only punish those innocent persons who are unfortunately mixed with the guilty in North America, but punish and starve whole islands of unoffending people, unconnected with, and separated from them.[2] Hitherto the Americans have separated the right of taxation from your legislative authority; although they have denied the former, they have acknowledged the latter. This Bill will make them deny the one as well as the other. What signifies, say they, your giving up the right of taxation, if you are to inforce your legislative authority in the manner you do. This legislative authority so inforced, will at any time coerce taxation, and take from us whatever you think fit to demand. It is a Bill which should be entitled, a Bill for carrying more effectually into execution the resolves of the Congress.

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[1] Hansard, ed., *Parliamentary History*, XVIII, 1058–59.

[2] Referring to a petition against the bill from West India planters and merchants; see remarks of Nathaniel Bayley against the bill, December 1 and 11, 1775.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN [1]

My Lord Admiralty Office, 8th Decr 1775

Having received a Letter from Vice Adml [James] Young, Commander in chief of his Majesty's Ships at the Leeward Islands, dated the 30th of August last at Antigua, relative to the Rebells in North America being supply'd with Gunpowder & other warlike Stores from the Island of St Croix, and the other Caribbee Islands in that neighbourhood, and of the measures he has taken to prevent the same in future; We sent your Lordship herewith a Copy thereof, and of the several Papers inclosed therein, for his Majesty's information, and are, My Lord [&c.]

Sandwich C Spencer H Palliser

[1] PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 52a.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO VICE ADMIRAL SIR JAMES DOUGLAS, PORTSMOUTH [1]

Lord George Germain, One of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State having signified to Us the Kings pleasure that the five Vessels seized by His Majesty's Ships the *Experiment* and *Renown* on their Voyage to Falkland Islands should be restored, together with their Stores and Furniture to their Owners; – We do hereby require & direct you to cause them to be restored accordingly, on the Owners application for them.

Given &c. the 8th Decr 1775.

Sandwich J.Buller C.Spencer

To Sir James Douglas
By &c G.J. DS

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1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 296–97.

WILLIAM KNOX TO ANTHONY TODD [1]

Sir, Whitehall 8 Decr 1775

I am directed by Lord George Germain to desire that a Packet Boat may be got ready to sail with Dispatches, which will be sent from hence, on Saturday Night the 16th instant, to Virginia and from thence to proceed to North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and East Florida; And as his Lordship is desirous that the Merchants should avail themselves of this Conveyance for sending Letters to their Correspondents in those Provinces, he has Commanded me to acquaint you, that he has no objection to your giving public Notice of the intended Sailing of the said Packet I am &c.

W^m^ Knox

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1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/250, 298. Todd was Secretary of the Post Office.

DAVID GREENE TO RUSSELL HUBBARD [1]

[Extract] London Decr 8 1775

. . . the Ministry seem to be taking some Steps towards attempting a Reconciliation; Whether they will proceed in a Rights Path, or go far enough, I can't say; I fear they will stop rather short. Commissioners are to be sent to America, to treat with the Provinces, or propose to them certain Terms of Accomodation. A Bill is now in the House of Commons which will undoubtedly pass into an Act, "to prohibit all Trade with the Colonies during the Continuance of the present Rebellion; for repealg the Boston Port Act & the two Acts made in the last Session for restraing the Trade of the Colonies, & to enable his Majesty to appoint Commissioners" &c This is the Title – It empowers the Men of War to seize all Vessels & their Cargoes belongg to the Inhabitants of the Colonies wherever found; & all other Vessells found loadg in, going to, or coming from, any of them; . . . the Commissioners are to be empowered to grant Pardons where they find necessary, & to issue Proclamations declaring any Colony, County, Town &c to be "at the Peace of the King;" After which the Restraining Act to be of no Force with Respect to such Colony &c . . .

There has been lately a small Change in the Ministry; It will produce no Alteration in our Affairs – Ld George Germaine is Secretary of State for the American Departmt instead of Ld Dartmouth, made Ld Privy Seal in the Room of the Duke of Grafton resigned. Ld Rochford, Secretary of the Southern Departmt, goes out with a Pension; Ld Suffolk, Secretary of the Northern, takes his

Place, & Suffolk's is given to Ld Weymouth who was Groom of the Stole, which Office is now fill'd by the E of Ashburnham, which makes Room for Young Ld Lyttelton, as Keeper of the Wardrobe. . . .

To Mr Russell Hubbard Merchant In New London

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/40. An intercepted letter.

COUNT DE GUINES TO COUNT DE VERGENNES [1]

[Extract] London 8 December 1775

All the owners from the West Indies presented yesterday a petition to the House of Commons with respect to the frightful losses brought upon them by the present war. This is a very important matter because the trade of the Islands is going to be completely destroyed. Thus develop little by little the misfortunes of England, and we will see finally that the loss of America will be a decisive one in spite of everything said up to now by the Ministry to try to convince us that they are concerned more with the dignity than the interest of Great Britain.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 513, LC Photocopy.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM GOSPORT, DEC. 8." [1]

The ships fitting in this harbour for Boston, are greatly distressed for want of men, although so many rendezvous are opened in London, Bristol, &c. insomuch that the people belonging to the guardships are lent to assist the rigging of them.

1. *London Chronicle,* December 7 to December 9, 1775.

COUNT DE VERGENNES TO LORD STORMONT [1]

Sir, Versailles, 8 December 1775

I had the honor to receive the letter which your Excellency wrote me on the 5th of this month to inform me of the notice that had been given to him concerning the Captains of a few American ships which appeared recently in several European ports, who confessed that they intended to obtain arms and ammunition. In consequence, Your Excellency requested the King to dispatch to his ports the orders necessary to prevent the exportation of war ammunition of all kinds on British vessels and even on vessels of other nations bound for America.

I gave, Sir, a report of your request to His Majesty at his Council. He has commanded me to reply to you that he will never have anything more at heart than to give to the King of England the most convincing proof of his sincere and constant friendship, as well as his desire to maintain and perpetuate the fortunate harmony which exists between the two nations. To this purpose he will renew his orders to his ports to prevent the exportation of war ammunition to Northern America either on English ships or on ships of any other nation. .

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 513, LC Photocopy.

COUNT DE VERGENNES TO GABRIEL DE SARTINE [1]

Versailles, 8 December 1775

You were present, Sir, when I gave my report to the King yesterday at the council on the letter in which the English Ambassador requests that the orders forbidding the exportation of arms and ammunition from out ports to the English colonies be renewed and you will remember that His Majesty is determined to assent to this request. I have the honor to enclose herewith a copy of the letter from the Viscount of Stormont as well as the answer which His Majesty commanded me to make, and I request that you be so kind as to dispatch the orders in consequence to all the ports of the Kingdom where the expeditions of arms and ammunition to North America might take place.

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[1] AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 513, LC Photocopy.

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9 Dec.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN [1]

My Lord Admiralty Office, 9th Decr 1775

Having received a Letter from Vice Adml Young, Commander in chief of his Majts Ships at the Leeward Islands, dated the 23d of October last, at Antigua, inclosing copies of the Answers to the Letters he had wrote to the Governors &ca of all his Majesty's Caribbee Islands; copies of two Letters from the Governor of Bermuda, relative to some Gunpowder stolen out of the Magazine in that Island; Copy of Intelligence he had received of a new mode of carrying on a contraband Trade from the French Islands to North America; and of a Letter he wrote to the Count de Nosier, Govr General of the French Windward Caribbee Islands on that Subject; Copy of a Printed Paper circulated by the Masters of American Vessels among the People of the Leeward Islands, to induce them to supply Gunpowder &ca to the Rebells; Copy of a Letter to the Vice Adml from Count de Nosier, complaining of the behaviour of Captain Gordon of the *Argo,* at Martinico, and of his answer thereunto; We send your Lordship herewith a Copy of Vice Admiral Young's said Letter, and of the several Papers inclosed therein, for his Majesty's information, and are My Lord [&c.]

Sandwich C Spencer H Palliser

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[1] PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 53a.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN [1]

My Lord Admiralty Office 9th Decr 1775

Having just received a Letter from Vice Admiral Young, Commander in chief of his Majesty's Ships at the Leeward Islands, inclosing the Count de Nosier's Answer to the Letter he had wrote to him by Captain Gordon of the *Argo*; We send your Lordship herewith a Copy thereof, in addition to our former Letter of this date on the same Subject, for his Majesty's information, and are My Lord [&c.]

Sandwich C Spencer H Palliser

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[1] PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 54a.

LORD GEORGE GERMAIN TO THE LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY [1]

My Lords, Whitehall 9th Decr 1775.

There being reason to beleive that a Ship, supposed to be now on her Passage from Quebec, may have on board some Rebels, who have been taken Prisoners in that Province; I am commanded by the King, to signify to Your Lordships His Majesty's Pleasure, that you do give Instructions to the Commanders of His Majesty's Ships & Vessels, in their different Stations upon the Coast of Great Britian, that they do, immediately upon the Arrival of any Ship or Vessel from Quebec, send a proper Officer on board, and in case it shall be found that there are any Rebel Prisoners in the Custody of the Master of the said Ship or Vessel, that they do take the said Prisoners on board His Majesty's Ship; But if the Person having Custody of such Prisoners shall make any difficulty of delivering them up, in that case to detain the Vessel until His Majesty's Pleasure be known.

[1] PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 51.

RICHARD CHAMPION TO WILLING, MORRIS & CO.[1]

This News may be depended upon –

The Government do not intend to make their grand Armament at Boston. They will only reinforce the Army there, so as to enable them to maintain their ground, if the Provincials do not carry the place this winter.

The whole force is to 26000 Men including those now in America and three Regiments of Scotch Dutch, who are to come over in the Spring from Holland, and be sent to Scotland to recruit, & from thence to go to America. No other foreign Troops are to be had nor would the Dutch have given them but they were paid a most extravagant Price for them. They are now about 2000 tho' normally 3000 which Number they are to be made.

This whole force is to be divided in America, and sent to New York Virginia & So Carolina, so that there will be no very considerable Army, though strong bodies of perhaps 8, 6, & 4000 Men to these places, but the numbers are not ascertained though they will be strong bodies.

All Commerce is prohibited with America, but Commissioners are certainly going out, but their Names not yet mentioned

The Scotch Faction prevail at Court. The Bedford Party are a good deal divided some having join'd the opposition. Lord Chatham will never again appear out. The Ministry is considerably strengthened Lord Rockingham is the head of a formedable party indeed almost all the Minority are immediately attached to him. The Strength however is greatly inferiour to the Ministry, and will be except the rest of the Bedfords, which are the strongest part of that party and the support of Ministry leave them. It is impossible to say what may happen.

[Bristol] 9 Decr 1775

[1] Morris Papers, HUL. This appears to be a postscript to letter of November 17, 1775, indicating that the latter was not dispatched until three weeks after it was written.

LORD STORMONT TO COUNT DE VERGENNES [1]

Sir, Paris, 9 December 1775

I shall not waste a moment to answer the letter with which Your Excellency honored me and of which I shall give an account to my Court without fail. I dare assure you already now, Monsieur le Comte, that the King my master, whose intentions are all aimed at perpetuating the fortunate harmony that exists between the two nations, will receive with pleasure the renewed assurance of constant friendship on the part of His Most Christian Majesty of which new evidence was given by renewing the orders forbidding the exportation from his ports of arms and war ammunition destined for Northern America either on English vessels or on the vessels of any other nation.

I have the honor to be with sincere attachment,Sir [&c.]

[1] AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 513, LC Photocopy.

GABRIEL DE SARTINE TO COUNT DE VERGENNES [1]

Versailles, 9 December 1775

I had the honor to receive, Sir, along with the letter which you wrote me on the 8th of this month the enclosed copies of Viscount de Stormont's letter and of the answer which you sent to this Ambassador. In consequence I have renewed the orders which had already been given to the Intendants and Commissioners of the Ports to forbid the loading of arms and War ammunition destined for Northern America either on English Vessels or on the Vessels of any other Nation.

I have the honor to be, Sir, with the most sincere attachment [&c.]

[1] AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 513, LC Photocopy.

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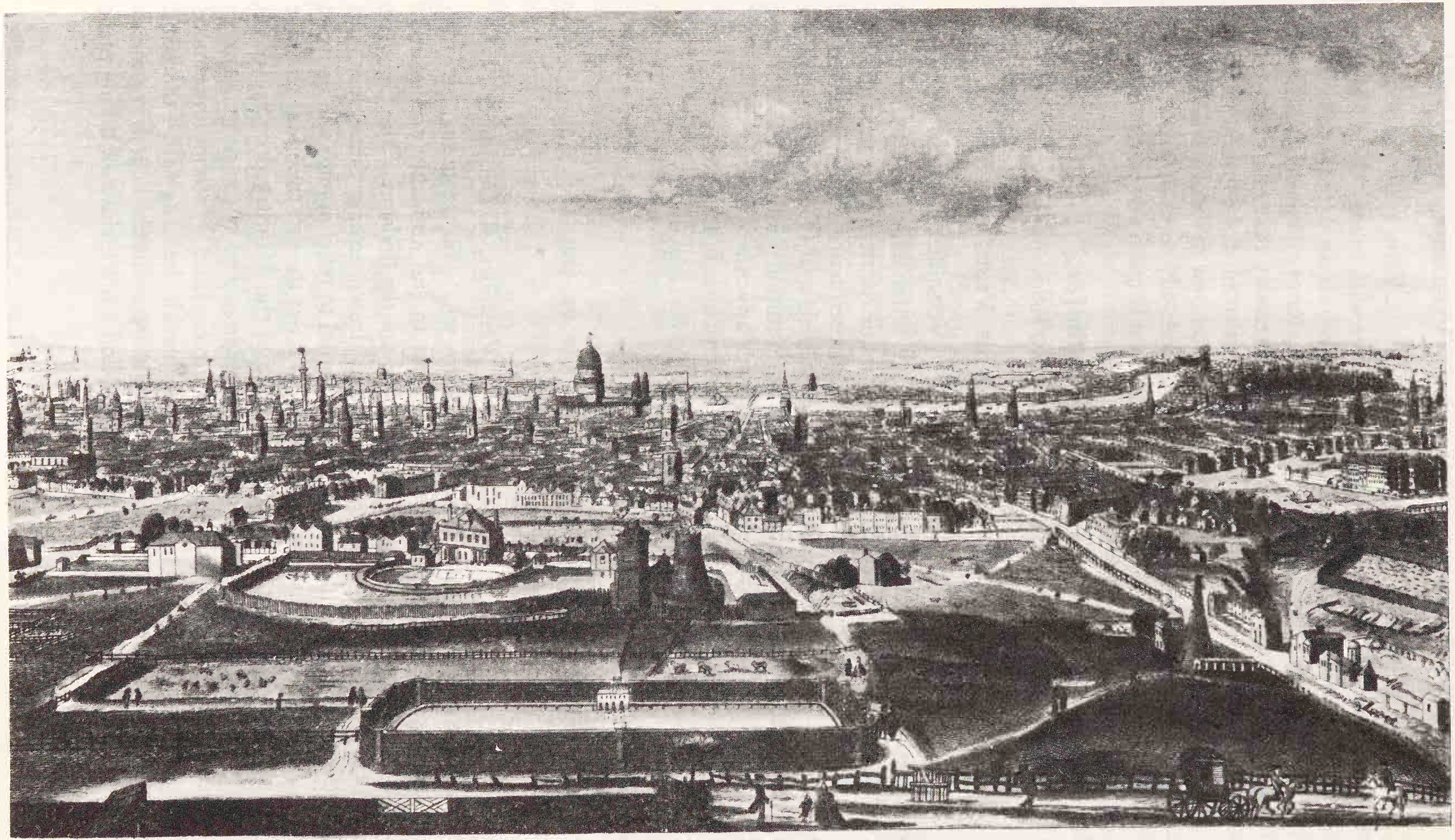
10 Dec. (Sunday)

COUNT DE VERGENNES TO COUNT DE GUINES [1]

[Extract]
No.166 Versailles, 10 December 1775

The remarks made by Lord Stormont confirm what you wrote me, Sir, with respect to the hope entertained by the Government to end amicably and soon its quarrel with America. According to this Ambassador the division of the Congress is at its highest point, the Generals are at daggers drawn among themselves, and the people, dissatisfied, are only waiting for the signal to rebel against the usurped authority. All this is beautiful if is true. But this is not the first time that we have been given an illusive picture. I must be even that the Ministry does not count with certainty on these dispositions and on the possible success of the commissioners since they seem to wish to increase their means of force. Lord Stormont announced to me triumphantly that Ireland had consented to provide the King with 4 thousand men from its establishment. If we add to this reinforcement the Scotch regiments which Holland [*sic*] is apparently willing to loan, and a few levies now taking place



A General View of the City *of* London, *taken from the Bowling Green at* Iſlington. | *Vüe Generale de la* Ville *de* Londres, *du Boulin Grin à* Iſlington.

Printed for Carington Bowles, *Map & Printseller* Nº 69 *in* Sᵗ *Pauls Church Yard*, London.

in Germany, England will be able to have 36 thousand good troops in America by next spring. I no longer mention the Russians because it seems that this project has been abandoned at least for the moment, although there still exists a movement of negotiation the purpose of which is still not quite clear.

If forces as strong as those which England has apparently decided to gather in America do not meet with decisive success, the Ministry will have difficulty to survive. But this event is so contingent and far away in the future that it is not possible to plan any precautionary measures. Regardless of the outcome, the King observes with satisfaction that Lord Weymouth displays the same feelings as his predecessor in order to sustain the most perfect understanding with us. Since this attitude corresponds with the principles held by the King, the British Ministry may rest assured that it can expect the most complete and cordial reciprocity on our part. We have just given them new evidence of our feelings. Lord Stormont having complained that a few American ships had come to various European ports to trade for war ammunition, the King has just re-issued his orders forbidding the sale of such articles to American ships or any vessel which would be bound for Northern America.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 513, LC Photocopy.

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11 Dec.

NATHANIEL BAYLEY'S REMARKS IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS AGAINST THE PROHIBITORY ACT[1]

Dec. 11 [1775].

Mr. Bayley said: I am well convinced there never entered this door, a Bill fraught with such injustice and cruelty as the present. In order to wreak the revenge of a vindictive ministry on the Americans, you are now going to ruin all the plantations in the West India islands, and to give their present produce up for plunder to your sailors, before the inhabitants can have any notice of your intentions. And by this infamous trick you think you shall be able to man your fleet without giving any bounties to your seamen, which I much doubt if you will find answer after all; yet the attempt is so very base and wicked, that I defy any one to mention such an instance even amongst the most savage nations, where a minister ever dared to give up such a number of innocent people to plunder, without the least crime being laid to their charge. Sir, I have several times told the House, that before the Congress had shut up the American ports, which was the 10th of Sept. last, a great number of their vessels sailed for the West Indies, chiefly in ballast, where the planters are now loading them under the sanction of our Acts of Navigation, never suspecting that we are this day capable of making a law which is to entrap them, by enacting, that unless American vessels came to them loaded with lumber or provisions, and obtained a certificate of it to bring with them to Great Britain or Ireland, with a particular description of their cargoes then on board, that the planter's property was to be seized and made lawful prize of, although they could not possibly know of any such stipulations; therefore, Sir, I frequently urged how unjust it would be, not to give the inhabitants of those islands timely notice of your design before you subjected their goods to forfeiture. I now again, Sir, have a clause in my hand to offer for this purpose, and if it be not accepted, all mankind will agree in seeing the intention of this Bill in the same light that I do. But, Sir, the noble lord at the head of the Treasury insinuates, that no injury is meant by this Bill to any of the proprietors of West India estates: if that was really the case, his lordship could have no objection to such a clause; but what serves to convince me more than any bare profession is, that no one will accept the 1,000 guineas I have declared myself ready to give, to whoever will indemnify my property that is now at sea from being seized, until I can send information to my managers in Jamaica to forbear shipping any more on American vessels. Sir, I think it an infamous robbery to have my property taken from me without having infringed any law whatever, and without giving me time to guard against such laws as you are making. Although the loss I may sustain on this occasion may not much effect me, I know many of the inhabitants of the West India islands will be ruined by it, having the greatest part of what they are worth in the world on board American ships now on their passage to this kingdom, and which is now out of their power to remedy. And notwithstanding they are insured against the risk of the seas, and even pirates, yet I am sorry to say that after escaping all these, their ruin is inevitable, from rapacious and unprincipled ministers.

1. Hansard, ed., *Parliamentary History,* XVIII, 1063–65. Bayley's clause was not accepted.

Lords Commissioners, Admiralty, to Captain James Reid, H.M. Bomb Vessel *Thunder,* Galleon's Reach [1]

You are hereby required & directed so soon as you shall have taken on board the Bomb Vessel you command her Guns, Mortars & Ordnance Stores to proceed without a moments loss of time to Spithead & there wait until you receive further Order.

Given &c 11th Decr 1775

Sandwich J Buller Palmerston

By &c G J DS

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 297.

Lord George Germain to the Lords Commissioners, Admiralty [1]

My Lords

Whitehall 11th Decemr 1775

Having received information that an American Vessel named the *Betsy* will fall down the River for Gravesend this Evening's Tide and proceed immediately from thence to the Downs having cleared out for Antigua, tho' really destined for North America, I am commanded by the King to signify to your Lordships His Majesty's Pleasure that you do direct the Commander of any of His Majesty's Ships at the Nore to employ a proper Officer to intercept the said Vessel upon her Passage to the Downs, and to search for, seize and transmit to me any Letters addressed to Persons in any part of North America.

[Endorsed] Drat to Lords of the Admiralty 11th December 1775.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 55.

GEORGE JACKSON TO COMMODORE GEORGE MACKENZIE, Chatham [1]

Sr [Admiralty Office] 11th Decr 1775

Ld George Germaine one of His Majs Principal Secretaries of State having acquainted my Lords Commrs of the Admty by Letter of this date that information has been received that an American Vessel named the *Betsey* whose description is on the other side hereof will fall down the River for Gravesend this Evenings Tide & proceed immediately from thence to the Downes having cleared out for Antigua tho' really designed for No America I am commanded in obedience to His Majestys pleasure signified in Ld Geo Germaines Letter aforesaid to signify their Lordships direction to you to put a discreet officer on board the *Goodwill* Cutter, or any other proper Vessel under your command with Orders to proceed to the Downes & there to use his endeavors to intercept the said Vessel and in case of falling in with her to search for Seize & transmit to Ld Geo. Germaine any Letters addressed to Persons in any part of No America &c

G J DS

By messenger at ½ past 10 P M

Painted black, Square Sterned, rakes much abaft abt 70 Tons burthen with a Top sail Yard rigged aloft. deep wasted & two port Holes on each side The Masters Name is Paine & the Pilots Williams

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 407–08.

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRALS SIR JAMES DOUGLAS AND JOHN AMHERST [1]

Sr [Admiralty Office] 11th Decr 1775

There being reasons to believe that a Ship supposed to be now on her passage from Quebec may have on board some Rebells who have been taken Prisoners in that Province; I am commanded by my Lords Commrs of the Admty to signify their direction to you in pursuance of the Kings pleasure signified to them by Ld Geo Germaine that you give Orders to the several Captains of His Majestys Ships & Vessels under your command immediately upon the arrival of any Ship or Vessel from Quebec to send a proper Officer on board her and in case any Rebell Prisoners Should be found in the Custody of the Master of such a Ship or Vessel to take them out of her & convey them on board the Ship of War. And in Case the Person having Custody of any such Prisoners should make any difficulty in delivering them up, in that case to detain the Vessel til His Majestys further Pleasure shall be known &c

G J DS

Vice Adml Sr Jas Douglas – Portsmo
Vice Adml Amherst Plymo –

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 403.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CHATHAM, DEC. 11." [1]

Thursday the *Emerald* frigate, of 32 guns, was put into commission at this port, and the command of her given to Benjamin Caldwell, Esq. She is to go to America.

Friday a detachment of marines from this division, consisting of a serjeant, a corporal, a drummer, and 35 private men (all fine young fellows) under the command of Lieutenant Burn, embarked from hence on board his Majesty's frigate *Milford,* of 28 guns, commanded by John Burr, Esq; for America.

Saturday the *Brune* frigate, of 32 guns, was taken into dock to be sheathed.

The above ships are daily exepected to be commissioned, and are to go to America.

1. *London Chronicle,* December 12 to December 14, 1775.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Speedwell,* CAPTAIN RICHARD PEARSON [1]

Decembr 1775	Remarks &a *Speedwell* Sloop
Saturday 9th In Dover Peer	[Moderate and Cloudy] Wr AM Arrived in Dover road the *Greyhound* Cutter with the *Anna Catherina* a danish ship detained from an Information of having warlike stores on board for the rebels in America [2] sent the Lieut Cook a mastrs mate & ten men & a pilot on bd to take Care of her
Sunday 10th	Do Weather the *Anna Catherina* & *greyhound* Cutter in the road
Monday 11th	Fresh Breezes and Cloudy the *Anna Catherina* & *grayhound* Cutter sailed for the Down's.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/918.
2. The *Anna Catherina* was searched and no contraband found on board. For account of her release, see "Extract of a letter from Dover, December 26."

12 Dec.

GEORGE JACKSON TO JOHN POWNALL [1]

Sir Admiralty Office 12th Decr 1775

My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty having received a Letter from Lieutenant Knowles, Agent for Transports going with Troops from Ireland to North America, dated the 10th instant on board the *Myrtle* Transport at Spithead, giving an account that the 32d and 36th Regiments of Foot were embarked on board the Transport Vessels named on the other side in order to proceed to Cork and were then under Sail, I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you therewith, for the Information of Lord George Germaine I am [&c.]

Geo: Jackson D S

Marquiss of Rockingham
Saville
Union
Myrtle
Blessing
Admiral Shuldham
King George

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 56.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CHATHAM, DEC. 12." [1]

About noon the *Milford* frigate, of 28 guns, Capt.[John] Burr, sailed from hence for America, but had to stop at Blackstakes to take in her powder and guns, after which she is to proceed on her voyage with the greatest expedition.

1. *London Chronicle,* December 14 to December 16, 1775.

14 Dec.

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL SIR JAMES DOUGLAS, PORTSMOUTH [1]

[Extract] [Admiralty Office] 14th December 1775

Sir With respect to the delivering up the five American Vessels that were seized and sent to Portsmouth by the *Experiment* and *Renown,* I am to acquaint you that their Lordships approve of your delivering up the said Vessels to their respective Masters upon their producing orders from Messrs Rotch and Smith, on whose application on behalf of themselves and Aaron Lopez of Newport in Rhode Island as owners of the said Vessels they were ordered to be restored. I am &c

Geo. Jackson D:S:

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 413–14.

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15 Dec.

GEORGE JACKSON TO JOHN POWNALL [1]

Sr Admty Office 15th Decr 1775

Lieut Tonken, Agent to the Transports, going to Corke, having by his Letter dated the 11h instant in Milford Haven, informed my Lords Commissrs of the Admty that the preceding Morning at day light he sailed from thence with the Transports under his direction with the Wind at East, but by the time he got 15 Leagues to the Westward, the Wind came round to the WSW, and as it began to blow strong, with the appearance of dirty Weather, he thought it most prudent to bear away again for the above Port, from whence he shall sail the first fair Wind; I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you therewith, for the information of Lord George Germaine And am Sr [&c.]

Geo: Jackson D S

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[1] PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 58.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO VARIOUS CAPTAINS [1]

You are hereby required & directed to proceed without a Moments loss of time, in the Ship you command to Corke in Ireland, & upon your arrival there, to put yourself under the command of Sir Peter Parker, & follow his Orders for your further proceedings

Given &c 15th Decr 1775

Sandwich J Buller H. Palliser

Capt [Charles] Thompson – *Boreas* – Spithead
Capt [Christopher] Atkins – *Actaeon* – Do
Capt [James] Reid *Thunder* Bb Vessel – Do

By &c G J DS

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 302.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO VARIOUS CAPTAINS [1]

You are hereby required & directed to put yourself under the command of Sir Peter Parker upon his arrival at Spithead & follow his Orders for your further proceedings.

Given &c 15th Decr 1775 [2]

Sandwich J Buller H. Palliser

Capt Hunt – *Sphynx* – Spithead
" Worth – *Deal Castle* – Do

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1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 303.
2. *Ibid.*, the above order was also sent to Captain Symonds of the *Solebay* at Plymouth.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER, PORTSMOUTH [1]

You are hereby required & directed to order Capt [John] Morris of His Majs Ship the *Bristol* to receive on board the Earl [Charles] Cornwallis Commr of the Troops under Orders to proceed to North America with his Attendants, Servants & Baggage and give them a passage to Corke and from thence to North America, victualling them during their continuance on board as the Ships Company. Given &c 15th Decr 1775

Sandwich J Buller H Palliser

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1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 303–04.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER [1]

You are hereby required & directed to order Mr Richard Molesworth Deputy Paymaster to the Troops going to North America under the command of Earl [Charles] Cornwallis to be received on board such one of His Majestys Ships under your command as you shall think proper, together with his Cash, Servants & Baggage directing the Captain of her to Victual him & his Servants during their continuance on board as part of the Ships Complement –

Given &c 15th December 1775

To Sir Peter Parker
Commander of a Squadron of His Majts Ships
to be employed on a particular Service
By &c G J DS.

Sandwich
J Buller
H Palliser

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1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 301–02.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN ROBERT LINZEE, H.M.S. *Surprise*, PLYMOUTH [1]

Having given directions to the Navy Board to supply the Ship you command with proper materials for giving her Boot hose tops, and also to complete her Provisions & Stores, on her arrival at Plymouth; You are hereby required and directed to cause Boot hose tops to be given her accordingly, and to use the utmost dispatch in receiving her Provisions & Stores on board, and having so done, wait there for further Orders.

Given &c 15th of Decr 1775.

Sandwich J. Buller H. Palliser

By &c. G.J. DS.

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1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 304.

COUNT DE GUINES TO COUNT DE VERGENNES [1]

[Extract]

No. 313

London, 15 December 1775

We received news from America a few days ago and it gave rise to different rumors, among others an action which took place at Bunker-Hill near Boston; but the latter is unfounded. I know it from Mylord [Frederick] North and mylord Weymouth who gave me the following details concerning the state of affairs in America.

Lord Dunmore, Governor of Virginia, left the ship on which he had been forced to take refuge as I had the honor to inform you in the past. He gathered about 80 soldiers and led several successful expeditions. He dispersed the rebels numbering 300, took 26 guns from them and a large quantity of ammunition, and carried off a member of Congress.[2] He has great hopes, provided he is supported, to bring about the separation of Virginia It is the opinion of the Ministry that the troops about to be sent there and those which have already been taken to Carolina will produce this desired effect in the southern provinces. Mylord North rests his expectations on the fact that the settlers, deprived of the tobacco trade and especially the cereal trade which is of considerable importance to them and which went down from 4 and a half shillings to one per bushel, far away further more from the theater of war and the troops of the Congress, composed in part of Scots faithful to the Government and negroes to whom freedom can always be promised, will have nothing better to do but give up the general cause in order to take care of their own.

I brought this Minister back to the subject of the Commissioners so as to find out if he still placed his faith more in peaceful methods than war. I no sooner mentioned the word Commissioners than his face lit up and he replied in his own terms: "Sir it is the only real solution. When negotiations will only take place, then everything will be over." However, he still counts on 70 warships of various sizes and 25 thousand men for the expedition to America. If the latter fails, Mylord North will topple and these means, if they materialize, might become deadly in the hands of another less peaceful Minister who might wish to become famous by compensating his country for his losses.

It seems certain that Admiral [Richard] Howe will be among the Commissioners. He is the most undertaking sea officer England has. He belongs to the Opposition, has constantly refused to be used in time of peace and has declared that he would never serve unless he really had something to do. Lord North has promised him the position of Lieutenant-General of the marines which became available after the death of Admiral [Charles] Saunders. But Lord Sandwich gave the position to Mr.[Hugh] Palliser without consulting Lord North because of the misunderstanding that reigns between this Minister and the Bedford party to which Lord Sandwich belongs. We believe, that, as a result, Admiral Howe will no longer want to go to America. From what I have explained, I would rather another one be chosen.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 513, LC Photocopy.
2. It was not a member of Congress who was seized when Lord Dunmore took possession of Norfolk, but William Robinson, a delegate to the Virginia assembly. See William Bell Clark, *George Washington's Navy* (Baton Rouge, 1960), 95. Hereafter cited as Clark, *Washington's Navy.*

Count de Guines to Count de Vergennes [1]

[Extract] London [15] December 1775

News from the Ports.

Plymouth.

The corvette *Wasp* left for Ireland.

Portsmouth.

Nothing new concerning the ships of the line.

Deal-Castle arrived from the Downs. It is believed that this frigate will sail for Ireland with transport ships.

Sphynx received orders to keep in readiness.

Deptford.

Jersey and *Blonde* are out of dry-dock. The frigates *Brune* and *Repulse* are in dry-dock.

Emerald is being commissioned. She will not be ready for some time because she requires a great deal of work.

Milford is taking on her guns and ammunition; [2] the mortar-galiot *Thunder* is taking on her mortars and guns, &c.

Still very few men are available. They are working with dispatch on *Resolution* which is to sail back to the South Seas.

The frigate *Juno* is destined for Northern America.

Ambuscade and *Amazone* are to be repaired. Large and shallow-draught merchantmen have been taken to carry arms; they will carry as many guns as can be mounted on them and they will be under the command of a lieutenant of the Royal Navy.

Work is being done on *Namur*. Masts, sails, rigging, anchors, &c. are being loaded for Halifax and Boston.

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[1] AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 513, LC Photocopy. The list is dated only "December 1775." The suggested date of December 15 is used because of the information from other sources, and movements of various vessels. For example, the *Wasp* came in from Ireland, according to the Port News of December 1, 1775, and sailed for Ireland in the above Port News; allowing her about two weeks in port would bring the departure in line with the date December 15. See also note 2 below.

[2] "Deal Dec. 30. Sailed yesterday after post, his Majesty's ship *Milford*." *London Chronicle*, December 30, 1775 to January 2, 1776.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CHATHAM, DEC. 15."[1]

This day the *Jersey,* of 60 guns, was put into commission at this port, and the command of her given to Capt. Halsted.

The *Blond* frigate, of 32 guns, is likewise put into commission, and the command of her given to Capt. Pownall.

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[1] *London Chronicle,* December 16 to December 19, 1775.

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16 Dec.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER, PORTSMOUTH[1]

For the better maintaining a proper Government & strict discipline in the Squadron under your command; We do hereby authorize & empower you (from the time of your departure from England until you shall receive Orders from Rear Admiral Shuldham to put yourself under his command, or the Service you are going upon shall be at an end) to call and assemble Courts Martial in Foreign parts as often as you shall see occasion; And whereas Commanders in chief of Squadrons of His Majesty's Ships employed in Foreign parts have sometimes neglected to hold Courts Martial for enquiring into the occasion of the loss of His Majesty's Ships when such Misfortunes have happen'd, whereby the Crown has been put to an unnecessary expence and the Officers & Company to great inconvenience by being kept out of their Wages, You are in case of such an Accident to cause a Court Martial to be assembled as soon afterwards as possible, to try the Officers & Company for the same, and to transmit to our Secretary the proceedings & judgment thereupon by the first conveyance.
Given &c. 16th Decr 1775.

Sandwich J. Buller H. Palliser

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 303.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER[1]

You are hereby required and directed, in case of the death of any Officers belonging to the Ships and Vessels under your command, during your present intended Expedition, or the dismission of any of them by Court Martial before you put yourself under the command of Rear Adml Shuldham, to appoint such other Persons as by the quality of their Employments ought to succeed, to act in their rooms, particularly observing to appoint Commanders to act as Captains of Post Ships in preference to Lieutenants; And upon your joining Rear Admiral Shuldham, to deliver to him a List of such appointments as you shall have made for his further directions thereupon.
Given &c. the 16th Decr 1775.

Sandwich J. Buller H. Palliser

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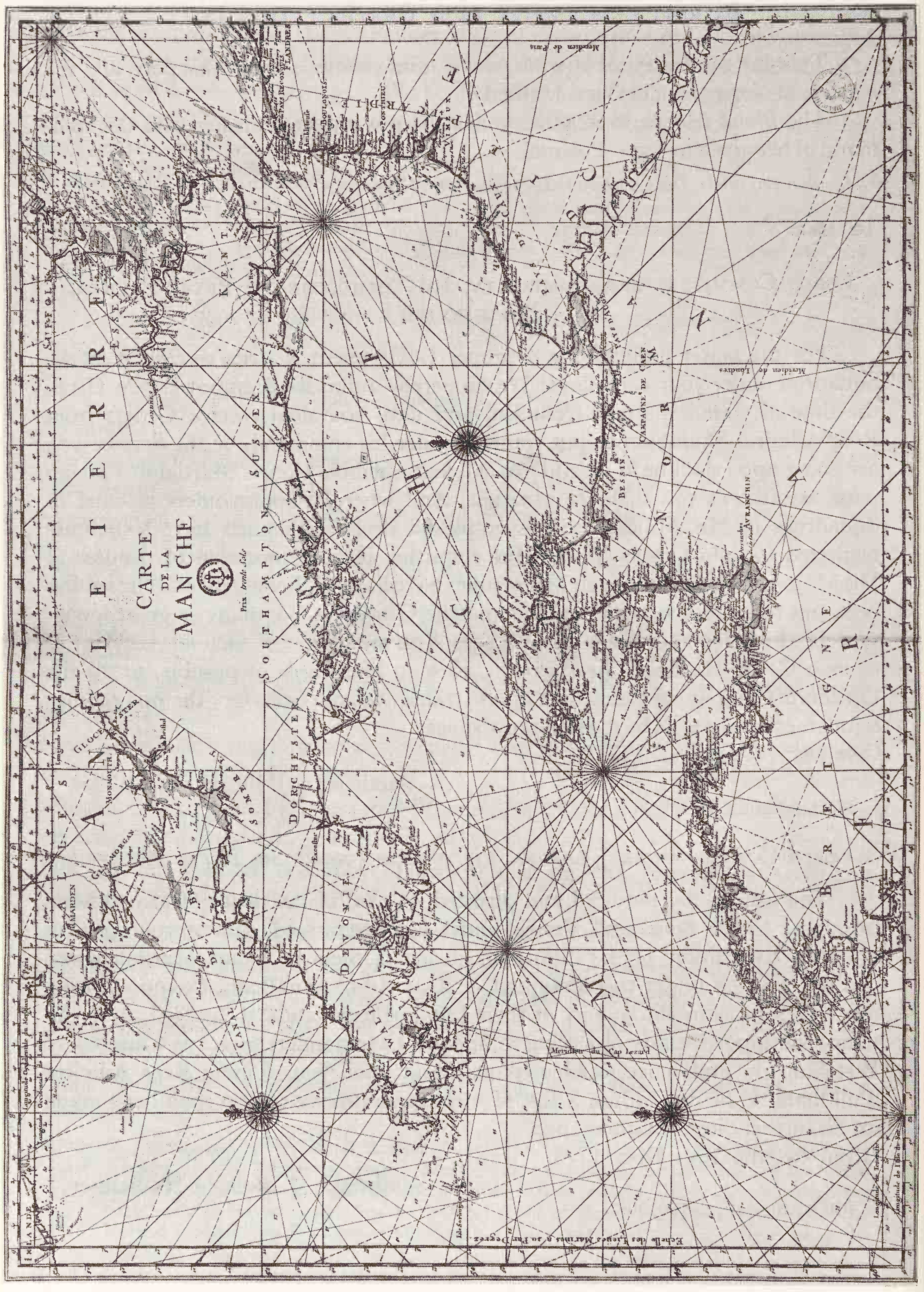
[1] PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 306.


CARTE DE LA MANCHE
Prix trente Sols
ANGLETERRE
LA MANCHE
FRANCE
NORMANDIE
BRETAGNE
PICARDIE
SOUTHAMPTON
SUSSEX
KENT
ESSEX
SUFFOLK
DORCHESTER
DEVONIE
CORNWALL
SOMMERSET
GLOCESTER
MONMOUTH
GLAMORGAN
CAERMARDEN
PENBROK
GALLES
IRLANDE
CANAL DE BRISTOL
BOULONOIS
PONTHIEU
FLANDRE
PAYS DE CAUX
CAMPAGNE DE CAEN
BESSIN
COTENTIN
AVRANCHIN
Meridien de Paris
Meridien de Londres
Meridien du Cap Lezard
Echelle des Lieues Marines a 20 Par Degrez

Lords Commissioners, Admiralty, to Captains Serving Under Sir Peter Parker[1]

The Inhabitants of several of His Majts Colonies and Plantations in North America Vizt in New Hampshire, Massachusets Bay, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pensylvania, the three lower Counties on Delaware Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina & South Carolina, having traiterously combined together for the general purpose of resisting the Authority of this Kingdom, and, having in a hostile manner array'd themselves in Arms and committed Acts of open and actual Rebellion; You are hereby required and directed in pursuance of the Kings pleasure, signified to Us by the Earl of Dartmouth One of His Majesty's principal Secretaries of State, in his Letter of the 29th of August last, to seize all ships & Vessels belonging to any of the said Colonies, or owned by the Inhabitants thereof, except only in Cases where it shall clearly appear by their Papers, or from other Evidence, that they are bound to, or returning from some Port or Place in Great Britain, Ireland, or His Majesty's Islands in the West Indies, but you are to observe that this Exception is not to extend, or be applied to such Ships or Vessels as may have Arms or Ammunition on board, which Ships and Vessels are to be seized in all cases whatsoever, unless it shall appear that the Arms & Ammunition shall have been shipp'd with Licence, either from His Majesty in Council, from the Master General & Principal Officers of the Ordnance, or under the usual clearances from the Commissioners of His Majesty's Customs.

You are to bring with you into some British Port, not within the twelve aforesaid Colonies, such Ships & Vessels as you may seize in the Cases abovemention'd, there to be detained til further Order, or be proceeded against according to Law, as the nature of the Case may require.

Given &c. the 16th Decr 1775
Captn [John] Morris, *Bristol*
" [James] Worth, *Deal Castle*
" [Anthony] Hunt, *Sphynx*
" [Charles] Thompson, *Boreas*
" [Christopher] Atkins, *Actaeon*
" [Thomas] Symonds, *Solebay,* at Cork (by the *Bristol*)
" [James] Reid, *Thunder* Bomb
By &c. G.J. DS.

Sent to Sir Peter Parker in Town.

Sandwich
J. Buller
H. Palliser

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 309–10.

Lords Commissioners, Admiralty, to Commodore Sir Peter Parker[1]

The Lords Commissioners of His Majts Treasury having transmitted to Us, a List of Ships which have been taken up us Victuallers to attend the Expedition under the command of the Earl of Cornwallis and also a Copy of the Charter Party under which they are contracted for; We send you herewith a Copy of the said Papers, And do hereby require and direct you to take the said Ships under your convoy, and, when the Service for which they have been taken up shall be perform'd, you are either to take them as Transports, or send them home according to the Conditions of the Charter Party, as the Exigencies of His Majesty's Service shall require. Given &c. the 16th Decr 1775.

Sandwich J. Buller H. Palliser

Sir Peter Parker at Portsmouth

[Enclosure]

Ships Names	Masters Names	No of Tons each Ship
Sovereign	—— Flyn	360
Thaetis	Wm Burns	177
Thomas & William	Jas Smith	152
Sea Nymph	Jno Levitt	138
Friends Adventure	Jno Cox	126
Prince of Piedmont	Fras Harman	227
	Dispatch'd	1180
Nancy	John Pearson about	225.
		1405.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 311–12.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN JOHN BURR, H.M.S. *Milford*, BLACKSTAKES [1]

You are hereby required and directed to proceed without loss of time in the Ship you command to Spithead, and there wait for further Order.
Given &c. the 16th Decr 1775.

Sandwich J. Buller H. Palliser

By &c. G.J. DS.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 306.

GEORGE JACKSON TO JOHN POWNALL [1]

Sir

Admty Office 16 Decr 1775

Lieutenant Johnston, Commander of His Majesty's Cutter the *Goodwill* (who, in consequence of Lord George Germain's Letter of the 11h Instant) was directed to proceed to the Downes in quest of an American Vessel called the *Betsey*, and upon meeting with her to search for, seize and transmit to his Lordships any Letters addressed to any persons in any Part of North America, having by his Letter of the 14h Instant dated in the Downes informed by Lords Commissrs of the Admty that a Vessel answering the description given of the *Betsey*, having arrived there that Morning, he boarded her, and made the most diligent search, but found no Letters on board addressed to any Person in North America; I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you therewith, for the information of Lord George Germain; And am Sr [&c.]

Geo: Jackson, D S

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 59.

GEORGE JACKSON TO COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER [1]

Sir [Admiralty Office] 16th December 1775

My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty having previous to Rear Admiral Shuldham's Departure for North America settled private Signals for the Commanders of His Majesty's Ships there to know each other by in case of meeting And their Lordships having since the said Rear Admirals Departure received from Vice Admiral Graves a Copy of Signals which he had settled for the like purpose, I am commanded by their Lordships to send you herewith Copies of both the said Signals for your Information and Guidance, and am to signify their direction to you to keep them as secret as possible, and on no account to communicate them to any Person whatever unless to the Commanders of His Majesty's Ships under your Command who you are to furnish with Copies of them, or the Commanders of such of His Majestys Ships which you may fall in with on the Coast of North America who may not already have received them, giving them the like Caution. I am &c

Geo. Jackson D:S:

Commodore Sir Peter Parker, Town

[1] PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 422–23.

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18 Dec.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CHARLES FLYN [1]

Whereas we have sign'd a Commission appointing you Master & Commander of the *Weymouth* Pacquet Boat; You are hereby required & directed, not to hoist any other Colours worne in His Majesty's Fleet besides a Red Ensign Jack & Pendant on board the said Pacquet Boat at any time or on any account
Given &c the 18th Decr 1775

Sandwich J. Buller H. Palliser

By &c. G.J. DS.

[1] PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 312.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN ROBERT DRING, H.M. BOMB VESSEL *Carcass*, WOOLWICH [1]

So soon as the Bomb Vessel you command shall have taken on board her Guns Mortars and Ordnance Stores in Galleons reach, You are hereby required and directed, to proceed without loss of time to Cork in Ireland, and upon your arrival there put yourself under the command of Sir Peter Parker, Commr of a Squadron of His Majesty's Ships employ'd on a particular Service, and follow his Orders for your further proceedings; But in Case Sir Peter should be sailed from thence, before you arrive there, you are to follow such Orders as you shall receive from the Captain of the Frigate Sir Peter will leave there for that purpose, which you are to follow til' you join Sir Peter Parker, and then, put yourself under his com-

mand and follow his Orders as aforemention'd.
Given &c. the 18th Decr 1775.

Sandwich J. Buller H. Palliser

By &c. G.J. DS.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 314–15.

Lords Commissioners, Admiralty, to Captain Henry Davis, H.M.S. *Repulse*, Chatham [1]

Having appointed you Captain of His Majts Ship *Repulse* at Chatham, which we have order'd to be fitted and stored at that place for a Voyage to North America, mann'd with Two hundred Men & victualled for six Months with all species of Provisions except Beer, of which she is to have as much as she can conveniently stow, and to be supplied with a proportion of Wine or Spirits for two Months in lieu of the Remainder; You are hereby required and directed, to use the utmost dispatch in getting her ready for the Sea accordingly, And then falling down to Blackstakes take in her Guns and Gunners Stores & proceed to the Nore for further Order.
Given &c. the 18th Decr 1775

Sandwich J. Buller H. Palliser

By &c. G.J. DS.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 315–16.

Commodore Sir Peter Parker to Philip Stephens [1]

Sir *Bristol* at Spithead 18th Decr 1775

I came Here Yesterday Evening at Six O'Clock, and His Majesty's Ship the *Bristol*, anchored at Spithead about the same Time; I have this Morning Hoisted my Broad Pendant on Board of Her, and have taken the *Deal Castle* and *Sphynx* under my Command, and shall get ready to proceed with Them, as soon as possible.

The *Boreas, Actaeon* and *Thunder* Bomb, will I Hope Sail to Morrow Evening or Wednesday Morning, and I expect to follow Them the next Day.

I shall Order Captain [John] Morris to receive on Board the *Bristol* the Deputy Pay Master Mr Molesworth together with His Cash, Servants and Baggage, &c and also Earl [Charles] Cornwallis with Attendants, Servants and Baggage – I am Sir [&c.]

P: Parker

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/486.

Commodore Sir Peter Parker to Philip Stephens [1]

Sir *Bristol* at Spithead 18 Decbr 1775

On Saturday Evening before I left Town, I received the following Orders, Instructions &c. viz Order from Their Lordships Dated the 15th instant to Direct any Captain of my Squadron to receive Mr. Molesworth, the Deputy Paymaster, together with His Cash, Servants, and Baggage &c Order of the same Date, to Direct Captain Morris to receive on Board the *Bristol*, Earl [Charles] Cornwallis with His Attendants &c Your Letter of the 16th instt, with the private Signals of the Admirals Graves and Shuldham – Copy of a Letter from Lord George Germain to Earl Cornwallis Dated the 6th instt – Copy of a Letter from Lord George Germain to the Major General who will Command &c Their Lordships Instructions to me Dated the 14th instant. List of Transports, List of Ships under my Command – Order of the 16th instt, Empowering me to call and Assemble Courts-Martial in Foreign P[a]rts, until I shall receive Orders from Rear Admiral Shuldham, to put Myself under His Command – Orders of the 16th instant, about appointing Officers to Act, in Cases of Death or Dismission by a Court Martial – Your Letter of the 16th instt, with Seven Press Warrants Directed to the Captains of the following Ships, Viz *Bristol Actaeon, Boreas, Solebay, Sphynx, Deal Castle, Thunder* Bomb, and this Morning I received Your Letter of the 17th instant, signifying Their Lordships Directions to me, to Order the Captain of One of the Frigates of my Squadron to remain at Cork 'til the Arrival of the Army Victuallers, the *Carcass* Bomb Vessel, *Friendship* armed Vessel, *Sybilla* Storeship, and *Pigot* Hospital Ship, and to take Them under His Convoy, and follow me without a Moments Loss of Time to such Rendezvous as I shall Appoint for that Purpose. I am Sir [&c.]

P: Parker

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1. PRO, Admiralty 1/486.

19 Dec.

Diary of Thomas Hutchinson [1]

[London] 19 Dec 1775

It is generally believed that Falmouth in Casco Bay, is burnt by Cap. Mowat, and 2 or 3 more ships. The last time I saw Lord G[eorge] G[ermain], he observed that Adm. Graves had been put in mind of his remissness; and he imagined he would run to the other extreme.

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1. Peter Orlando Hutchinson, comp., *The Diary and Letters of His Excellency Thomas Hutchinson* (London, 1883–86), I, 583. Hutchinson was former governor of Massachusetts.

Lords Commissioners, Admiralty, to Commodore Sir Peter Parker [1]

Notwithstanding former Orders, You are hereby required & directed to continue the *Hawke* Sloop as part of the Squadron under your command, And to inform Rear Adml Shuldham thereof the first opportunity that offers for so doing. Given &c 19th Decr 1775

Sandwich J Buller H Palliser

To Sir Peter Parker Commr of a Squadron of
His Majy Ships employ'd on a particular Service

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1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100,318.

Lords Commissioners, Admiralty, to Captain Robert Linzee, H.M.S. *Surprise*, Plymouth [1]

Having ordered the Provisions of His Majts Ship under your command to be completed to Four Months of all species except Beer of which she is to have as much as she can conveniently stow, and be supplied with one Months Wine or Spirits in lieu of the remainder; You are hereby required & directed to use the utmost dispatch in getting the same on board & then repair into the Sound and wait for further Order.

Given &c 19th Decr 1775

Sandwich J Buller H. Palliser

By &c. G J DS.

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1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 318. An order using the same wording was issued the same day to Captain William Bennett, of H.M. Sloop *Alborough,* also at Plymouth.

Count de Guines to Count de Vergennes [1]

[Extract]

No. 314

London, 19 December 1775

Sir, I had the honor to receive your dispatch No. 166 dated the 10th of this month.

You were able to judge, Sir, from my preceding dispatches that Lord Stormont in Paris and the Ministers in London are only smiling in the face of adversity. It is true that General Washington and General [Charles] Lee are not perfectly agreed; but the Congress is unanimous; it will direct the operations and the generals will necessarily do better than a Council and a Parliament which are not in agreement and whose divided members are less concerned with the safety of England than with the loss of their enemy. As to the dissatisfaction of the people who are only awaiting a signal in order to rebel Mylord North does not go as far as Mylord Stormont. He speculates, he hopes, he follows his plans, finally, because an English Minister cannot, without discrediting himself, come back on those which he has already announced.

I am surprised that Lord Stormont announced the resolution of Ireland as a triumph. Dublin is very close to Paris and such a thing cannot be believed very long. You have read, Sir, that I had the honor to write you on this subject: this triumph was quite naturally an interesting question lost by the government.

I saw Mylord in the evening of Friday at the moment, Sir, when I had just received your dispatch. I told this Minister of the orders which the King had just renewed in his ports following the request made by Lord Stormont. Lord North was extremely pleased by our attitude; rather remarkable is the fact that it is equally praised by the Opposition. It is true that the latter interprets them in a different manner and considers them as the result of a skillful policy which lets England commit herself and encourages her trust in order to abuse it more usefully when her means will be weakened still more. I do not lose a single opportunity to fight and destroy this notion. The Ministry is willing to discredit it; but the Opposition whose interest is to encourage it is more difficult to convince.

Bad news arrived from Canada, Sir, by way of New-York. The garrison of St. Jean has capitulated. It is suspected that they surrendered as prisoners of war because Mr.[Guy] Carleton who was coming to their aid was forced to withdraw with losses to Montreal. This fortified town cannot hold and it contains all the

Royal artillery. Since I sent you my last dispatch I have learned from some one who fought in Canada that the Season will not stand in the way of a march on Quebec, that this city even, when its moats are filled with snow, is not secure from a surprise attack, especially if it is defended only by townsmen. Half of the regular troops were taken at St. Jean, which leaves Mr Carleton with this last resort to defend the position on which depends the fate of America. I must add however that the true source from whence originates this news is not yet known. It is put forward by the Opposition and the Ministry does not deny it. Here are the facts, and nothing else is needed to believe them.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 513, LC Photocopy.

Commodore Sir Peter Parker to Philip Stephens [1]

Sir

Captain [James] Reid of His Majesty's Bomb Vessel the *Thunder,* has just now acquainted me, that his Tender is not arrived at Spithead, and that she has got in all the Shells, Powder &ca – and that he has not received any Orders concerng her; that Lord [George] Townshend acquainted him, that she should sail two Hours after him – The *Thunder* will be ready to proceed to morrow, agreeable to their Lordships' Orders, to Cork, and as the *Bristol* cannot sail before Thursday evening, or Friday morning, I shall be glad to know their Lordships pleasure concerning her, in case she should arrive before I sail, and whether she has Orders to proceed directly to Cork, without calling in here. I am Sir [&c.]

P: Parker

Bristol at Spithead 19th Decr 1775

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/486.

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20 Dec.

Commodore Sir Peter Parker to Philip Stephens [1]

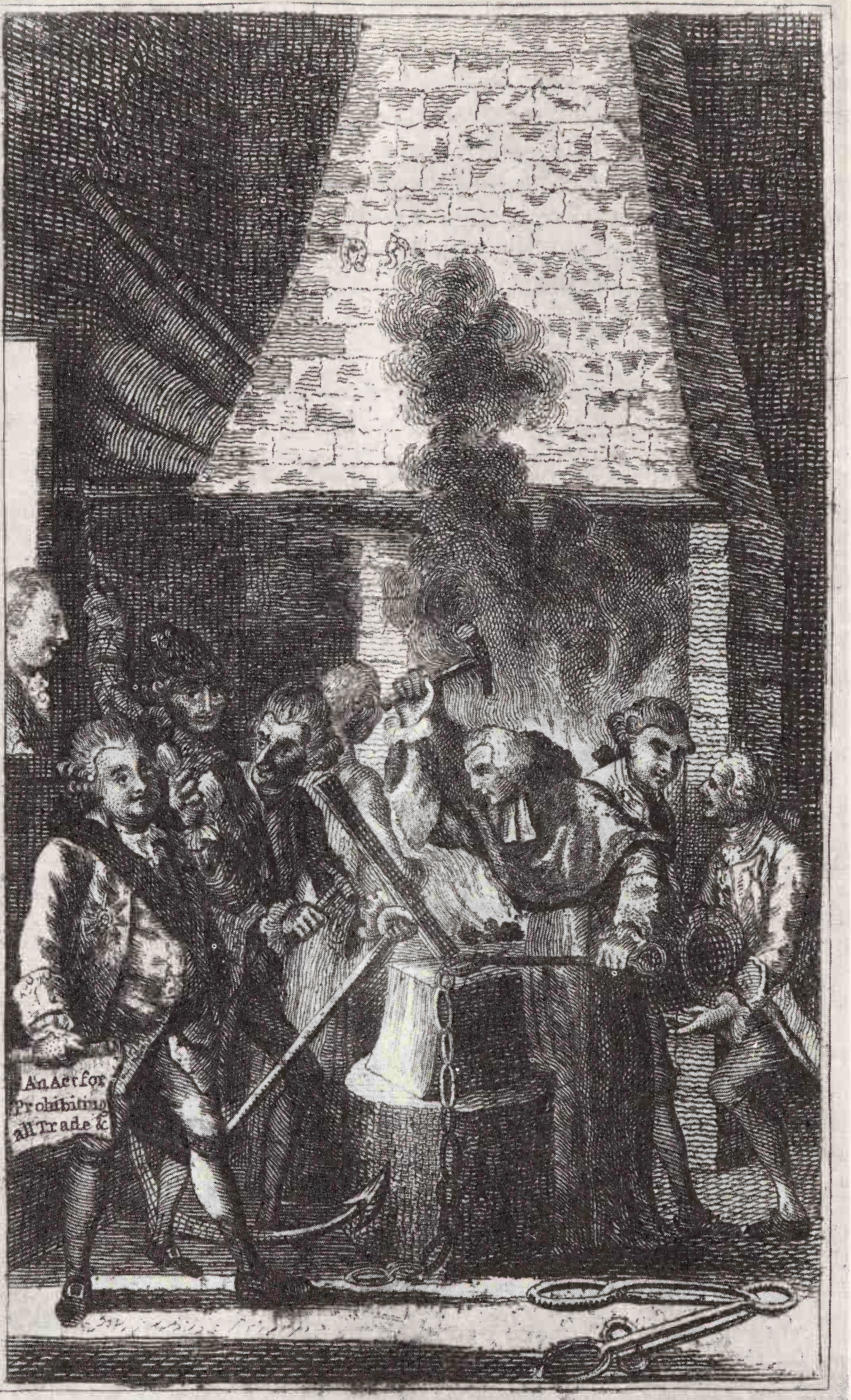
Sir *Bristol* at Spithead 20th Decr 1775

Their Lordships having thought proper to put a Squadron of His Majesty's Ships under my Command, and to give me Instructions to observe, in the execution of which many months may elapse before I can join Rear Admiral Shuldham – I have taken up Stationary from Messrs Mount & Page on Tower Hill for the use of the said Squadron, amounting to £29..10..0 – Inclosed is their Bill, which I beg you will please to move their Lordships to direct the Navy Board to pay –

Major Innes of the Artillery informs me, that the three Ordnance Vessels – (Vizt) *Earl of Darby, Nancy* and *Noble Bounty,* sail'd on Wednesday last from Gallions, that he had order'd the two latter to proceed to Cork, and the former to call here for him, and to take in 5000 stand of Arms, and 2700 Pallisadoes – We expect her arrival every moment – It now blows strong at So Et I am Sir [&c.]

P: Parker

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/486.


An Act for Prohibiting all Trade &c

THE STATE BLACKSMITHS
Forging fetters for the Americans

Published according to Act of Parliament 1st March 1776.

COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER TO PHILIP STEPHENS [1]

Sir *Bristol* at Spithead 20th Decr 1775

I have received their Lordships Order of the 16th Inst to take the Army Victuallers under my Command, and have also received a List of them, with a Copy of their Charter Party – Lord Cornwallis came to Portsmouth last night, the money will be down this evening, and to morrow it shall be ship'd on board the *Bristol*. I am Sir [&c.]

P: Parker

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1. PRO, Admiralty 1/486.

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21 Dec.

DAVID HARTLEY'S REMARKS IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS AGAINST THE PROHIBITORY ACT [1]

Dec. 21.

Mr. Hartley. Sir, upon this pause which is offered to you by the return of this Bill from the Lords, I confess that I feel a kind of superstitution to wish for one last word to deprecate the fatal blow, and that our unremitted opposition and remonstrance from the first to the very last stage of this Bill may remain as a memorial, that some of us, at least, lament this final separation of America with an affectionate regret. We are overpowered by numbers, and all our entreaties and remonstrances are in vain. An inflexible majority in parliament have now declared all America to be an independent hostile state. Disputes originally between administration and America, are become, by the influence of administration, the ground of a parliamentary war with America. The sense of the nation is not with that war, and I trust it never will be. However, speaking in parliament to ministers as they seem determined to drive all things to extremities, I must ask whether you are to expect that while you burn their towns, take or destroy their ships and property, they will sit with their arms folded, or whether they will not be driven to repel injury by injury. You have found their active powers of defence by the experience of the last year, when by your orders the shedding of the first civil blood was precipitated on the fatal 19th of April, before your pretended conciliatory motion could be proposed to any of the American assemblies? Why were you found unguarded in Canada? You have lost all Canada. Two regiments are taken prisoners. Your officers are hostages, and yet you proceed in this unjust and unnatural war, with fire, sword, and rapine. What farther hostages may fall into their hands at Boston, or what blood of our fellow subjects may be shed there, I contemplate with horror. I dread some fatal event there. Public report threatens. When the provincials shall hear the fate of their late and last petition, and when they see all prospect of peace become desperate, what can you expect but that they should exert every power to destroy your land forces in America during the severity of the winter, before you can support or relieve them. Who will be answerable for these things? When this Bill of rapine, which now lies before you, gets to them, they will set themselves to retaliate upon your fleet. Your land force has been disgraced and annihilated in the first campaign, notwithstanding all your boastings. Are we not then to expect that those ministers of vengeance who shall press on a naval war with America, shall be responsible to their country, for the consequences of their headstrong measures, if the navy of this country should be brought to disgrace and defeat. Weigh the consequences. If you send large ships they will not be able to act; if small ones, may they not be overpowered? Consider the distance of your operations. Every port in America will be a Dunkirk to you. We know their skill and bravery as privateers in the last war. In any case you are laying the foundation of an hostile marine in America, which has been and ought to be the source of the marine of Great Britain. I cannot be an adviser or a well wisher to any of the vindictive operations against America, because I think the cause unjust; but at the same time I must be equally earnest to secure British interests from destruction; neither a victory of Great Britain over America, nor of America over Great Britain can afford any matter of triumph. Both are equally destructive. If nothing can abate your fury against the Americans in this ministerial war, we shall expect at least that you should guard your own vulnerable parts. Are you guarded at Newfoundland? Are you prepared against any expedition of retaliation if the provincials should meditate any thing to the destruction of your fisheries there? Administration have been the aggressors in every thing, step by step. By this fatal Bill of separation you now declare the Americans to be enemies in form, therefore it is yourselves that force upon them the rights of enemies. You must now be responsible to your country for the events of your own war, to which they have been so reluctant and you so precipitate. When this country shall come to open its eyes, to see and to feel the consequences, they will know of whom to require an account. Sir, I shall now move you, instead of agreeing to the amendments of the Lords, to adjourn the consideration of them for six weeks; I confess with very little hopes of averting this Bill, but as I told you at my out-set, from a superstitious feeling in my mind, to perform the last ceremonial office of affection and everlasting farewell to peace and to America. The fate of America is cast. You may bruise its heel, but you cannot crush its head. It will revive again. The new world is before them. Liberty is theirs. They have possession of a free government, their birthright and inheritance, derived to them from their parent state, which the hand of violence cannot wrest from them. If you will cast them off, my last wish is to them; may they go and prosper. When the final period of this once happy country shall overtake ourselves, either through tumult or tyranny, may another Phoenix rise out of our ashes! [2]

1. Hansard, ed., *Parliamentary History,* XVIII, 1103–05.
2. Hartley's motion was defeated. *Ibid,* 1106.

JOHN BODDINGTON TO JOHN POWNALL [1]

Dear Sir, Ordnance Office 21st Decr 1775

The Ordnance Transports were ordered to go to Cork except the *Earl of Darby,* which was to receive 5000 Stand of Arms at Portsmo taken out of the *Rus-*

sia Merchant (a Storeship bound to Boston) in pursuance of Lord Dartmouth's Letter, and according to the best of my Judgment the *Thunder* Bomb's Tender is gone thither. Lord George Germain may rely upon every thing depending on the Ordnance Department having been dispatched –

I say this in Confidence to you, and that the Weight has fallen heavily on &c

John Boddington

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[1] PRO, Colonial Office, 5/248, 211–12.

GEORGE JACKSON TO JOHN POWNALL [1]

Dear Sir!

The *Thunder* Bomb Vessel has been arrived at Portsmo some days. I rather think Lord [Charles] Cornwallis means her Tender, in which are the Shells Powder &ca and which, I have a Letter from Sir Peter Parker saying she was not arrived.

Upon this Letter from Sir Peter enquiry was made at the Ordnance Board after her, and Mr. Boddington's answer was that she saild from this River the 15 inst with the *Noble Bounty* & *Nancy,* both Ordnance Transports & would go to Cork without stopping at Portsmouth. This was signifi'd to Sir Peter by last nights post I am with esteem, Sir [&c.]

Geo: Jackson

Admiralty 21 Decr 1775

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[1] PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 60.

COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER TO PHILIP STEPHENS [1]

Sir *Bristol* at Spithead 21st Decr 1775

I have received a long deal Case, directed for me to the care of Commissioner [James] Gambier, containing Maps and Drafts – I have also received their Lordships Order of the 19th inst directing me to continue the *Hawke* Sloop as part of the Squadron under my command, and to inform Rear Admiral Shuldham thereof the first opportunity – Sr James Douglas has acquainted their Lordships by Express last night of the accident that happen'd to the *Boreas,* she got off at Ten o'Clock, and came to Spithead this morning, it is not apprehended that she has received any considerable damage, but I believe it will be necessary to have her Bottom examin'd before she can proceed on her Voyage, which will not cause a delay of above two or three days, should she be found capable of going, and as the Wind is now at S by W, and blows hard, with no appearance of a change, it is probable she may be ready by the time the weather breaks up, and the wind comes favourable – Had the wind permitted, the *Bristol*'s Company would have been paid this morning, and every thing been on board. I am Sir [&c.]

P: Parker

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 1/486.

22 Dec.

London Gazette, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19 TO SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1775

By the King,

A Proclamation,

Appointing the Distribution of Prizes taken during the Continuance of the Rebellion now subsisting in divers Parts of the Continent of North America.

George R.

WHEREAS by an Act, made in this present Session of Parliament, intituled, "An Act to prohibit all Trade and Intercourse with the Colonies of New Hampshire, Massachuset's-Bay, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pensylvania, the Three Lower Counties on Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia, during the Continuance of the present Rebellion within the said Colonies respectively; for repealing an Act, made in the Fourteenth Year of the Reign of His present Majesty, to discontinue the Landing and Discharging, Lading or Shipping, of Goods, Wares, and Merchandize, at the Town and within the Harbour of Boston, in the Province of Massachuset's Bay; and also Two Acts, made in the last Session of Parliament, for restraining the Trade and Commerce of the Colonies in the said Acts respectively mentioned; and to enable any Person or Persons, appointed and authorized by his Majesty, to grant Pardons, to issue Proclamations, in the Cases and for the Purposes therein mentioned;" it is, amongst other Things, enacted, That all Ships and Vessels of or belonging to the Inhabitants of the said Colonies, together with their Cargoes, Apparel, and Furniture, except as in the said Act are excepted, and all other Ships and Vessels whatsoever, together with their Cargoes, Apparel, and Furniture, which shall be found trading in any Port or Place of the said Colonies, or going to trade, or coming from Trading, in any such Port or Place, except as are therein also excepted, shall become forfeited to his Majesty, as if the same were the Ships and Effects of Open Enemies, and shall be so adjudged, deemed, and taken, in all Courts of Admiralty, and in all other Courts whatsoever:

And, for the Encouragement of the Officers and Seamen of His Majesty's Ships of War, it is thereby also further enacted, That the Flag Officers, Captain, Commanders, and other commissioned Officers in His Majesty's Pay, and also the Seamen, Marines, and Soldiers on Board, shall have the sole Interest and Property of and in all and every such ship, Vessel, Goods, and Merchandize, which they shall seize and take, (being first adjudged lawful Prize in any of his Majesty's Courts of Admiralty) to be divided in such Proportions, and after such Manner, as His Majesty shall think fit to order and direct by Proclamation or Proclamations hereafter to be issued for those Purposes: We, taking the Premises into Consideration, do, pursuant to the said Act of Parliament, (with the Advice of Our Privy Council) by this Our Proclamation, order direct, and appoint, That the neat Produce of all Prizes taken, in Pursuance of the said Act, by Our Ships of War, be divided into Eight equal Parts, and be distributed in Manner following, that is to say, To the Captain or Captains of any of Our Ships of War, who shall be actually on board at the taking of any Prize, three Eighth Parts; but in case any such Prize shall be taken by any of Our Ship or Ships of War, under the Command of a Flag or Flags, the Flag Officer or Officers being actually on Board, or directing and assisting in the Capture, shall have One of the said Three Eighth Parts, the said One Eighth Part to be paid to such Flag or Flag officers, in such Proportions, and subject to such Regulations, as are herein-after for that Purpose mentioned: To the Captains of Marines and Land Forces, Sea Lieutenants and Master, on Board any such Ships, One Eighth Part, to be equally divided amongst them: To the Lieutenants and Quarter-Masters of Marines, and Lieutenants, Ensigns, and Quarter masters, of Land Forces, Boatswain, Gunner, Purser, Carpenter, Master's Mate, Chirurgeon, Pilot, and Chaplain, on Board any such Ship, One Eighth Part, to be equally divided amongst them: To the Midshipmen, Secretary to Flag Officers, Captain's Clerk, Master Sail Maker, Carpenter's Mates, Boatswain's Mates, Gunner's Mates, Master at Arms, Corporals, Yeomen of the Sheets, Coxkswain, Quarter Masters, Quarter Master's Mates, Chirurgeon's Mates, Yeomen of the Powder Room, and Serjeants of Marines or Land Forces, on Board any such Ships, One Eighth Part, to be equally divided amongst them. To the Trumpeters, Quarter-Gunners, Carpenter's Crew, Steward, Cook, Armourer, Steward's Mate, Cook's Mate, Gunsmith, Cooper, Swabber, Ordinary Trumpeter, Barber, Able Seamen, Ordinary Seamen and Marine, or other Soldiers, and all other persons doing Duty or assisting on Board any such Ships, Two Eighths Parts, to be equally divided amongst them.

And in case any Sea Captain, inferior Commission or Warrant Sea Officers, belonging to any Ship of War, for whom any Shares of Prizes are hereby allowed, be absent at the Time of the Capture of any Prize, the Share of such Sea Captain, inferior Commission or Warrant Sea Officer, shall be cast into the Shares hereby allowed to the Trumpeters, Quarter Gunners, Carpenter's Crew, Steward, Cook, Armourer, Steward's Mate, Cook's Mate, Gunsmith, Cooper, Swabber, Ordinary Trumpeter, Barber, Able Seamen, Ordinary Seamen, and Marine or other Soldiers, and other Persons doing Duty or assisting on Board any such Ships, to be equally divided amon[g]st them. Provided, That if any Officer or Officers on Board any of Our Ships of War, at the Time of taking any such Prizes, shall have more Commissione or Officer than one, he or they shall be intitled only to the Share or Shares of the said Prizes, which, according to the above-mentioned Distribution, shall belong to his or their respective superior Commissions or Offices.

And We do hereby strictly enjoin all and every Commander and Commanders of any Ships of War, taking any Prize, as soon as may be, to transmit, or cause to be transmitted, to the Commissioners of Our Navy, a true List of the Names of all the Officers, Seamen, Marines, Soldiers or others, who were actually on Board Our Ships of War, under his or their Command, at the taking such Prize; which List shall contain the Quality of Service of each Person on Board, and be subscribed by the Captain or Commanding Officer, and Three or more of the Chief Officers on Board. And We do hereby require and direct the Commissioners of Our Navy, or any Three or more of them, to examine, or cause to be examined, such Lists by the Muster-Books of such Ships of War, and Lists annexed thereto, to see that such Lists do agree with the said Muster-Book, and annexed Lists, as to the Names, Qualities, or Ratings of the Officers, Seamen, Marines, Soldiers and others belonging to such Ship of War; and, upon Request, forthwith to grant a Certificate of the Truth of any List transmitted to them, to the Agents nominated and appointed by the Captors, pursuant to the said Act, to take Care and dispose of such Prize; and also, upon Application to them, to give, or cause to be given, unto the Agents who shall, at any Time or Times be appointed as aforesaid by the Captors, all such Lists from the Muster-Books of any such Ships of War, and annexed Lists as the said Agents shall find requisite for their Direction in paying the Produce of such Prizes, and to be otherwise aiding and assisting to the said Agents, as shall be necessary.

And as touching the said One Eighth Part, herein before mentioned to be granted to the Flag or Flag Officers who shall be actually on Board at the taking of any Prize, or shall be directing and assisting therein, We have thought fit, and do, by these Presents, publish, order, and declare, that the following Regulations be observed: First, That a Flag Officer commanding in Chief, where there is but One Flag Officer upon Service, shall have to his own Use, the said One Eighth Part of the Prizes taken by Ships under his Command. Secondly, That a Flag Officer sent to command at Jamaica, or elsewhere, shall have no Right to any Share of the Prizes taken by Ships employed there, before he arrives at the Place to which he is sent, and actually taken upon him the Command. Thirdly, That when an inferior Flag Officer is sent out to reinforce a superior Flag Officer at Jamaica, or elsewhere, the said superior Flag Officer shall have no Right to any Share in the Prizes taken by them before they arrive within the Limits of his Command, and actually receive some Orders from him. Fourthly, That a Chief Flag Officer returning Home from Jamaica, or elsewhere, shall have no Share of the Prizes taken by the Ships left behind to act under another Command. Fifthly, That if a Flag Officer is sent to command in the Out-Ports of this Kingdom, he shall have no Share of the Prizes taken by Ships that Sailed from that Port, by Order of the Admiralty: Sixthly, That when more Flag Officers than One serve together, the Eighth Part of the Prizes taken by any Ships of the Fleet, or squadron, shall be divided in the following Proportions, videlicet, If there be but Two Flag Officers, the Chief shall have Two Thirds Parts of the said One Eighth Part, and the other shall have the remaining Third Part, but if the Number of Flag Officers be more than two, the Chief shall have only One Half, and the other Half shall be divided equally among the other Flag Officers: Seventhly, That Commodores, with Captains under them, shall be esteemed as Flag Officers, with respect to their Right to an Eighth Part of Prizes taken, whether commanding in Chief, or serving under Command.

Given at our Court at St. James's, the Twenty-second Day of December, One thousand seven hundred and seventy-five, in the Sixteenth Year of Our Reign.

God save the King.[1]

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[1] *London Chronicle,* January 2 to January 4, 1776, contained the following item from Edinburgh, Scotland: ". . . the proclamation for distributing the prizes taken in the American war, among the Seamen, was read at the Cross by the Heralds, with the usual formalities."

COUNT DE GUINES TO COUNT DE VERGENNES [1]

[Extract] London, 22 December 1775

The rumor has it that Falmouth in America has been burned by the fleet. I did not feel I should mention it because the report was only vague; but the Opposition has no doubts about it from what I was told yesterday by Lord Shelburne. No word has come from the Ministry. It appeared to me that these Circumstances deserved some attention. I already had the honor a long time ago to acquaint you that the decision has been made to destroy America as much as possible if she would not submit. This plan will hardly bring two million Sterling net to the Government per year.

I enclose herewith, Sir, the news from the ports.

News from the Ports

Plymouth

The *Blenheim* is in dry-dock. The frigate *Solebay* is ready to sail with the first favourable winds for Ireland from whence she will escort the vessels which will take the troops from this Kingdom to America. Arrival of two Corvettes *Martin* and *Ranger,* the first one from Lisbon; and the second from Ireland with recruits.

Portsmouth

The frigate *Surprise* is sailing for Plymouth. The Corvette *Hazard* is being repaired. The frigates *Active, Thetis, Pearl, Greyhound, Fox, Sphynx, Seaford, Juno* are repaired but have not been commissioned yet. In addition to these frigates there are 3 guard-ships in port.

There are at Spithead 5 guard-ships, *Romney* with 50 guns, and the Frigates *Surprise, Boreas, Acteon, Deal-Castle* and the mortar-ketch *Thunder* which is to sail for America. Order has been given at Portsmouth to keep 200 marines ready to embark at first notice.

Deptford

The ship *Victory* has been damaged in an accident. The frigate *Blonde* is being commissioned. Men are still lacking for the ships which are being readied. Work is being done on a new corvette which will be called *Dispatch.* The frigate *Favourite* is in repairs.

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[1] AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 513, 317, LC Photocopy.

COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER TO PHILIP STEPHENS [1]

Sir *Bristol* at Spithead, 22d Decr 1775

I have received your Letter, signifying their Lordships direction to take the *Active* under my command, in the room of the *Boreas* – I am [&c.]

P: Parker

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 1/486.

COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER TO PHILIP STEPHENS [1]

Sir *Bristol* at Spithead 22d Decr 1775

I have received your Letter of the 20th instt signifying their Lordships direction to me, to take the Tender belonging to the *Thunder* Bomb Vessel under my Convoy, should she arrive at Spithead before I sail, but not to wait for her – I am Sir [&c.]

P: Parker

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 1/486.

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23 Dec.

LORD GEORGE GERMAIN TO HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNORS IN AMERICA [1]

Sir, Whitehall 23d December 1775. –

The King being determined, in Concurrence with His Parliament, to pursue the most vigorous Measures for reducing His rebellious Subjects in North America to Obedience, and for restoring legal Government, has given the Royal Assent to the inclosed Act, which I am commanded by His Majesty to transmit to you, and at the same time to signify to you His Majesty's Pleasure that you do exhort all Persons, upon whom the execution of this law shall depend, to pay a due attention thereto, and to use their best endeavours for carrying the provisions of it into effect; and I trust that when His Majesty's deluded Subjects in the associated Colonies are better apprized of the fatal consequence of the conduct they have adopted, and see the determined spirit of the nation to maintain its constitutional Rights, they will avail themselves of the means which the justice and benevolence of the supreme Legislature have held out to them, of being restored to The King's grace and peace; and that a happy and lasting reconciliation and Union will be effected;–And I have the satisfaction to acquaint you that in order to accelerate this desirable object, the proper steps have been taken for passing a Commission under the great Seal, in conformity to the last Section but one, of that Act; and that the Commissioner or Commissioners to be appointed for that purpose, will have full power to inquire into the state and condition of the Colonies, and to confer with proper persons upon such points as may be necessary for effecting a restoration of the public tranquillity. – I am, sir [&c.]

Geo: Germain

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[1] VSL. This copy of the circular letter was intended for Governor Robert Eden of Maryland and was intercepted in Virginia.

LORD GEORGE GERMAIN TO LORD DUNMORE [1]

(No 1.) Whitehall Decr 23d 1775.

My Lord, It is with great Satisfaction that I avail myself of the first Opportunity that has occurred since I entered upon Office to express to your Lordship The King's Approbation of the great Zeal your Lordship has manifested for His Service, & of the Fortitude with which you have not only resisted but repelled the Insults which had been offered to You by His Majesty's Rebellious Subjects in Virginia.

What your Lordship states in your Dispatches of the 22d Octr of the disposition that had appeared in many Persons to take an open part against the Rebells, encourages me to hope that upon the Arrival of the *Liverpoole* with the Store Ship under her Convoy, & which might have been expected very soon after the date of your Letter, you would have been enabled to exert with a greater Effect that Activity in support of Legal Government which has already done you so much Honour.

Your Lordships will probably have heard of the Armament that has been prepared here for the purpose of reducing the Southern Provinces to Obedience, & of obtaining with the assistance of the Friends of Government, the Restoration of the public Tranquility. That Armament consists of 7 Battalions which go out under the Command of Lord Cornwallis, but will upon their Arrival in America be commanded by Major General Clinton: It also consists of a Naval force under the Command of Sir Peter Parker composed of a Fifty Gun Ship, Six Frigates, & one Sloop and the *Thunder* Bomb; and as every thing for the Embarkation of the Troops is now in great Forwardness, I hope it will arrive upon the Coast of America, as soon as this Letter can reach Your Lordship.

The Place of its immediate & first Destination is Cape Fear River in North Carolina, from whence it will proceed either to Virginia, or South Carolina, as the General shall, upon such Information as he can collect upon the Spot, judge most advisable; for as this Expedition has been formed (in great Measure at least) upon the Assurances given, with equal Confidence, from each of the Southern Provinces, that the bare Appearance of a Military Force would encourage the Friends of Government to shew themselves, the particular Direction of that Force must consequently be left to the Discretion of the Commander in Chief.

Whatever Intelligence Your Lordship may be able to transmit to General Clinton cannot but be very useful; and I am particularly commanded by the King to recommend to Your Lordship, to give every Assistance in your Power to an Expedition, from which we entertain so well grounded Hopes of Success. I am &ca

Geo: Germain.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/1353, Part II, 635–38.

LORD GEORGE GERMAIN TO GOVERNOR JOSIAH MARTIN [1]

(No 1.) Whitehall, Decr 23d 1775.

Sir, Lord Dartmouth having, in his Letter of the 7th of November, fully instructed you upon all points relative to the object and Plan of the intended Expedition to the Southern Colonies, it only remains for me to acquaint you, that the Armament is now ready to proceed upon that Service – It consists of seven Regiments, wanting only three Companies of the 46th, a detachment of Artillery equal to three Companies, under the Command of Lord Cornwallis, and is accompanied by a Naval Force consisting of His Majesty's Ships, *Bristol, Acteon, Boreas, Solebay, Syren, Sphynx* and *Deal Castle,* the *Hawk* Sloop and *Thunder* Bomb, commanded by Sir Peter Parker.

If this Dispatch should reach you before the arrival of the Armament, which is however uncertain, you will exert every Effort to carry into Execution the orders contained in Lord Dartmouth's Letter above mentioned, of which, for fear of

Accident, I enclose a Copy, and will take every necessary preparatory Step for collecting a Corps of Provincials to serve with the King's Troops and to join them upon their Landing. –I am &ca

Geo: Germain

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1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/318, LC Photocopy.

Lord George Germain to Governor Robert Eden [1]

(No 1.) Whitehall, 23d Decr 1775

Sir, It was not 'till the 27th of Novr that your Dispatch to Lord Dartmouth of the 27th of August was received here, when I had the honor of laying it before the King; and I have it in command from His Majesty, to express to you His Majesty's Approbation of your Zeal for the public Service, and of the unalterable Attachment you have shewn to His Person & Government, from the first Commencement of the present unhappy Disputes, which have involved His Majesty's faithful Servants in the Colonies, in Difficulties & Distress, that are only to be equalled by the Fortitude with which they are borne.

Your Letter contains a great deal of very useful Information, and your confidential Communication of the Characters of Individuals, more especially of such as come over into England, is of great Advantage; and you may rest assured, that every possible Precaution will be used, that no part of your Letter shall transpire.

An Armament, consisting of seven Regiments, and a Fleet of Frigates & small Ships, is now in readiness to proceed to the Southern Colonies, in order to attempt the Restoration of Legal Government in that part of America. It will proceed in the first Place to North Carolina, and from thence either to South Carolina or Virginia, as Circumstances of greater or less Advantage shall point out; – If to the latter, it may have very important Consequences to the Colony under your Government, and therefore, you will do well to consider of every Means, by which you may, in Conjunction with Lord Dunmore, give Facility & Assistance to its Operations. I am, Sir [&c.]

Geo: Germain

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[1] VSL. This letter was intercepted in Virginia, never reaching Eden until it was presented to him by a committee of the Maryland Council of Safety on April 16, 1776.

Lords Commissioners, Admiralty, to Lord George Germain [1]

My Lord Admiralty Office 23d Decr 1775

Having received a Letter from Captain [John] Hamilton, Commander of his Majts Ship the *Lizard,* dated the 9th of last month at Quebec, giving an account of St Johns being in the possession of the Rebells, and that Quebec was invested by them; We send Your Lordship herewith a Copy thereof, for His Majesty's information, and are My Lord [&c.]

J Buller H Palliser

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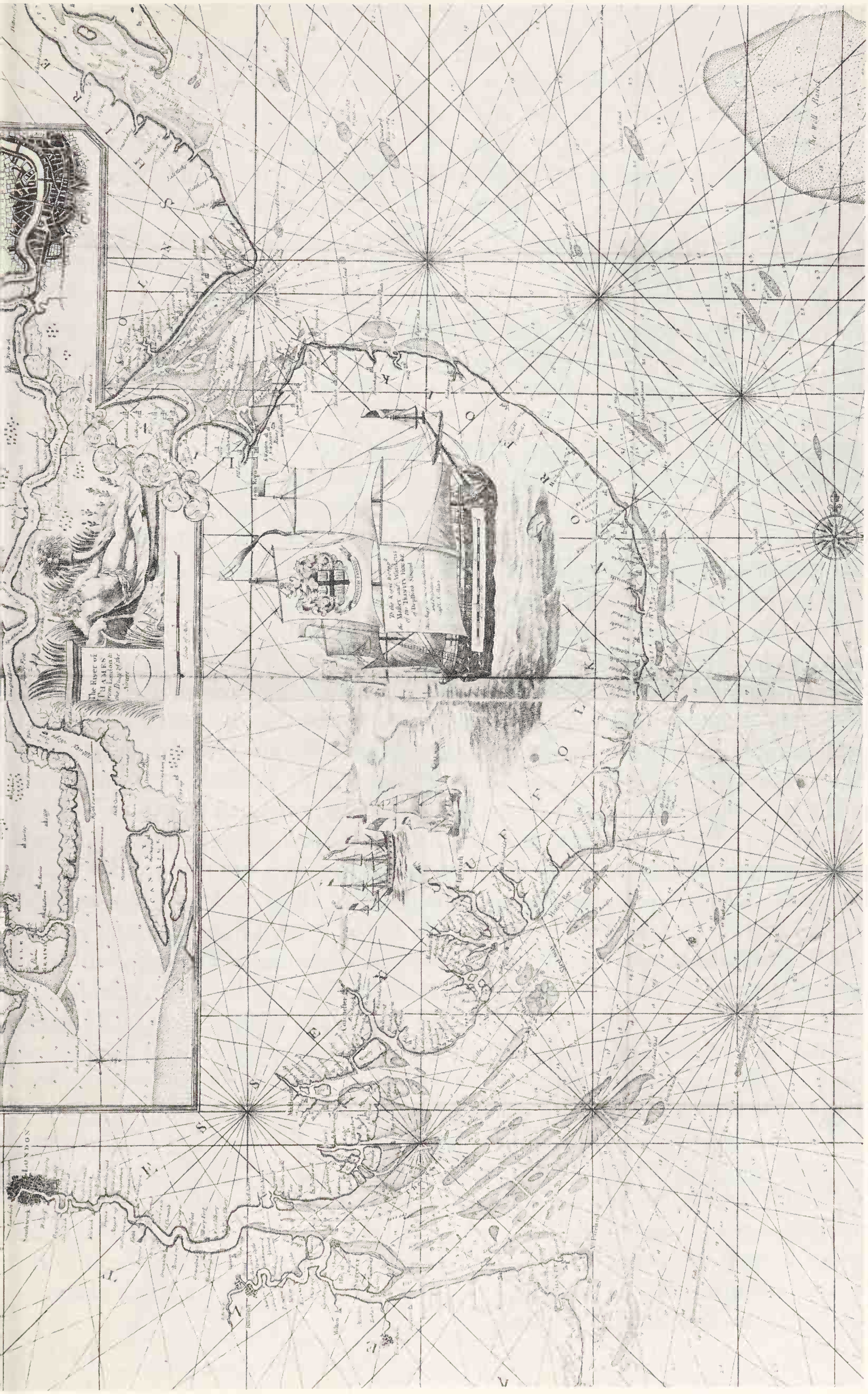
[1] PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 61a.



"The River of Thames from London to the Bucy of Noure."

JOHN HOBSON TO STEPHEN WEST [1]

Dear Sir London Decembr 23d 1775.

I have Just received your favor of the 5th Novr p the *New York Packett,* by which conveyance also I intend this shall be forwarded to you – I have wrote you many Letters since the one you mention to have received by Mr Sims, which I hope are got safe to hand before this time [I wrote] a Letter dated 5th Sept p the *Rachell* Capt [James] Tibbet which I should be very sorry should miscarry, as it was of Consequence, but in the present Dreadful Situation of Affairs, we have few Opportunities of writing and out of those few, have reason to fear some never come to hand. – You cannot conceive any situation more unhappy and every way disagreeable than the American Houses, or rather the Houses concern'd in the American Trade are [one line torn] very unfavorable situation of American Affairs, will hold out with me, God only knows, but I have dreadful fears and Apprehensions about me, respecting them. –

Respecting what you have said in several of your Letters about sending out the *Adventure* again, in the present situation of things it cannot be done, As the Parliament have [enacted] a Bill restraining all Intercourse between Great Br[itain and] America while these troubles last, and as the Post O[ffice] have Advertized they will for[ward] free of Postage [to any] body here desirous of sending it to [torn]ds in [torn] Copy of this new Act, I have wrap a Couple for you As to the *Adventure* I shall sell if I can, for I see not [the] least prospect of having Imploy for her unless it was [in] the Government Service, which you may suppose I n[ever] should think of putting her while She must be Impl[oyed] against our Country Men and fellow Subjects in Amer[ica] and therefore as I said before I mean to sell her – Inclosed you have a Letter from a Gilbert Ormsby Es[qr] [line torn] was known, is really not equal by an ⅛th or ¼d pt to what it was sold for, at this time last year I have made a finish of the *Adventure*s Load as you will see by the Inclosed List of prices, and since selling that Cargo the price has rather got down than up – Indeed to speak more properly there has been no market at all, but what the Sellers out of mere Necessity have been obliged to force, and you may easily Judge how that would Operate; I have, as I before [wrote] you I should been Obliged to make one of the above mentioned Sellers of Tobacco, and have parted with some part of Our Patapsceo, Potomack, & Patuxent Cargoes for the best of which I have not been able to Obtain more by the Lighter than 3d ¾ pt for the Middling sorts 3 ⅝, and for lower sorts only 3 ½ – and yet I was obliged to sell, as this I am not Singular in, every body have done the same, or what I esteem worse, and that is, Ship't it off to Holland or Hambro and drawn upon it –

[Let me kn]ow in what manner Mr Dulany has [line torn] that nothing of Consequence is to be expected from there – You may let Wallace & Davidson know that I applied to Joshua Johnson to have the Value of our Tobacco in McKirdy wrote off on his Policy but that he did not Chuse to do it Not withstanding your Agreement in the [torn] I was therefore obliged at a short Notice to [torn] Insurance for it myself, The Ship is since arrived [torn] I've got the Tobacco – Expecting to have an [torn] I remain

J. H.

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[1] Oden Papers, MdHS.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Speedwell,* CAPTAIN RICHARD PEARSON [1]

Decembr 1775	Remarks &a *Speedwell* Sloop
Friday 22d In Dover Peer	Fresh gales and fair wr seased and detain'd the *Hawke* brigg Thos Tingey Mastr belonging to Carolina from Amsterdam for the Island of St Thomases in the Wt Indias.[2]
Saturdy 23d	Fresh gales and fair wr Came into the peer and made fast his Majs Cutter *Wells,* recd from On board her Lieut Cook & the people who Navigated the *Anna Catherina* to Portsmouth [3]

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 51/918.

[2] This is the earliest mention in the American Revolution of Captain Thomas Tingey, who was later, on September 3, 1798, commissioned a captain in the United States Navy.

[3] The *Wells* had escorted the *Anna Catherina* to Portsmouth on December 15, 1775, after the vessel had been liberated; *Speedwell's* journal, PRO, Admiralty 51/918.

CAPTAIN RICHARD PEARSON, R.N., TO GEORGE JACKSON [1]

Copy *Speedwell* Sloop Dover 23d Decr 1775

Sir You'll be pleased to inform my Lords Commissrs of the Admty that the *Hawk* a Brigantine from Amsterdam bound to St Thomas's a Danish Island in the West Indies belonging to North Carolina, Thos Tingey Master having put into this Port, as he says to procure him a Mediterranean Pass, that upon my going on board her and examining her papers, found her to be American property, I therefore in consequence of their Lordships Order to me dated the 9th of September last as well as from a probability of the Act having passed for making all American Property lawful Seizure – have seized and detained her, and have herewith inclosed an exact Copy of the Ships Register (the Original being lodged with the Collector of this Port as I find it is customary upon any foreign Vessels coming into this Port)[2] as also an account of her Cargo as delivered me by the Master and shall be glad to have their Lordships directions for my farther proceedings herein, I am &c

R^{d} Pearson

PS the *Wells* Cutter is just arrived from Portsmouth

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[1] PRO, State Papers 42/49.

[2] The register, dated November 21, 1774, showed the *Hawk* to be of about 100 tons burden; a square sterned vessel built in Port Roanoke (Edenton), North Carolina in 1774, the property of Francis Hardy of Edenton and William Lowther of New York. Tingey was appointed master, November 29, 1774, *ibid.*

THOMAS TINGEY'S CARGO LIST FOR THE BRIGANTINE *Hawk* [1]

Brigantine *Hawk* British Plantation Built, Viz North Carolina. Registered the Property of Francis Hardy of North Carolina and Wm Lowther of New York – Now from Amsterdam bound to the Island of St Thomas in the West Indies with the following Cargoe

Sixty eight Thousand Dutch Bricks
Eleven thousand & forty bundles of Hoops
One hundred Thirty Casks of Horse Beans
Five Casks of Oats
Eighty Kegs of Nails

Sixteen Do of Paints
Twenty stone [2] of Bottles Paint Oyl
One Package & One Case of Bale Hoods

In Witness that this is the true & just Cargoe recd on bd sd Brigt by me, I hereunto subscribe my name this 23d Decr 1775

Thos Tingey

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1. PRO, State Papers 42/49.
2. A British measure of weight, commonly equal to fourteen pounds.

24 Dec. (Sunday)

William Eden to Governor Robert Eden [1]

Copy

My dear Brother, Downing-Street, Decr 24th [1775]

I am very unable to say a tenth Part of what I ought to say to you this Evening, when there is So much to be said, and so few Opportunities of saying it. – but my Head is disabled by this Influenza, which has disabled us all by Turns, and my Attention, as far as I am competent to employ it, is engaged by official Business. –

Our Campaign this Year has certainly not been brilliant, and the News (reported a few Days ago, and confirmed this Morning) of the taking of St Johns compleats our Disgrace — We have wanted a few hard Knocks to rouse us, and I trust that we are rouzed (at Least we had the Knocks) I also trust that we are not stunn'd by them, but animated to a just Sense of the Contest, in which we are engaged, and determined (and let me add able) to take Measures equal to it's Difficulties – You have rather a Predilection for America, let me repeat to you however what I have always Said, and what the chearful disposition of the People of this Country under all their Disappointments in this Business confirms "We are too steady and too resolute to give Way, and either you or we must give Way" if we were less steady than we are, we could still be too much for you by the relative Advantages, which we enjoy, in Spite of the great Expences, to which you are putting us, in great Naval Equipments, and in more numerous Armies, than have ever yet been seen in America. – it is a cursed Business – we may be mistaken, but we think you in general in a state of Frenzy – You will neither hear Reason, nor act reasonably, & the only Question now is, whether you will be brought back to common Sense and general Happiness, or whether you shall succeed in destroying both us and yourselves – as for your Excellency individually, you are behaving in a Manner to deserve great Credit; you are acting the dignified determined Part. – and are showing yourself a Friend to both Sides of the Atlantic – you have all due Honour for it here, and I hope you will be treated with equal Candour on your own Side of the Atlantic. –

The Bill, which had the Royal Assent yesterday puts an End to all commercial Intercourse between us. I hope the Southern Countries will begin to see the Consequences of continuing upon themselves the Miseries, which that Bill must bring on them, and that they will learn what they might have learned longer ago, that if they succeed in their present united Enterprize, they will immediately find themselves in a State of Subjection to the New-Englanders, and that the longer they persevere in that Enterprize (if they are fortunate enough in the End to fail in it) the more they must suffer – for other Matters I must refer you to the Papers from the Post-Office, and remain very affectionatly yours.

W^m^ Eden

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1. Council of Safety Letter Book, No. 1, 1776, Md. Arch. This is another of the letters intercepted in Virginia which apparently never was given to Eden.

Count de Guines to Count de Vergennes [1]

[Extract] [London] 24 [December, 1775]

News from the Ports

Plymouth

An Account of the six guard-ships.

Ships	Guns	Lieutenants	Cadets	Men	Marines	Servants	Total
Ocean	90	4	10	230	30	20	294
Foudroyant	80	4	10	220	30	10	274
Dublin	74	3	8	140	20	10	181
Albion	74	3	8	104	20	10	145
Non Such	64	3	8	59	20	10	100
Torbay	74	3	8	108	18	10	147
6	456	20	52	871	138	70	1141

This account is as exact as could be obtained.

The frigate *Surprise* came from Portsmouth. Arrival of the Ship *Boyne* from America. The frigate *Solebay* is awaiting favourable winds in order to get under way.

Portsmouth

Arrival of three Infantry Regiments from Gibraltar, and of transport ships carrying two artillery Companies from Woolwich destined for America.

The frigate *Boreas* which has been damaged is being repaired.

Admiral Parker will go to America with the ship *Bristol* and five frigates under his command.

Deptford

The frigate *Flora* is being commissioned. *Emerald, Repulse,* and *Brune* are still in dry-dock. The *Sultan* of 74 guns has been bought at Harwich; she will be taken to Chatham.

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1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 513, 316, LC Photocopy.

Commodore Sir Peter Parker to Philip Stephens [1]

Sir *Bristol* at Spithead 24th Decr 1775

The *Sphynx* will be ready for Sea on Tuesday next, and the *Active* on Wednesday, or Thursday – The Wind blows strong from the So Wt and I fear it will continue some days longer, should it change in our favour before those Ships are ready, I shall leave Orders with their Captains to follow me to Cork, with the utmost expedition, which I hope will be acting agreeable to their Lordships intentions – As the *Actaeon* and *Thunder* Bomb, are now at Spithead, and we shall be ready to sail together, I shall be glad to know, whether their Lordships would have me take them under my Command here. I am Sir [&c.]

P: Parker

[Endorsed] approve and of his taking the said Ships under his command at Spithead

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/486.

Commodore Sir Peter Parker to Philip Stephens [1]

Sir *Bristol* at Spithead 24th Decembr 1775

I have received your Letter of the 23d inst with one Act of Parliament, prohibiting all Trade and intercourse with the Colonies therein mentioned, and one of the King's Proclamations appointing the distribution of the Prizes, that may be taken in consequence thereof; and also twenty more of the said Acts & Proclamations to be distributed among the Ships & Vessells under my command, and such other of His Majesty's Ships, as I may happen to fall in with – I am Sir [&c.]

P: Parker

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/486.

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25 Dec.

Lords Commissioners, Admiralty, to Captain William Williams, H.M.S. *Active*, Portmouth [1]

You are hereby required & directed to put yourself under the command of Sir Peter Parker Commr of a Squadron of His Majs Ships: And follow his orders for your further proceedings.

Given &c 25th Decr 1775

Sandwich J Buller H. Palliser

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 322.

Lords Commissioners, Admiralty, to Commodore Sir Peter Parker, Spithead [1]

Whereas His Majestys Ship the *Boreas* has received damage in getting upon the Dean Sand which will prevent her proceeding on the expedition under your command We have therefore substituted the *Active* in her place; And do hereby require & direct you to take the said Ship under your command her Captain being directed to follow your Orders.

Given &c 25th Decr 1775

Sandwich J Buller H. Palliser

By &c. G J DS.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 322.

Lords Commissioners, Admiralty, to Commodore Sir Peter Parker [1]

Having ordered Captain [Robert] Dring Commander of His Majesty's Bomb Vessel the *Carcass* to put himself under your Command and follow your Orders for his further Proceedings You are hereby required and directed to take him under your Command accordingly and employ him as part of your Squadron. Given &c the 25th December 1775.

Sandwich J:Buller H:Palliser

By &c G:J: D:S:

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1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 326.

Lords Commissioners, Admiralty, to Lord Weymouth [1]

My Lord Admiralty Office, 25th Decr 1775

Captain [Richard] Pearson, of his Majesty's Sloop the *Speedwell,* having acquainted Us, in his Letter of the 23d Instant, from Dover, that in obedience to Our Orders to him of the 9th of September last, grounded on his Majesty's Pleasure, signified to Us in the Earl of Rochford's Letter of the 1st of the same month, he had seized and detained a vessel bound from Amsterdam to St Thomas's, which appears by her Papers to be American Property; We send your Lordship herewith a Copy of Captain Pearson's said Letter, together with a Copy of the Ship's Register, and an Account of her Cargo, all which We desire your Lordship will please to lay before the King, and that you will receive and signify to Us His Majesty's Pleasure, how the said Vessel shall be disposed of. We are My Lord [&c.]

Sandwich J Buller H Palliser

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1. PRO, State Papers 42/49.

Lords Commissioners, Admiralty, to Lord George Germain [1]

My Lord Admiralty Office. 25th Decr 1775

In consequence of the Investiture of Quebec by the Rebells, of which We apprized Your Lordship in our Letter of the 23d Instant, a Council of War was held by the Lieutenant Governor, and composed of the Sea and Land Officers in the Place, to consider of the properest measures for the Defence of the Town, Copy of which was immediately dispatched by Captain Hamilton of his Majesty's Ship the *Lizard,* to Vice Admiral Graves, together with an Account of the Proceedings in consequence thereof; But the Officer who was sent on this Service, in the *Elizabeth* Storeship, which had lately arrived with Stores from England, having been blown from the Coast of America, & obliged to bear away for England, and having upon his arrival at Portsmouth transmitted unto Us the Dispatches he was charged with, as aforementioned, We send your Lordship herewith copies thereof, for His Majesty's Information, and are My Lord [&c.]

Sandwich J Buller H Palliser

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1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 63a.

George Jackson to Vice Admiral Sir James Douglas, Portsmouth [1]

Sr [Admiralty Office] 25th Decr 1775

An Act having passed the present Sessions of Parliament "To Prohibit all Trade and intercourse with the several Colonies in No America therein named during the continuance of the present Rebellion within the said Colonies" in which Act it is declared that all Ships & Vessels trading to & from any of the said places except as in the said Act is excepted shall be forfeited & become the Sole property of the Captors; I am commanded by my Lords Commrs of the admty to send you one of the said Acts Also of the Kings Proclamation appointing the distribution of the Prizes that may be taken in consequence thereof for your information & guidance

I send you also 12 more of the said Acts & Proclamations which you will please to distribute to the Captains of the Ships & Vessels named in the Margin &c

G J DS

P.S. There are likewise Ten more of each to be delivered to Ships that may happen to arrive not already furnished with them.

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1. PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 456–57. Similar letters and copies were sent to flag officers commanding on various stations.

CAPTAIN JOHN MACARTNEY, R.N., TO PHILIP STEPHENS [1]

His Majestys Ship *Boyne* Plymouth Sound

Sr December 25th 1775.

Please to acquaint the Rt Honbl the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that agreeable to Admiral Graves's Order,[2] and my own request, I am come to England, to vindicate my Conduct, censured by Lord Dunmore, Governor of Virginia, during my Commanding the *Mercury*, and Senior Captain upon that Station. – Therefore, I must beg their Lordships will be pleased to give me leave to come to London, where, I hope, I shall be able to convince their Lordships, that I have acted in every respect to Merit their Lordships Approbation. I am Sr [&c.]

John Macartney

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1. PRO, Admiralty 1/2119.
2. See Samuel Graves to Philip Stephens, October 9, 1775, Volume 2, 371–73.

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26 Dec.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN [1]

My Lord Admiralty Office. 26th Decr 1775

Having received a Letter from Captain [John] Hamilton, Commander of his Majesty's ship the *Lizard,* dated the 20th of last Month at Quebec, giving an account of the Measures that have been taken in consequence of the Resolutions of the Councils of War held there by the Lieutenant Governor on the 11th and 16th of the same Month, and of the arrival of General Carleton; We send your Lordship herewith a Copy of the same, and of the several Papers inclosed therein, in addition to our Letter to your Lordship of yesterday's date, on the same subject, for his Majesty's information, and are, My Lord [&c.]

J. Buller Palmerston H. Palliser

P. S. The Petition of the Owners & Masters of the Merchant Ships laid under an Embargo, did not come inclosed.

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1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 62a.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN [1]

My Lord Admiralty Office. 26th Decr 1775

The *Elizabeth* Storeship which was taken into the Service, in pursuance of his Majesty's Commands signified in the Earl of Dartmouth's Letter of the 29th of June last, to carry Stores to Quebec, having returned to England, as We acquainted your Lordship in our Letter of yesterday's date; with the greatest part of the Stores on board which she carried out; We desire your Lordship will receive and signify to Us His Majesty's pleasure, how the said Ship and Stores shall be disposed of. We are My Lord [&c.]

J. Buller Palmerston H Palliser

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[1] PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 64.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM DOVER, DEC. 26." [1]

Yesterday came in here his Majesty's cutter the *Greyhound,* having split all her sails in the late hard gales.

The *Anna Catharina* (A Danish frigate of about 400 tons) that was detained by the above cutter upon an information of her having military stores for the Americans on board, is delivered up to her Master, the information having proved to be a groundless one.

The Patriot, a Danish snow, detained by his Majesty's sloop *Speedwell,* is now reshipping her goods, after having been searched to the keel, and nothing contraband found on board her, from the same mal-information.

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[1] *London Chronicle,* December 28 to December 30, 1775.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PORTSMOUTH, DEC. 26." [1]

Arrived here the *Elizabeth,*[2] Tune, from Quebec. She sailed from England the beginning of Sept. with a cargo of the following stores for General Carleton's army, viz. 10,000 stands of arms, cloathing for 10,000 men, 500 barrels of gunpowder, and a large quantity of ball. On her arrival at Quebec, the Governor would not suffer the stores to be landed, but ordered the ship to sail immediately for England, lest they should fall into the hands of the Provincials, who were then with a large army in full march to attack that place.

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[1] *London Chronicle,* December 30, 1775 to January 2, 1776.

[2] The *Elizabeth* sailed from Quebec November 22, 1775; journal of H.M.S. *Magdalen,* PRO, Admiralty 51/3894.

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27 Dec.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN [1]

My Lord Admiralty Office 27th Decr 1775

Having received a Letter from Vice Admiral Graves, Commander in chief of His Majesty's Ships in North America, dated the 4th Instant, giving an Account of a Ship being arrived at New York, with 255 Emigrants from Scotland, which Captain Vandeput, of his Majesty's Ship the *Asia,* had sent to Boston; and that he had reason to believe most part of the Men would enter to serve in the Army, and that, the rest, with the Women & Children, he should send away to Nova

Scotia; We send your Lordship herewith a Copy thereof, for his Majesty's information, and are My Lord [&c.]

J. Buller Palmerston H. Palliser

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[1] PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 65a.

Lords Commissioners, Admiralty, to Lord George Germain [1]

My Lord Admiralty Office 27th Decr 1775

Vice Admiral Graves, Commander in chief of His Majesty's Ships in North America, having transmitted to Us, in his Letter of the 22d of last month, Seven Private Letters taken on board different Vessels bound to Jamaica, which contain Intelligence of Moment; We send your Lordship herewith a copy of Mr Graves's Letter aforementioned & the said Seven Letters in original, for his Majesty's Information, and are My Lord [&c.]

J. Buller Palmerston H. Palliser

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[1] PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 62a.

Lord George Germain to Lords Commissioners, Admiralty [1]

My Lords, Whitehall December 27th 1775.

Inclosed I send your Lordships a List of the Names of Thirty Four Persons taken in Arms against The King near Montreal of the 25th of September last, which Prisoners have been sent from Quebec in Custody, and are now Prisoners in His Majesty's Castle of Pendennis.

It is The King's Pleasure that these Prisoners should be forthwith send to Boston in North America on board His Majesty's Ship *Solebay*, which I am informed is now ready to proceed to North America, and Orders have been given to the Commanding Officer at Pendennis Castle to put the Prisoners into the Custody of Mr James Cleverley, One of His Majesty's Messengers, who will deliver them to the Commander of any of His Majesty's Ships who shall have Authority from your Lordships to receive them; I am therefore to signify to your Lordships His Majesty's Command that you do instruct the Commander of His Majesty's Ship *Solebay*, or of any other of His Majesty's Ships now under Orders for North America, to repair forthwith with the Ship under his Command to Falmouth, & having received the said Prisoners on board to put to Sea with the first fair Wind, and upon his arrival at Boston to deliver them up to such Person as the Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Forces in North America shall appoint to receive them, and I inclose to Your Lordships a Letter to Major General Howe, signifying His Majesty's Pleasure respecting the said Prisoners. I am &ca

Geo: Germain

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[1] PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 67.

Lords Commissioners, Admiralty, to Captain Thomas Symonds, H.M.S. *Solebay*, Plymouth [1]

Inclosed we send you the names of 34 Persons taken in arms against the King near Montreal on the 25t September last [2] who are now Prisoners in Pendennis Castle; And do hereby in pursuance of the King's Pleasure signified by Lord George Germain one of His Majestys Principal Secretaries of State in his Letter of this day, require and direct you to call in the Ship you command at Falmouth in your way to Cork and receive on board the said Men which will be delivered to you by Mr James Cleverly one of His Majestys Messengers giving him a Receipt for them, specifying their names; and having taken them on board, proceed with them to Cork following such orders as you will receive from Sir Peter Parker for your further proceedings concerning them.

You will be careful to keep the said Prisoners in Custody; bearing them on a Supernumerary List for Victuals, and victualling them as the Ship's Company while they are on board.

Given &c the 27th December 1775.

J. Buller Palmerston H: Palliser

P.S. If the Prisoners are not provided with Beds you are to order the Purser to supply each Person with one of the Ships Beds.

[Endorsed] By Mr Cleverly a Kings Messenger the 28t Decemr at 2 o Clock in the Morning.

By &c Geo.Jackson D:S:

[Second endorsement] (Duplicate given to Mr Cleverly to be delivered at Falmouth if the Ship should have sailed from Plymo).

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1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 328–29.
2. The list is printed below the Lords Commissioners' letter of the same day to Sir Peter Parker.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER [1]

Inclosed we send you the names of 34 Persons taken in Arms against the King near Montreal on the 25t September last, which Persons are now Prisoners in Pendennis Castle; and whereas in pursuance of the King's Pleasure signified by Lord George Germain one of His Majestys Principal Secretaries of State in his Letter of this day we have ordered Captain [Thomas] Symonds of the *Solebay* to call at Falmouth in his way to Cork and receive on board the said Men, who will be delivered to him by Mr James Cleverly, one of His Majestys Messengers giving him a Receipt for them specifying their names and having taken them on board proceed with them to Cork following such Orders as he will receive from you for his further proceedings concerning them.

You are hereby required and directed upon the *Solebay*'s joining you if the said Men are on board her to dispose of them on board the several Ships under your Command as you shall think fit giving the Captains of such Ships orders to keep the Prisoners in custody, bearing them on a Supernumerary List for Victuals and victualling them as the Ship's Companies while they are on board.

But lest the *Solebay* which is detained at Plymouth for [want of] a Wind only shall have sailed before the Orders to her Captain can reach him, you are to order the Captain of one of the Frigates under your Command at Portsmouth to call at Falmouth, and in case he shall find the Prisoners then in Pendennis Castle to take them on board and follow the directions contained in the aforementioned Order to Captain Symonds.

When the Ships having the said Prisoners on board shall arrive on the Coast of North America, You are to take the first opportunity that offers of a Ship going to Boston and send them in her ordering her Captain to deliver them to Major General [William] Howe with the Letter from Lord George Germain which is herewith inclosed. Given &c the 27t December 1775.

J: Buller Palmerston H: Palliser

[Endorsed] By Haysom the Messenger 28 Decemr at 2 O'Clock in the Morning A M.

[Enclosure]

List of the Rebel Prisoners put on board the Ship *Adamant*, Henry Wilson Master Quebec 9t Novemr 1775

Names	Places of abode	Companies	Names of the Generals and Colonels
Taken near Montreal 25 Septemr 1775			
Colo Ethen Allen			General Schuyler
Roger Moore	Shannon	Captain Bucks	General Montgomery
Samuel Lewis	Do	Major Ailmers	Colonel Hinman
Levi Barnham	Norfolk	Capt Watson's	General Worster
Peter Noble	Sheffield	Do	Colonel Vanshuick
William Gray	Shannon	Majr Ailmers	Colonel Waterbury
Ebenezer Mack	Norfolk	Capt Watsons	
Ethereel Hower	New Hartford	Capt Griswells	
Barney Cann	Ireland	Capt Benedicts	
Zacha Brinsmaid	Bethlam	Majr Hillmans	
Levi Manson	Wallanford	Capt Douglas's	
Preston Denlon	Hampsted	Capt Grahams	
Wm Drinkwater	New Milford	Capt Stars	
Jonathan Mays	Gosham	Captain Star's	
David Glass	Shannon	Majr Hillmans	
Adonizah Mexom	Do	Do	
John Gray	Narawaak	Capt Fishers	
Jean Jac Bourquin	Switzerland	Capt Motts	
Charles Stuart	Stamford	Capt Watson's	
Serjt Amos Green,	taken by	Major Le Maistre	
John Venamay	taken by	Colonel Maclean	
Canadians taken 25 September 1775			
Michael Gautier	St Denis		
Louis Trudeau	Do		
Louis Roche	Longuiel		
Antoine Bellisle	St Charles		
Augustin Mayotte	Bellaisle		
Francois Livernois	Do		
Pierre La Roche	Do		
Alexis Pluse	St ours		
Fras, St Laurent	St Jean Deschaillons		
Pierre Trichet	St Denis		
Jean La Marche	Chambly		
Menard Charlan	Taken carrying Letters and Messages		

Quebec 9t October 1775
H:J.Cramahé

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1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 329–32.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN SIR GEORGE COLLIER, H.M.S. *Rainbow*, SHEERNESS[1]

Having appointed you Captain of His Majesty's Ship the *Rainbow* at Sheerness which we have order'd to be fitted and stor'd at that place for foreign Service, Mann'd with Two hundred and fifty Men and victualled to six Months will all Species of Provisions except Beer of which she is to have as much as she can conveniently stow, and to be supplied with a proportion of Wine or Spirits for two Months in lieu of the remainder, You are hereby required and directed, to use the utmost dispatch in getting her ready for the Sea accordingly, & then proceed to the Nore for further Orders.

Given &c. the 27th Decr 1775.

By &c G.J. DS

J. Buller Palmerston H. Palliser

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 333. An identical order was given this same day to Captain Elliot Salter, H.M. Sloop *Cygnet*, with a complement of 110, at Portsmouth.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN[1]

My Lord Admiralty Office. 27 Decr 1775

Having received a Letter from Commissioner Arbuthnot, dated the 18th of last month at Halifax, giving an Account of his arrival at that Place, and of the Measures taking to put the yard into the best Condition possible for it's Defence against any Attempts that may be made upon it by the Rebells; and likewise inclosing a Copy of a Letter he had wrote to Vice Admiral Graves on that Subject; We send your Lordship herewith copies thereof, for his Majesty's information, and are My Lord [&c.]

J. Buller Palmerston H. Palliser

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[1] PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 68a.

COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER TO PHILIP STEPHENS[1]

Sir *Bristol* at Spithead 27th Decr 1775

I have received their Lordships Order of the 25th instt to take the *Active* under my Command in the room of the *Boreas*. – I have also received your Letter of the 25th signifying their Lordships directions to me to take the *Actaeon* & *Thunder* Bomb under my command here. I am Sir [&c.]

P. Parker

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 1/486.

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28 Dec.

LORD WEYMOUTH TO THE LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY[1]

St James's 28th, Decr 1775.

Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty } My Lords,

Having laid before The King Your Lordships Letter of the 25th instant, together with it's inclosures, relative to the *Hawk* Brigantine, Thomas Tingey Master, bound from Amsterdam to St Thomas's, which is detained at Dover by Capt [Richard] Pearson of His Majesty's Sloop the *Speedwell,* I have The King's Commands to acquaint your Lordships that it is judged expedient the said *Hawk* Brigantine should be forthwith released, and it is His Majesty's Pleasure that Your Lordships should give the necessary Orders for that purpose.[2]

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1. PRO, State Papers 42/49.
2. As the King had signed the Prohibitory Act on December 23, 1775, his order to release the *Hawk,* an unmistakable American vessel, was probably because she was sailing from one neutral port to another and was not carrying contraband.

London Chronicle, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26 TO THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1775

London, Dec. 28.

A large Dutch ship has been seized by the sloop of war stationed off Dover, and brought into that port, upon suspicion of her having ammunition and warlike stores on board for the use of the Americans, but after having unloaded her whole cargo, nothing was found to support the suspicion. It was not without some difficulty, therefore, that the Dutch Captain could be prevailed on to re-ship his cargo, and receive a consideration for his expence and loss of time.

On Saturday [December 23] another large vessel (American built) bound from Rotterdam to one of the American ports, with goods on board for the Colonists, was seized by the before-mentioned sloop, and brought into Dover harbour, where she now lies; and it is imagined she will be condemned as a lawful prize.

LORD SANDWICH TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN [1]

My Lord Hinchingbrook Dec: 28. 1775

I am honored with your Lordships letter by Lieutenant [Thomas] Pringle, whose opinion gives me great hopes that Quebec will hold out till succours arrive. Your Lordship will find that everything will be done by Sir H: [Hugh] Pallisser the same as if I was on the spot, if I was not certain that would be the case, no consideration should have made me stir from town.

I have received a letter from Commissioner [Marriot] Arbuthnot containing an account of the state of things at Halifax, which I must beg the favour of you to lay before his Majesty for his information.

The loss of the ordnance storeship is a fatal event,[2] and by what Mr Pringle tells me has been most probably owing to the treachery of the master, who went out under convoy, which he parted from in his passage; and tho' a frigate on the coast of America which he met at Sea took him under her protection, he parted from her allso & continued to be beating backwards & forwards near the shore 'till he was picked up by the enemy's whaleboats. I think it will be adviseable that these valuable ships should have a sea Lieutenant in them to keep the masters in order, and I write to Sir Hugh Pallisser by this conveyance to that purpose. Captain [John] Hamiltons behaviour will entitle him to every favour that can be shewn him, tho' I do not think he can have a greater reward than the satisfaction he will feel (if the Place is saved) that it will have been owing in great measure to his timely assistance & activity. I am [&c.]

Sandwich

Captain Hamilton is a very deserving man, & as I understand related to Ld Abercorn.

1. Germain Papers, CL.
2. "London. Dec. 28. The *Nancy,* [Robert] Hunter, a Transport, with five hundred barrels of gunpowder [*sic*], a large quantity of balls, bombs, and other warlike stores, is taken by the Provincials, within sight of the fleet at Boston," *London Chronicle,* December 26 to December 28, 1775.

COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER TO PHILIP STEPHENS [1]

Sir *Bristol* at Spithead 28th Decr 1775

I have received their Lordships Order of the 27th instt by a Messenger, directing the method I am to pursue relative to the Thirty four Persons taken in Arms against the King, the 25th of Septembr last, near Montreal, and now Prisoners in Pendennis Castle with a List of the said Prisoners; and also a Letter from Lord George Germain, to Major General Howe, which is to be sent with them. — I am Sir [&c.]

P: Parker

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/486.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM GOSPORT, DEC. 28." [1]

The following men of war are now fitting out with all expedition at Chatham, Sheerness, and Portsmouth, for the American station, viz. the *Carysfort,* [Robert] Fanshaw; the *Fox* [Patrick] Fotheringham; the *Active,* [William] Williams; and the *Seaford,* [John] Culpoys; which ships will be all ready for service in the course of two months.

1. *London Chronicle,* December 28 to December 30, 1775.

COUNT DE VERGENNES TO GABRIEL DE SARTINE [1]

Versailles, 28 December 1775

The English Ambassador told me yesterday, Sir, that he had intelligence that three ships from Northern America had arrived in Marseille with cargoes of cereals and that it was their intention to exchange them for war ammunition. I believe, Sir, that I should acquaint you with this fact in order that you may take the steps which you will deem appropriate following the orders requested by the Court of London.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 513, LC Photocopy.

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29 Dec.

LORD GEORGE GERMAIN TO THE LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY [1]

My Lords, Whitehall December 29th 1775.

It is His Majesty's Pleasure that the *Elizabeth* Storeship mentioned in your Lordships Letter to me of the 26th Instant, should be ordered, as soon as she is properly refitted for Sea, to proceed to Boston, and to delivery her Cargo to such Person as Major General Howe shall appoint to receive the same, the Officer having the care of the Vessel taking with him and deliverying to Major Genl Howe and Admiral Graves, the Orders he received at Quebec.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 71.

COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER TO PHILIP STEPHENS [1]

Sir *Bristol* at Spithead 29th Decbr 1775

I have received Their Lordships Order of the 25th instant, to take His Majestys Bomb Vessel the *Carcass* under my command; and also your Letter of the 27th instant, with a Copy of a Letter from Vice Admiral Graves to Captain Bellew dated the 30th November 1775, wherein is shewn the Force, He had stationed to the Southward of Philadelphia.

The Wind is Northwest, I have made the Signal to unmoor, and will sail to Day if it even continues as it is.

The *Sphynx* is coming out of the Harbour, and the *Active* will come out to Morrow.

I shall leave Orders for Those Ships to follow me, and also for the *Carcass,* should She Touch Here. I am Sir [&c.]

P: Parker

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/486.

JOURNAL OF CAPTAIN THOMAS MASON [1]

[Lorient, October 31-December 29,1775]

That Necessity Obliged me to Charter a Dutch vessel for Amsterdam [2] I proceeded in Company with her the 27th of December 1775 and Dropt Anchor the same Day Between Bell Island & the Isle of Groy [Groix] w[h]ere I Received her Cargo on Board the Brigg *Chance* which I principally Loaded on acct of Congress – the 29th in the morning we made saile Which is the Reason why my Receeit from Cap Creig [John Craig] is dated at Sea –

1. "The Following is an Extract from the Journal of my proceedings from the Commencement untill the Conclusion of my Voyage," Papers of Robert Morris, LC. Previous extracts covering the voyage to France and the events there, along with the parallel autobiography of Charles Biddle, appear in Volumes 1 and 2.
2. Fearing seizure by French authorities, Mason, on October 30, had dispatched his own vessel under Captain Charles Biddle, who had sailed from Lorient under cover of night.

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30 Dec.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN JAMES FERGUSON, H.M.S. *BRUNE,* CHATHAM [1]

Having appointed you Captain of His Majts Ship *Brune* at Chatham which we have order'd to be fitted & stored at that place for foreign Service mann'd with Two hundred Men and victualled for six Months with all species of Provisions except Beer, of which she is to have as much as she can conveniently stow, and to be supplied with a proportion of Wine or Spirits for two Months in lieu of the remainder; You are hereby required and directed, to use the utmost dispatch in getting her ready for the Sea accordingly, and then falling

down to Blackstakes take in her Guns & Gunners Stores and proceed to the [Nore] for further Orders.
Given &c. the 30th Decr 1775.

Sandwich J. Buller H. Palliser

By &c. G.J. DS.

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1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 336.

Lord George Germain to the Lords Commissioners, Admiralty [1]

My Lords, Whitehall 30th Decr 1775

Advices having been received, that several Vessels have been surprised and taken upon the Coast of America, by armed Ships fitted out from the Rebellious Colonies; it is His Majesty's Pleasure, that the *Elizabeth* Storeship do not proceed upon her Voyage without Convoy, or without being properly armed for Defence in case of Attack.

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1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 72.

Lord Sandwich to an Unidentified Correspondent [1]

[Extract] Hinchingbrook Dec: 30. 1775

. . . Our disgraces have been great & repeated in America, but I am clear in the opinion I allways had, that they are entirely owing to our having begun too late, and having suffered ourselves to be amused by what were called conciliatory measures; fleets and armies, admirals & generals, can do very little without ships, troops, and orders; & the consequence of their having gotten them by slow degrees has been that we have been on the defensive the whole campaign; & to compleat the whole we are now warring with the elements, for all our difficulties in Canada have arisen from the attack having been made when the season was too far advanced to afford us the means of throwing in the necessary supplies of men & provisions. The loss of the Ordnance Storeship [2] is a very unfortunate event; but that is a mere misforture, for she went from England under convoy, parted company at Sea, was then picked [up] by another frigate on the Coast who took charge of her, parted from her allso, and then suffered herself to be taken, most probably on purpose.

It is however our business to look forward & not to lose our time in complaints, the next campaign promises fair, & you have done so much for us in your department, that every other branch of government, must be piqued into keeping pace with you. I am [&c.]

Sandwich

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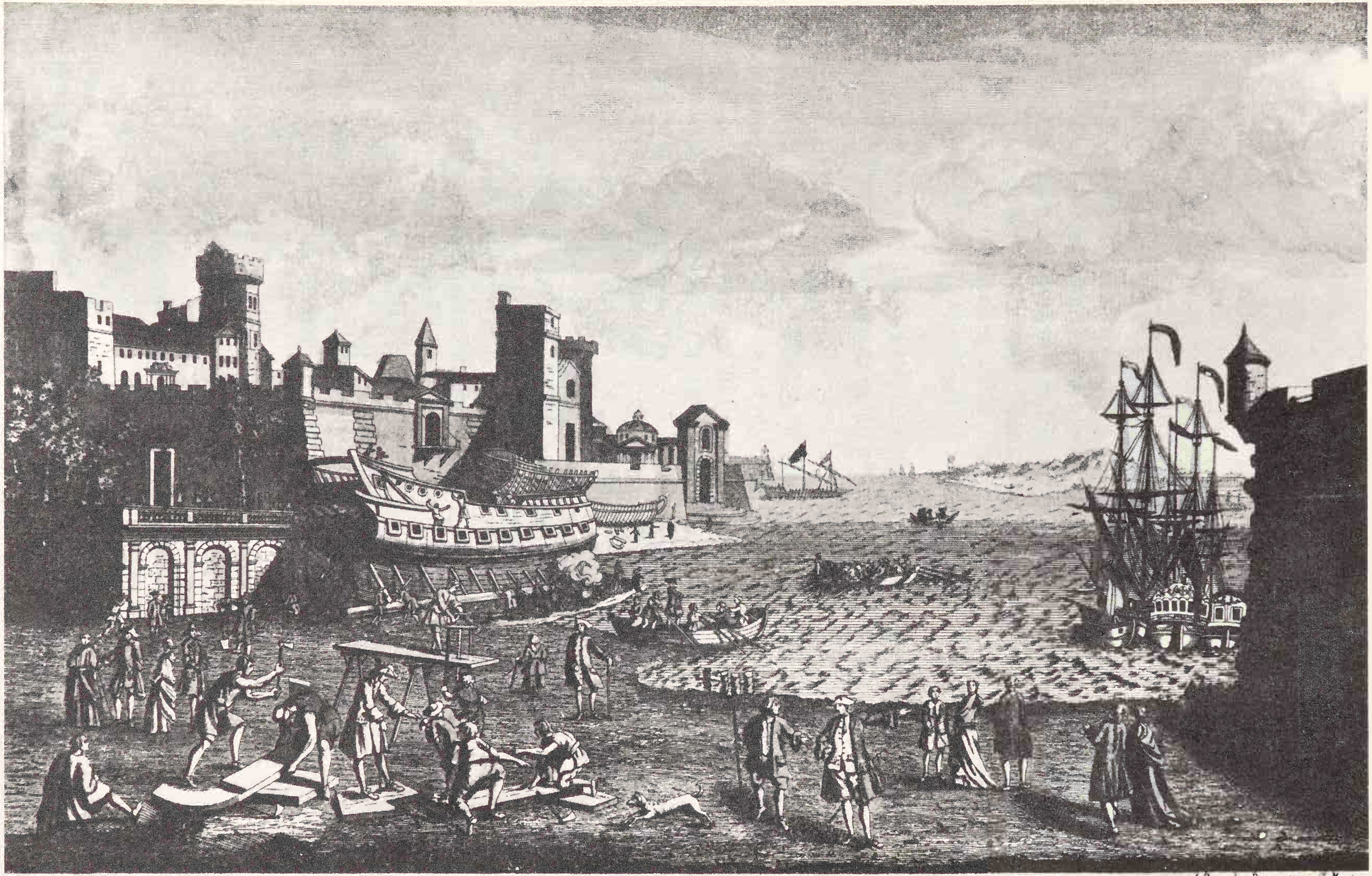
1. Sandwich Papers, DUL Photocopy.
2. The brig *Nancy*.

London Chronicle, Saturday, December 30, 1775 to Tuesday, January 2, 1776

Bristol, Dec. 30.

In the *Liberty*, Thompson, arrived here last Sunday [December 24] from Quebec, was brought over one of the American Rifle-men, who was taken prisoner: he is committed to our Bridewell till further orders.



[illegible] A Paris chez Daumont rue S^t Martin

Navalia . 30^e. VÜE D'OPTIQUE Représentant Chantier pour la Construction des Vaisseaux .

GABRIEL DE SARTINE TO COUNT DE VERGENNES [1]

Versailles, 30 December 1775

I have just received, Sir, the letter with which you honored me on the 28th of this month in order to forward me the information which the English Ambassador gave you with regard to the arrival in Marseille of three vessels from Northern America, whose cargoes of wheat their Captains intended to exchange for war ammunition. I hasten to inform you that I have just renewed in Marseille the most precise orders so as to forbid the loading of arms and war ammunition destined for Northern America either on English vessels or on vessels of any other nation in accordance with His Majesty's decision which you have conveyed to me.

I have the honor to be with very sincere attachment, Sir [&c.]

De Sartine

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[1] AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 513, LC Photocopy.

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31 Dec. (Sunday)

PRÉCIS PREPARED FOR THE KING OF EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE EXPEDITION AGAINST THE SOUTHERN COLONIES [1]

[Extract] [December 31, 1775]

On the 6th of December Lord Geo: Germain wrote to Genl [Henry] Clinton, acquainting him with the state of the Armament, prepared for that Expedition, & signified to him His Majesty's Command, that upon the arrival of the Troops at Cape Fear he should take them under his command, & concert with Govr Martin the best means of employing them for effecting the restoration of legal Government in that Province. He was instructed that after the place of landing the Troops had been fixed upon, a Proclamation should be issued containing assurances in His Majesty's name, of free pardon to all such who should lay down their Arms, & submit to The King's Government; requiring that the Provincial Congress, & all other unlawful associations should be dissolved, & the Judges allowed to administer Justice, & hold their Courts according to the Laws and Constitution of the Colony. – After such Proclamation, & after the plan of operations was fixed, he was to proceed to hostilities against these Towns & places, the Inhabitants of which should refuse to submit, & to endeavour to arrest the persons, & seize & destroy the property of such who should actually continue in Arms & refuse to give those Tests of their obedience which public safety might require. He was told, that if from the nature of the coast, the landing of the Troops should be attended with hazard & difficulty, or if he should find the Inhabitants disinclined to join The King's Troops so that no considerable advantage could be expected, he should in that case, proceed with the force under his command, to any other of the Southern Governts where, according to his judgement upon the best information the object of the Expedition might be most effectually answered – It was observed to him, that if a landing was made in No Carolina, the operations there would probably not be of long duration, & therefore it would be necessary to look forward to the other objects of the Expedition – That it was impossible to say whether it would be most advisable to proceed to Virginia or to South Carolina, & therefore he must use his own discretion in the choice of those objects – That if he should think fit to proceed in the first place to Virginia, the plan of his operations must be directed by such Information & opinion as he should receive from Lord Dunmore – That if he should judge it expedient, in the first place, to proceed to So Carolina, the possession of Charles Town, & the restoration of legal Government there, would from the importance of that place, have very beneficial consequences, & therefore if that Town refused to admit The King's Forces he was to attack it, & it was hoped, that with the assistance of the Fleet he would be able to reduce it, in which case it was most probable the other Towns upon the Sea coast would return to their duty, so that he might safely detach a part of his force to Savannah in Georgia, in order to effect a restoration of legal Government, & of The King's Authority in that Province – It was observed to him that the well affected persons there who unprepared to resist, had been compelled to submit to the violence of the times, was very great, & therefore, that there was the fairest prospect of that Province being reduced to obedience, in which case that it might be a proper station for his Troops until the season would admit of his joining Genl Howe as early as possible with the greatest part of his Force, leaving only, in any Colony which might be reduced to obedience, such a number of Troops as might be sufficient to secure the well affected from further insult & danger.

To the observations made by Lord Geo.Germain upon the probable convenience that might arise from making Georgia a station for the Troops in case that Province was reduced to obedience, his Lordship added the like observations upon other places that, in different circumstances might be found advantageous in that respect, & particularly mentioned Port Royal Harbour & James Island on the South side of Ashley River.

On the same day that these Instructions were prepared for General Clinton, namely on the 6th of December, Lord Geo: Germain signified His Majesty's command to the Lords of the Admiralty that the Transports taken up for the reception of the five Regts ordered to be embarked at Corke, should proceed thither, with as much expedition as possible; that Sr Peter Parker should also proceed thither directly with the Ships under his Command; & that their Lordships should give Sr P. Parker such Instructions as should correspond with the directions contained in his Lordships Letter to Genl Clinton, a copy of which was communicated to them. His Lordship at the same time communicated to them a copy of his letter to Major General Clinton of that day's date, and acquainted them, that it was His Majesty's Pleasure that they should give such Instructions to Sir Peter Parker as should correspond therewith & as they should think might enable him to give every possible facility towards effecting the object and end of that Expedition.

Whilst these preparations were making, & before the Instructions to Genl Clinton were finally completed, Lord [Charles] Cornwallis expressed a wish to serve upon this Expedition, & also that his Regt the 33d might make part of the Armament, & His Majesty having been graciously pleased to accept his Lordship's offer, orders were given, that the said Regiment should be substituted in the place of any one of the other 5 Regts which the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, with the advice of the Commandr in Chief, should think most proper; & Lord Geo: Germain, in a letter of the 6th Decr signified to Lord Cornwallis, His Majesty's Pleasure, that he should immediately proceed to Corke, on board one of the ships of War destined for that service, & which was then at Portsmouth, waiting for a favourable wind. It was further signified to him, that upon his arrival at Corke, he should take upon him the Command of the Land Forces destined for that Expedition – That he should use all possible dispatch in embarking the Regts & when the whole Armament was collected, to proceed without delay to Cape Fear River in No Carolina, where he was to put himself under the command of such superior officer as he should find to have been sent thither by Major General Howe.

Notwithstanding the orders which had been given early in October, that the Armament intended for the Southern Expedition should be ready to proceed from Corke on the 1st of Decr the preparations making in consequence of those orders, both in the Admiralty & Ordnance Departments, met with a variety of unexpected difficulties & delays. It was not till the middle of Decr that the Ordnance Storeships & the Tenders to the Bomb Vessels, were in readiness to proceed from the River. A continued easterly wind prevented their getting round to Portsmouth; & it was the 29th Decr before Sr Peter Parker sailed from that place.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/232, 399–408.

"Extract of a Letter from Portsmouth, Dec. 31." [1]

On Friday last [December 29] the following Men of War sailed from Spithead for Virginia; but as the Wind is come round to the South West, we expect they will return, viz. the *Bristol,* Commodore Sir Peter Parker; the *Acteon,* Capt. [Christopher] Atkins; the *Deal Castle,* and the *Thunder* Bomb, . . .

1. *Daily Advertiser,* London, January 2, 1776.

Count de Vergennes to Count de Guines [1]

[Extract] Versailles, 31 December 1775

We understand, Sir, that as mightily armed as the English will be in Northern America by next spring, the destination that they might assign to their forces would be most important to us. Allow me to observe, however, that unless the reconciliation with their Colonies came first and was soundly assured, these forces could not be as easily moved as you seem to presume. Thus, it is not so much this prospect which concerns at the moment the foresight and the solicitude of the King's Council as the events which might result from the rigorous precautions being taken in order to intercept all forms of trade between Northern America and the rest of the world. The King is far from disapproving this rigor as well as protecting those among his subjects whose avidity would determine to engage in a trade prohibition by the law of nations; but if His British Majesty's justice is anxious to punish rebellious subjects, it is no less concerned to prevent that the most frivolous pretexts be used to confuse the innocent and the guilty.

It is well known, Sir, that our ships returning from the Antilles, as well as the Spanish which come out of the Gulf of Mexico, emerge by way of the Bahama Channel and, following the coast of Northern America, they sail northward in order to catch the winds which will insure their return to Europe. The cargoes of these ships are commonly rich enough to tempt the greediness of captors, and since the property of such prizes is assured to those who will take them, it is to be feared that the English officers, encouraged by these lures, will make a thousand difficulties for the vessels they will meet on this sea-route and that they will finally seize them. They can always claim that they found war ammunition on board; indeed there is hardly a merchantman that does not carry arms and powder; furthermore such stores could always be introduced onboard these vessels in order to impute designs to them which were not theirs in the first place. I do not doubt that satisfaction was obtained from the English admiralty courts in cases involving such captures; you understand, Sir, how disagreeable it would be for the King to see his subjects compelled to go plead their cause before courts of law in order to recover their property: they would be exposed to delays which would ruin them, and consumed by legal expenses. We are in good faith with the English ministers, we do not wish to catch them by surprise and, in fairness to the honesty of our principles, we must warn them of the embarrassments which we foresee. For this reason, Sir, it is the King's intention that, in the course of your first meeting either with Lord Weymouth, or Lord Suffolk, or even Lord Sandwich, if you deem it proper, you acquaint them that we should be most apprehensive about the Bill of Restrictions [2] which has just been passed and the Consequences which it would not fail to bring about with regard to our American trade, were it not for the wisdom and friendship shown by His British Majesty in issuing clear instructions and formal orders to his sea officers so as to prevent our trade being disturbed or harmed in any way. You will obtain knowledge in confidence with regard to the nature of the precautions which will have been taken, and should they have been neglected because of the multiplicity of the present affairs you will make earnest representation so that they be attended to without delay. The King is convinced that this attitude which reflects his care to obviate anything that might alter in the least the good correspondence between His Majesty and the King of Great Britain, will be agreeable to His British Majesty.

In spite of the circumstances related in the English gazettes concerning the burning of Falmouth, I can hardly believe this absurd as well as barbaric procedure on the part of an enlightened and civilized nation, more especially as the perpetrators of this terrible crime allegedly declared that the order had been given to burn all maritime towns from Boston to Halifax. If the English had resolved to abandon America to its own and to cut the last threads binding them to their brothers, one could see in this resolution the effect of furious and boundless despair. But in view of the intention the Government seems to have to carry a large army to America, it seems inconceivable to destroy the places for shelter and storehouses. If it is the plan on the part of the British to turn the coast into a desert, how will they penetrate the country and where will they establish their magazines? I have read with great interest, Sir, the account of the debates in the House of Lords which you have sent us; they are presently in the hands of the King who wants to read them himself. I do not doubt that his Majesty will be delighted with the speeches made by Lords Littleton and Mansfield, the latter especially is a masterpiece.

I gave to the King the letter which you had sent in my care to His Majesty. I must warn you that the practice is to send such letters unsealed.

I have the honor to be &c.

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1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 513, LC Photocopy.
2. Prohibitory Act.

DIARY OF JOHN BRAGG OF WHITEHAVEN, ENGLAND [1]

An Act of Parliament passed at the Close of the year 1775 prohibiting all Trade & Commerce with the twelve United Colonies till they submitt properly to Government Also to tolerate the Shipping belonging to Great Brittain to take & make Legal prizes of all Shipps & Vessels belonging to the above said refractory Colonies &c &c –

12 Mo: 1775.

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1. WPL.

1 Jan. 1776

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL JOHN AMHERST [1]

Sir [Admiralty Office] 1st January 1776

My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty having taken into consideration the case of Captain [John] Macartney who is under orders of suspension and has been brought to England in the *Boyne,* in consequence of the order (Copy of which came in your Letter of the 26th of last Month) from Vice Admiral Graves, to the Captain of the said Ship, by which Order he is forbid to go out of the Ship without their Lordships directions and their Lordships thinking it reasonable that he should be allowed to come to Town that he may have an opportunity of laying the particulars of his Case before them for their further information and directions, and having received a Letter from him requesting the same; I have it therefore in command from their Lordships to signify their directions to you to give him Leave accordingly. I am &c

Geo. Jackson D:S:

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1. PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 482–83. For Macartney's arrest and the reasons therefor, see Volumes 1 and 2.

London Chronicle, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1775 TO TUESDAY, JANUARY 2,1776

London. Jan. 1, 1776.

On Friday [December 29] arrived a transport from Boston at Dover, after a very short passage; she brings a confirmation of the taking of the *Nancy,* Hunter; the particulars are as follows: She stood in for a pilot, when a boat with 8 men put off, and told them that they would pilot them in; but no sooner had they got on board, than they drew their hangers and pistols, and insisted on carrying her into Portsmouth [*sic*] instead of Boston. She had on board, besides what has been mentioned, a great many stands of arms, and a large brass mortar, upon a new construction.[1]

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1. Although suspect, this seems to be the only printed version of the *Nancy*'s capture by Washington's schooner *Lee,* Captain John Manley.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CHATHAM, JAN. 1." [1]

The following ships are put into commission here, bound to America, viz. The *Jersey,* of 60 guns, William Halsted, Esq; the *Isis,* of 50 guns, Charles Douglas, Esq. the *Emerald,* of 32 guns, Benjamin Caldwell, Esq; the *Blonde,* of 32 guns, Philemon Pownall, Esq; the *Flora,* of 32 guns, John Brisbane, Esq; the *Repulse,* of 52 guns, Captain's name not known, commanded at present by Lieut. Tollemache; the *Carysfort,* of 28 guns, Robert Fanshaw, Esq.

[1] *London Chronicle,* January 2 to January 4, 1776.

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2 Jan.

SIR GREY COOPER TO WILLIAM KNOX [1]

[Extract] Worlington, Jan 2, 1776.

Many thanks to you for your letter, bad as the News was it conveyed; The taking of the Ordnance Brig is a most unfortunate & mortifying accident My accounts say she was seen by the *Cerberus* Man of War about the 16th of November, & that the Man of war, After having put some men onboard her parted with her in a hard Gale; [2] If the Town of Boston & the Cantonments of the army shoud be burnt by the very Carcasses & Bombs which were sent for in order to burn Roxburgh & Cambridge, The Saints & Predestination will have it to say That the Lord hath delivered them into their hands, – I see the[ir] proclamation for a fast Ends with God save the People.

[1] Knox Mss., CL.

[2] Journal of the *Cerberus* contains no reference to putting men on board the ordnance brig *Nancy.*

Public Advertiser, TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 1776

London [January 2].

Certain Accounts are received of seven of the Vessels, which sailed from Europe for Boston, having fallen into the Hands of the Provincials; and it is not unlikely but the next Advices will bring Accounts of others having shared the same Fate.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PLYMOUTH, JAN. 2." [1]

Came in his Majesty's ship the *Acteon* from Portsmouth for America, and his Majesty's bomb ship *Thunder,* from ditto for ditto; and this day his Majesty's ship the *Solebay* sailed express for Ireland from this place.

Yesterday his Majesty's ship *Deal Castle,* from Portsmouth, coming-to between the island and the Main, ran on shore at Easter-king Point, and was obliged to cut away all her masts; she got off the same day, but with some damage. Happily no lives were lost.

[1] *London Chronicle,* January 4 to January 6, 1776.

LORD STORMONT TO COUNT DE VERGENNES [1]

Paris, 2 January 1776

Knowing the feelings of this Court and its desire to prevent that the American Rebels obtain war ammunition from France, I consistently follow my adopted principle which is to inform Your Excellency of any intelligence I receive with regard to this matter. I have just learned that there is presently in Dunkerque a vessel of 120 tons called the *Charming Peggy,* whose Master, going by the name of Conyngham, is from New England; [2] to all appearances, this vessel purporting to be Irish is destined to carry gun powder to the Americans. She is moored near the Merchants' powder magazine. Barrels have already been loaded during the night in great secret and we have every reason to believe that they are filled with powder. With this information, it should be easy to get to the core of this matter and to prevent this vessel to receive her cargo, if my information proves to be correct. I have the honor to be with perfect attachment, Sir [&c.]

Stormont.

[1] AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 514, 1300, LC Photocopy.

[2] Gustavus Conyngham, an Irishman by birth (1747–1819), had married in Philadelphia in 1773, and sailed from there in the *Charming Peggy.* His attestation as to this voyage reads: "NB, in the yr. 1775 I. went on a voyage from philad. to Europe to procure powder, salt-peter, arms, medecins & every thing Necessary for War well known the Great need & scarcity the little Supply we had at that day. Arrived at dunkirk – here the suplys could not be procured, some part could, but we could not take any thing in hear – a agent went to amsterdam – " Robert Wilden Neeser, ed., *Letters and Papers Relating to the Cruises of Gustavus Conyngham . . .* (New York, 1915), 159.

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3 Jan.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN [1]

My Lord, Admiralty Office 3d Janry 1775 [*sic* 1776]

Having received two Letters from Vice Admiral Graves, Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels in No America, the one dated the 8th of Novr giving an account of the Proceedings of Lieutenant [Henry] Mowat in destroying the Town of Falmouth, the other dated the 4th of Decr, relating the Particulars of an Expedition made under the direction of Captain Barkeley [Andrew Barkley] to bring off some Cattle from the Rebels.[2] We send Your Lordship Copies of the said Letters, & of the Papers therein inclosed, for His Majesty's Information. We are &ca

Sandwich J. Buller H. Palliser

[1] PRO, Colonial Office, 5/259, 1.

[2] Captain Barkley's expedition to Charleston was to secure the rice ships, not cattle.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN [1]

My Lord, Admty Office 3d Janry 1776.

Having received 3 Letters from V.A. Graves Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships & Vessels in No America, dated the 2d & 20th of Novr & 4th of

Decr last, giving an account of his proceedings with the Squadron under his Command; We send Your Lordship Copies thereof, & of the several Papers inclosed therein for His Majesty's Information.

We also inclose Your Lordship a Copy of the Disposition of the Squadron under the Command of V.A. Graves, received in his Letter of the 3d of Decr We are &c

Sandwich J. Buller H. Palliser

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/259, 4.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO THE COMMISSIONERS FOR VICTUALLING [1]

Whereas you have informed Us by your Letter of the 29th of last Month that Mr Robert Grant, who is under Contract with you for supplying His Majestys Ships at Nova Scotia, New England & Virginia with Sea Provisions and also at Nova Scotia with fresh Beef has represented to you that the disturbances in America have stopt the communication between the Colonies, and reduced every place to depend on its own produce & what may be sent from Europe; And that in consequence thereof the prices have risen so much that he cannot at the Contract Prices (without a very great loss) make the necessary Supplies for the said Contracts. And has therefore proposed continuing to make the abovementioned Supplies upon Commission; And we thinking fit to try the effect of Mr Grants said proposals do hereby require & direct you to employ him in furnishing Sea Provisions to His Majestys Ships at Nova Scotia New England & Virginia & fresh Beef to those at Nova Scotia until further Order, reporting to Us upon a proper experience of the aforesaid Plan of supplying His Majestys Ships in those parts how you find the same to Answer & whether you think it advisable to continue it.
Given &c 3d Jany 1776

Sandwich J Buller H. Palliser

By &c G J DS

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 344.

Public Advertiser, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 1776

London [January 3].

Letters from Philadelphia, of the 26th of November, say, "in about six Weeks or two Months we shall have upwards of twenty armed Vessels ready to sail from hence, two of which mount 24 Guns, besides a Number of Swivels.

London Chronicle, TUESDAY, JANUARY 2 TO THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 1776

London. January 3.

The *Homer*, Dennet, bound for Hull from North Carolina, arrived at Dover, brings advice, that a large ship from St. Eustatia was arrived at Bath-town in the said province, with 400 barrels of gunpowder; and also a sloop from Eustatia, arrived off the Bar of Peacock [*sic* Ocracoke] with a quantity of gunpowder and musket balls, having information of two tenders belonging to his Majesty, sent by the *King Fisher* sloop of war from Virginia, being in the harbour, dispatched all the powder in pilot boats up the country. The said sloop which brought the powder was taken the next morning by the Tenders, and carried to Virginia, the Captain and Mate having first got on shore. . . .

The *Good Intent,* Capt. Woodfall, from London to North Carolina, was drove off the coast of Carolina in the late hard gales of wind, and it is feared is lost, with all the crew.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM GOSPORT, JAN. 3." [1]

The *Bristol,* Sir Peter Parker; the *Acteon,* Capt. [Christopher] Atkins; the *Deal-Castle,* and the *Thunderer* bomb, which had sailed from Spithead, are put into Cowes Road; the wind having shifted.

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[1] *London Chronicle,* January 4 to January 6, 1776.

LORD STORMONT TO LORD WEYMOUTH [1]

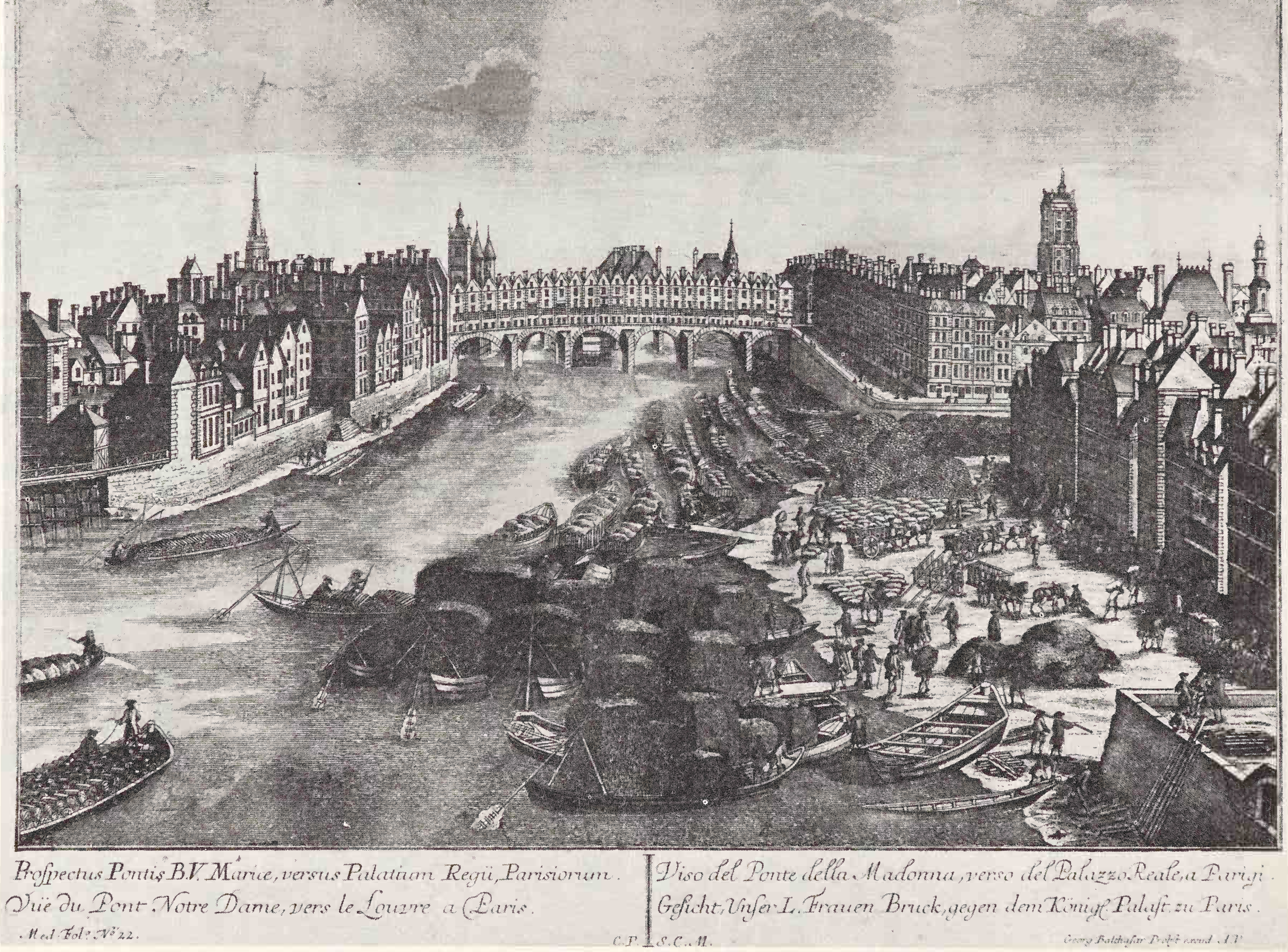
Very Secret Paris Janry 3d 1776.

My Lord, I am very happy to find by Your Lordship's Letter No 20., that the manner in which I transmitted the Intelligence I received with regard to the intended Armament at Brest, has met with His Majesty's most gracious approbation.

Without seeming to have taken the least Alarm, I make that Armament a principal Object of my Attention. All the Secret Intelligence I have been able to collect, agrees pretty nearly as to the Number of Ships, Vizt Four Ships of the Line, and one or two Frigates, but varies as to their Destination. I was assured the other day, but cannot entirely credit my Informer, that this small Fleet is designed, not for the East, but for the West Indies, is to go to S. Domingo, and carry thither a large Quantity of Ammunition, and some Troops to reinforce the Garrison there. It is pretended, that M. d'Ennery, who Your Lordship knows is an able active officer, closely connected with Choiseul,[2] and bred in that School, represents S. Domingo in a weak defenceless State, says, that it would fall a prey to any Invader, and that he has not even Troops enough, to keep the Inhabitants in awe. This may be true, but it may likewise be a Feint, a Fleet, however small, sent to St Domingo at this time, would certainly deserve the utmost attention, especially if there were Troops on board. there is a French officer, whose name is Kersan, lately come from S. Domingo, who, as I am told, talks much of the Projects of the American Rebels, and the confidence they have of success.

What has been related to me of his conversation with regard to a Design they have of filling Sledges with combustible matter, and attempting to set fire to such of our Ships, as they can come at when the Frost sets in, seems too wild, and incoherent, to deserve the least notice; but, he speaks very positively, of a design to attack Boston in the Winter, and in general, talks I am told of every thing that relates to them, like a Man, who is zealous in their cause. This, My Lord, is no farther material than, as he may be supposed to eccho M. D'Ennery. The Sentiments of the Duke of Choiseul, and consequently of his Party, are indeed well known. He says openly, as I think I have already observed to Your Lordship, that the Ministers are Ideots for missing this golden opportunity; their Sentiments, however, are I hope entirely different; It is certain, that their Language upon all occasions, is uniformly the same, friendly to Us, and as pacific as possible.

Our Coffee house Politicians, on the contrary, and those Wits who take the lead in all Companies here, & who when they talk upon such Subjects as these, may fairly be placed in the same line with the Politicians I have named, Speak


Proſpectus Pontis B.V. Mariæ, versus Palatium Regii, Parisiorum.
Vüe du Pont Notre Dame, vers le Louvre a Paris.
Viso del Ponte della Madonna, verso del Palazzo Reale, a Parigi.
Geſicht, Unſer L. Frauen Bruck, gegen dem Königl. Palaſt zu Paris.
Med. Fol. No. 22.
C.P.
S.C.M.
Georg Balthaſar Probſt excud. A.V.

A VIEW OF PARIS.

with great complacency of the late success of the Rebels in Canada. When I happen to be present, they moderate their Language but cannot conceal their Joy. I think no Stress is to be laid upon, or conclusions drawn from the Language & Sentiments of Men, who are incapable of distinguishing, sense, from sound, who are totally ignorant of the real Question, who know nothing of Liberty, & Independence, but the name; and, who are eternally led astray by that Declamation, which they retail. Their opinion can never be taken, as an Indication of that of the Ministers, who like Men of real knowledge, and Business, try things in very different Scales.

When I say this, I am far from meaning, to pledge myself for the Sincerity of any French Ministers' Professions tho' I am inclined to beleive, that the Professions of the present French Ministry are sincere, and their general Intentions, & Plan of Administration pacific. I am not however without Some Apprehension, that the present State of Canada, and the manifest Defection of the Lower Canadians, may throw a tempting Bait in their way. An Offer of Canada, which I am persuaded the Rebels would make without Hesitation, might be such a temptation, as it would be hard for the good faith of any French Ministry to resist; especially, if there was a probability of immediate, and easy Success.

I am no Stranger to the Intelligence, Your Lordship lately received, relative to this Object, and am making Secret Inquiry with regard to it; But, cannot yet discover any traces of such a Project. Your Lordship will have better Opportunities than I can have, of knowing from Brest, when the intended Fleet will be ready to sail, and what Troops, if any are to Embark. If those Troops should be the same with those mentioned in the Note Your Lordship received, it would be a very Suspicious Circumstance indeed, and Sufficient to give a real Alarm. A Fleet, which sails in appearance for S. Domingo, might but too easily go to Canada, when the Season permits. I will do what I can, My Lord, to discover its real Destination; The Progress of this Armament, & the motions of this Fleet when it does sail, will not escape the attention, & active vigilance, of him who so ably fills the first Place at our Admiralty board,[3] and who, if he sees the least probability of such an Attempt, will no doubt take such Measures, and place such a Force there, as will prevent a possibility of Danger.

Nothing but the prospect of easy, certain success, would I think induce the present French Ministers, to hazard a Blow, which if unsuccessful, must be followed by shame and Disgrace.

I hope Your Lordship will do justice to the Motives, that have engaged me to give you this long trouble, and consider what I have said, as coming from a wish to guard against the Possibility of Danger, where so much is at Stake; not from any Intention of conveying Suspicions, for which, I as yet see no Sufficient Grounds.

I am with great truth and respect, My Lord, [&c.]

Stormont

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1. PRO, State Papers 78/298. Thomas Thynne, 3d Viscount Weymouth was Secretary of State for the Southern Department.
2. Étienne François, Duc de Choiseul, French statesman, who was hopeful that Louis XVI would recall him as Minister of Foreign Affairs.
3. Stormont's flattering words were intended for Lord Sandwich, whose administration of the British navy was one of incompetence.

4 Jan.

LORD GEORGE GERMAIN TO THE LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY [1]

My Lords, Whitehall 4th January 1776.

It is the King's Intentions that every Effort should be made to send Relief to Quebec as early as possible.

For this purpose three Ships of 180 Tons each, have been contracted for to carry Provisions; and I am commanded to signify to Your Lordships His Majesty's Pleasure that one fifty Gun Ship, two Frigates, and a Sloop of War be forthwith prepared to accompany those Victuallers, and to be ready to sail by the middle of February.

It is also His Majesty's Pleasure that Your Lordships do direct two large Vessels to be taken up to serve as Transports, each of sufficient tonnage to contain Provisions for Six Months for three Hundred Men, & also Accomodation for about Ten Commissioned Officers of His Majesty's Land Forces, and One Hundred and Eighty Eight Non Commissioned Officers and private Men, with half the Baggage, Camp Necessaries, and Women, belonging to a complete Battalion, and that these two Transports have each a Lieutenant on board, as also that a Pilot, well acquainted with the Navigation of the Gulf & River St Lawrence (if such can be procured) be put on board each of the said Ships, as well as on board the Ships of War.

It is His Majesty's Pleasure that the 29th Regiment, now lying in Chatham Barracks, should be embarked on board the different ships of which the above Fleet will consist, to be distributed in the manner described in the inclosed Paper, & that such part of the Battalion as is to be put on board the 50 Gun Ship, and on board the Transports and Victuallers, be embarked at the Nore, and that such part as is intended for the two Frigates and the Sloop of War, be conveyed to Plymouth on board a Vessel to be provided by Your Lordships for that purpose. I am, &ca.

Geo: Germain

[Enclosure]

Disposition of a Regiment consisting of 677 on the Establishment (Officers and Contingent Men included) intended to be embarked for the Relief of Quebec early in the Spring, in the following Ships, to sail from England the 15th or 20th of February.

	Commissioned Officers		Non Commissioned Officers & private
One fifty Gun Ship	4		74
One Frigate	3		27
One Do	2		27
One Sloop	1		18
One East India Ship	10		188
One Do	7	& the Surgeon's Mate	188
Three Victuallers, 2 each	6	each 30	90
Total	34	Includg Surgeon's Mate	612

The above numbers, with the Colonel, who is a Major General, & the 30 Contingent Men, make up the Establishment, vizt 677. –

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/123, 4a, 4b.

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM [1]

Sir, [Admiralty Office] 4th Janry 1776.

My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty having received Intelligence of a Ship now on her passage from L'Orient to some Port in North America with 200,000 lb Salt Petre on board; I send you by their Lordships directions a Copy of the said Intelligence for your information, that you may give such Orders thereon to the Commanders of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels under your Command as you may think most likely to answer the purpose of intercepting the said Ship. I am &ca

Geo. Jackson D S.

Rear Adml Shuldham, at Boston

[1] PRO, Admiralty 2/1333, LC Photocopy. Shuldham was promoted to Vice Admiral December 7, 1775.

Public Advertiser, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 1776

London [January 4]

The Report gains Ground, that Admiral Shuldham was met by three of the Congress Frigates, and, after a sharp and sudden Engagement, was taken. We hope this may be premature.

Two American armed Vessels, with a Number of Provincials and one of the Delegates belonging to the Congress on board, are said to be taken by two Ships belonging to Admiral Greave's Squadron. [1]

[1] Two rumors without foundation.

London Chronicle, TUESDAY, JANUARY 2 TO THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 1776

London. Jan. 4.

Two ships laden with wine, from Fyal, have been seized in the River St. Lawrence, belonging to London Merchants, and their cargoes have been used by the Provincials.[1]

Yesterday expresses were sent to Portsmouth and Plymouth to open houses of rendezvous for entering soldiers and sailors to go on the American service.

[1] Probably referring to vessels taken in the river when fleeing from Montreal.

London Chronicle, THURSDAY, JANUARY 4 TO SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 1776

Bristol, Jan. 4.

The Rifleman who was taken prisoner at Quebec, and brought over here in the *Liberty,* Capt. Thompson, as mentioned lately, was on Saturday [December 30] discharged from his confinement, there not being sufficient evidence to detain him in gaol.

COUNT DE VERGENNES TO LORD STORMONT [1]

Sir, Versailles, 4 January 1776

I forwarded without delay to M. de Sartine the letter which I had the honor to receive from Your Excellency on the 2nd Instant, And I am certain that this minister immediately sent orders to Dunkerque with regard to the vessel called the *Charming Peggy*.

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[1] AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 514, 1302, LC Photocopy.

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5 Jan.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN JOHN BURR, H.M.S. *MILFORD*, SPITHEAD [1]

You are hereby required & directed to proceed without a moments loss of time with the Ship you command to Boston in New England where you are to deliver the inclosed Packet to Rear Adml Shuldham or the Commanding Officer for the time being of His Majestys Ships in North America and putting yourself under his command follow his Orders for your further proceedings.

Given &c 5th Jany 1776 [2]

Sandwich J Buller H Palliser

By &c G J DS

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 346.

[2] On the same day Captain Burr was supplied with instructions similar in text to those given Sir Peter Parker's captains, December 16, 1775.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM [1]

Having ordered Capt [John] Burr Commr of His Majts Ship *Milford* (by whom you will receive this) to put himself under your command & follow your Orders for her further proceedings, You are hereby required & directed to take him & the said Ship under your command & employ them as you shall find best for His Majestys Service entrusted to your care.

Given &c 5th Jany 1776

Sandwich J Buller H. Palliser

To Molineux Shuldham Esqr
Rear Adml of the White &c &c at Boston
By &c G J DS

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 346.

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM [1]

Sir [Admiralty Office] 5h January 1776

The Captains of His Majesty's Ships the *Renown* and *Experiment* having in their Letters dated at Fayal the 1st November last, informed their Lordships that in their passage thither they had seized five American Vessels bound to Falkland Islands on the Whale Fishery, and that being apprehensive they could not carry them in safety to Boston, they had sent them to England and put on board three Petty Officers and seventeen Seamen from the *Renown*, and four

Petty Officers and fifteen Seamen from the *Experiment*. And the said Vessels having arrived at Spithead I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you therewith, and that they have directed that Twenty of the said Men (being those belonging to the *Renown*) be sent on board the *Milford* and the rest on board the *Greyhound*, in order to their being returned to their proper Ships upon their arrival at Boston, for which it is their Lordships directions you give orders accordingly. I am &c

Geo: Jackson D:S:

Rear Admiral Shuldham at Boston (by the *Milford*)

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1. PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 501–02.

Public Advertiser, FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 1776

London [January 5].

Letters from the Hague say, "the English Minister, Sir Joseph York, leaves no Stone unturned to prevent any Stores being shipped from any of our Ports for America: English Spies are fixed at the Sea Ports to give the earliest Notice where they have a Suspicion of any such Intentions."

The Person appointed by the American Congress, Commodore of their Marine, is an Englishman, named Brice; he was Master of Admiral Shuldham's Ship in the late War. There is a strong Enmity between them. He is cruizing with three Frigates of 32 Guns each in a particular Latitude, to intercept Shuldham, who is gone in a 50 Gun Ship. He is also cruizing with the further View of intercepting the last Packet from England.[1]

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[1] The whole paragraph was probably a fabrication of H.S. Woodfall, the printer of the *Public Advertiser*.

London Chronicle, THURSDAY, JANUARY 4 TO SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 1776

London. January 5.

Capt. Chevalier, of the *Unity*, who is arrived at Jersey from Canso, was stopped in the gulph of Canso by two armed vessels, fitted out from Beverly, but was released on account of the small value of the cargo, being lumber. These ships had in their possession many vessels, chiefly loaded with cod fish, and were waiting for others to send them all to New England.[1]

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[1] This was one of the two vessels, of which Captain John Selman, in his letter to Elbridge Gerry, on March 18, 1813, said: "went into the Gut of Canso . . . boarded two Jerseymen, took the pilots out of them which was acquainted with the Island of St. Johns." *Salem Gazette*, June 22, 1856.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM GOSPORT, JAN. 5."[1]

Since my last the *Milford* frigate, Captain John Burn [Burr], from Chatham, arrived at Spithead.

Capt. Burn has received orders to sail for Boston with all expedition.

Orders are sent to Portsmouth for his Majesty's ship *Greyhound*, of 28 guns, Capt. Dixon [Archibald Dickson], and the *Pearl* frigate of 32 guns, Capt. [James] O'Hara, to be fitted out for the North American station.

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[1] *London Chronicle*, January 6 to January 9, 1776.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PLYMOUTH, JAN. 5."[1]

Yesterday sailed his Majesty's ship *Acteon,* Capt. Atkins, for Falmouth. It is said she is to carry over the American Col. Allen, of the provincial army, and the provincials brought over and lodged in Pendennis Castle.

[1] *London Chronicle,* January 9 to January 11, 1776.

6 Jan.

London Chronicle, THURSDAY, JANUARY 4 TO SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 1776

London. Jan. 6.

The American prisoners, whom Mr. Brooke Watson brought over from Canada, are about 20 in number. Amongst them is Colonel Ethan Allen, who took Ticonderoga. Mr. Watson thought it better to lodge these men in Pendennis castle, Cornwall, than to bring them up to London. General Carleton sent over these men. They were taken prisoners in an attempt to surprize Montreal. Such of the English merchants and others, as General Carleton hath taken, he keeps confined in Canada.

Mr. Dunning and Mr. Alleyne are retained in behalf of Ethan Allen, and the rest of the prisoners lately arrived from America.[1]

Houses of Rendezvous for entering Seamen are ordered to be opened at every sea port in England, Scotland, and Ireland.

[1] Ethan Allen relates: "A small place in the vessel [the *Adamant*], enclosed with white-oak plank, was assigned for the prisoners, and for me among the rest. I should imagine that it was not more than twenty feet one way, and twenty-two the other: Into this place we were all, to the number of thirty four, thrust and hand-cuffed, two prisoners more being added to our number, and were provided with two excrement tubs; In this circumferance we were obliged to eat and perform the offices of evacuation during the voyage to England, and were insulted by every black-guard sailor and tory on board, in the cruelest manner; but what is the most surprizing is, that not one of us died in the passage. When I was first ordered to go into the filthy enclosure, through a small sort of door, I positively refused, and endeavoured to reason the before named Brook Watson out of a conduct so derogatory to every sentiment of honor and humanity, but all to no purpose, my men being forced in the den already; and the rascal who had the charge of the prisoners commanded me to go immediately in among the rest: He farther added that the place was good enough for a rebel; that it was impertinent for a capital offender to talk of honor or humanity; that any thing short of a halter, was too good for me; and that that would be my portion soon after I arrived in England; for which purpose only I was sent thither. About the same time a Lieut. among the tories, insulted me in a grievous manner, saying that I ought to have been executed for my rebellion against New-York, and spit in my face; upon which, though I was handcuffed, I sprang at him with both hands, and knocked him partly down, but he scrambled along into the cabin, and I after him; there he got under the protection of some men with fixed bayonets, who were ordered to make ready to drive me into the place aforementioned. I challenged him to fight, notwithstanding the impediments that were on my hands, and had the exalted pleasure to see the rascal tremble for fear; his name I have forgot, but Watson ordered his guard to get me into the place with the other prisoners, dead or alive; and I had almost as lieve die as to do it, standing it out till they environed me round with bayonets; and brutish, prejudiced, abandoned wretches they were, from whom I could expect nothing but death or wounds; However, I told them that they were good honest fellows; that I could not blame them; that I was only in a dispute with a calico merchant, who knew not how to behave towards a gentleman of the military establishment. This was spoke rather to appease them for my own preservation, as well as to treat Watson with contempt; but still I found that they were determined

to force me into the wretched circumstances, which their prejudiced, and depraved minds had prepared for me: Therefore, rather than die, I submitted to their indignities, being drove with bayonets into the filthy dungeon with the other prisoners, where we were denied fresh water, except a small allowance, which was very inadequate to our wants; and, in consequence of the stench of the place, each of us was soon followed with a diarrhoea and fever, which occasioned an intolerable thirst. When we asked for water, we were, most commonly, instead of obtaining it, insulted and derided; and, to add to all the horrors of the place, it was so dark that we could not see each other, and were overspread with body lice. We had, notwithstanding these severities, full allowance of salt provisions, and a gill of rum per day; the latter of which was of the utmost service to us, and, probably, was the means of saving several of our lives. About forty days we existed in this manner, when the land's end of England was discovered from the mast head; soon after which the prisoners were taken from their gloomy abode, being permitted to see the light of the sun, and breathe fresh air, which to us was very refreshing. The day following we landed at Falmouth.

When the prisoners were landed, multitudes of the citizens of Falmouth, excited by curiosity, crowded together to see us, which was equally gratifying to us. I saw numbers of people on the tops of houses, and the rising adjacent grounds were covered with them of both sexes. The throng was so great, that the king's officers were obliged to draw their swords, and force a passage to Pendennis castle, which was near a mile from the town, where we were closely confined, in consequence of orders from gen. Carleton, who then commanded in Canada.

The rascally Brook Watson then set out for London in great haste, expecting the reward of his zeal; but the ministry received him, as I have been since informed, rather coolly; for the minority in parliament took advantage, arguing that the opposition of America to Great Britain, was not a rebellion. If it is, say they, why do you not execute col. Allen, according to law? but the majority argued, that I ought to be executed, and that the opposition was really a rebellion, but that policy obliged them not to do it, inasmuch as the Congress had then most prisoners in their power; so that my being sent to England, for the purpose of being executed, and necessity restraining them, was rather a foil on their laws and authority, and they consequently disapproved of my being sent thither:" *A Narrative of the Capitivity of Col. Ethan Allen . . .* (Albany, 1814), 33–39. Hereafter cited as *Ethan Allen*.

Public Advertiser, SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 1776

London [January 6].

We hear that the Provincials have fitted out three Ships of twenty-eight Guns, well manned and provisioned, to cruize against the East India homeward and outward bound Ships, being determined to convince the East India Company, as well as Government, that they will still drink Tea Duty free.[1]

Private Letters by Tuesday's Dutch Mail bring an Account, that two Dutch Ships loaded with Arms and Ammunition, which were consigned to People at St.Eustatia, were stopped from proceeding on their Voyage by Order of the States, till an Enquiry can be made whether the Cargoes were intended for the Use of the Provincials.

[1] Probably a concoction of the editor; an attempt to be humorous, rather than factual.

HUGH PALLISER TO LORD SANDWICH [1]

[Extract] Abingdon Street, 6th January, 1776.

My Lord – by the dispatches from Vice-Admiral [Samuel] Graves which Mr [George] Jackson forwards, you will see an American vessel of war is taken. Her commander's commission from the Congress and his instruction from their general shows how their forces by sea and land are formed, and that their proceedings at sea is at present limited against ships and vessels employed in the service of the fleet and army in America.

Their regulations for their army is curious: we have sent all the originals to the King, and copies to Lord G. Germain; with the last one we have desired to know the King's pleasure respecting the prisoners on board the *Tartar,* as well as others that may be taken, that we may give Admiral Shuldham orders accordingly.

Captain Medows has brought the American vessel's colours, it is a white field with a green pine tree in the middle: the motto, Appeal to Heaven. He says Admiral Graves expressed a wish that it might be sent to Admiral [John] Montagu, as it was taken by his son.[2] I have the honor [&c.]

Hugh Palliser

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1. G. R. Barnes and J. H. Owen, eds., *The Private Papers of John, Earl of Sandwich First Lord of the Admiralty 1771–1782* (London, 1932), I, 96–97. Hereafter cited as Barnes and Owen, eds., *Sandwich Papers.*
2. Washington's brig *Washington,* taken by Captain George Montagu in H.M.S. *Fowey.*

Lord George Germain to the Lords Commissioners, Admiralty[1]

My Lords, Whitehall 6 January 1776

I have not failed to lay before the King Your Lordships Letter to me, of this day's date, and I am commanded to signify to Your Lordships His Majesty's pleasure, that the Crew of the American Privateer brought home Prisoners in the *Tartar,* should be distributed onboard any of His Majesty's Ships that Your Lordships shall think advisable, & kept under proper confinement, until His Majesty's further pleasure be known. – I am &ca

Geo: Germain

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/123, 9.

Lord George Germain to the Lords Commissioners, Admiralty[1]

My Lords, Whitehall, 6th January 1776

There being ground to suspect that, the Rebels in North America may early in the Spring invade the Province of West Florida, by the Channel of the Ohio & Mississippi Rivers, and may make some Attempt upon Pensacola; It is His Majesty's pleasure, that Your Lordships do Instruct the commanding Officer of His Majesty's Ships on the Jamaica Station, to be very attentive to that Province, and to keep one or two of the smaller Ships under his Command, constantly Cruizing upon the Coast of West Florida, with directions to bring immediate Intelligence to him, in case any such Attempt should be made, in which case, he is to take onboard the first Battalion of the 60th Regmt now on Duty at Jamaica, which the Governor will have orders to embark accordingly, and to proceed with his whole Squadron to Pensacola, consulting upon his arrival with Governor [Peter] Chester, the Measures it may be advisable to pursue in such an Event. I am &ca

Geo: Germain

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/123, 7.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN [1]

My Lord Admiralty Office 6th Janry 1776.

Having received a letter from Vice Admiral Graves, Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels in North America dated at Boston the 15th of last Month, giving an Account of the Capture of an Armed Brig fitted out by the Congress. We send Your Lordship a Copy of the Vice Admiral's Letter, together with Copies of the Commission and Instructions to the Person who commanded the Brig, for His Majesty's Information.[2]

We are at the same time to desire Your Lordship will please to receive, and signify to Us His Majesty's Pleasure concerning the Crew of the said Armed Brig, whom Vice Admiral Graves hath sent to England in the *Tartar*; And also, upon the Admiral's request relating to the future Disposition of the Crews of such Vessels as may be taken in Arms against His Majesty. We are &c

J. Buller H. Palliser.

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[1] PRO, Colonial Office, 5/259, 2–3.

[2] Washington's brig *Washington,* Captain Sion Martindale.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PORTSMOUTH [ENGLAND], JAN. 6." [1]

This morning arrived the *Tartar* man of war from Boston, after a fine passage of twenty-one days, having on board seventy-five rebels of the American army, which were taken by a privateer the Americans had fitted out at Boston.[2] She brought some fresh dispatches, which were sent up to the Secretary of State's office on Saturday night.[3]

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[1] *Connecticut Courant,* April 29, 1776.

[2] Washington's brig *Washington.*

[3] From *Life and Remarkable Adventures of Israel R. Potter . . .* (Providence, 1824), 19: "we was put on board the British frigate *Tartar,* and orders given to convey us to England. – when two or three days out I projected a scheme (with the assistance of my fellow prisoners, 72 in number) to take the ship, in which we should undoubtedly have succeeded, as we had a number of resolute fellows on board, had it not been for the treachery of a renegade Englishman, who betrayed us – as I was pointed out by this fellow as the principal in the plot, I was ordered in irons by the Officers of the *Tartar,* and in which situation I remained until the arrival of the ship at Portsmouth (Eng.) when I was brought on deck and closely examined, but protesting my innocence, and what was very fortunate for me in the course of the examination the person by whom I had been betrayed, having been proved a British deserter his story was discredited and I was relieved of my irons." Hereafter cited as *Life of Israel R. Potter.*

DIARY OF DR. THOMAS MOFFAT [1]

Janr 5th [1776] arrived at Portsmouth [2] & at Eight in the Evening Captn Meadows and I sett out for London in a post chaise with Captn Harris a Horse back.[3]

Janr 6th nine in the morning arrivd at London; went immediately to General Gages where I spent the day. After dinner when the Ladies retir'd He surprizd me with somewhat very unexpected.[4]

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[1] Thomas Moffat's Diary, LC.

[2] The journal of H.M.S. *Tartar,* in which Moffat had sailed from Boston on December 16, 1775, reads, for Friday, January 5, 1776, "at Noon saw Land bearg N E Dist 4 or 5 Leagues at 2 P M came through the Needles at 8 came to Anchr at Spithd wth best

Br Veerd away & moor'd wth a Cable each way found Riding here His Majts Ships *Resolution, St Taur* [*Centaur*] *Egmont,* and *Malbrough.*" PRO, Admiralty 51/972.

3. Edward Medows was the commander of the *Tartar,* and Harris was Captain George Harris, of the Grenadier Company of Lord Hugh Percy's Fifth Regiment. Harris had been badly wounded in the head at Bunker Hill.
4. Moffat stated earlier in his diary that before leaving Boston he had a conference with General William Howe "on singular business." Gage's disclosure which was "unexpected" may have related to the same business.

Commodore Sir Peter Parker to Philip Stephens [1]

Sir *Bristol* Cove of Cork 6th Janry 1776

Please to acquaint their Lordships, that I arrived here yesterday evening in His Majesty's Ship *Bristol* – The 31st past, finding that I greatly outsail'd the *Deal Castle* & *Thunder* Bomb, I determin'd to make the best of my way, and accordingly parted Company with them that evening, and ordered the *Actaeon* to proceed to Falmouth, to take in the American Prisoners, in case the *Solebay* had not been there – I found in this Port all the Transports under the direction of the Lieuts [Thomas] Tonkin & [John] Knowles, excepting the *Marquis of Rockingham,* the loss of which Ship their Lordships have already been made acquainted with – All the Army Victuallers are here, excepting the *Nancy,* Jno Pearson Master, who is expected every day – Not one of my Squadron, the Bombs Tenders, Ordnance Ships, *Sibella* Storeship, *Levant* Victualler, *Pigot* Hospital Ship, or *Friendship* Arm'd Ship, are as yet arriv'd; but I hope in a few days we shall be all assembled, or at least, as many as will enable me to proceed on the Expedition – When we have got as many together as will be absolutely necessary, I shall leave a Frigate to wait for, and bring the remainder after me. All the Troops are embark'd excepting three Companys of the 15th Regiment, which the *Clibborn* (taken up in the room of the *Marquis of Rockingham*) will be ready to receive tomorrow. I am Sir [&c.]

P: Parker

[1] PRO, Admiralty 1/486.

7 Jan. (Sunday)

"Extract of a Letter from Portsmouth [England], Jan. 7." [1]

Arrived the Carcass tender from London, bound to Corke, to take on board recruits, also the *Tartar* man of war from Boston, having on board 75 of the American rebels, who were taken in a privateer belonging to Boston [*sic* Plymouth] . . .

Sailed . . . the *Sphinx* sloop of war, Capt. Hunter, and the *Harriot,* Lusby, for Jamaica, with all the outward-bound ships; also sailed Sir Peter Parker's fleet. Wind at N.E. blows hard.

[1] *London Chronicle,* January 6 to January 9, 1776.

8 Jan.

"A Letter from Glasgow, dated Jan. 8" [1]

I should not wonder if the Scotch of this city should erect a statue to the memory of Lord Dunmore. – Every bit of news concerning the situation of Maryland and Virginia is read here with the greatest pleasure, as the very existence of Glasgow depends upon these colonies. The tobacco imported here is more in quantity than at London, on account of the re-exportation from hence to France and Holland, and the reason given is, the cheapness of navigating their vessels, their fitting out, and smaller expence than at London of landing the tobacco and reshipping, which on the whole amounts to a considerable profit, and they are thereby enabled to undersell the Londoners. Every one here will do his utmost to stimulate his correspondents and agents in these provinces to side with the King, and render Lord Dunmore every assistance, if not openly, at least clandestinely.

1. *London Chronicle,* January 16 to January 18, 1776.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN [1]

My Lord, Admty Office 8th Janry 1776.

Your Lordship having in your letter of the 2d instant, inclosed to Us an Extract of a letter from Major General [William] Howe at Boston, wherein it transmitted a Return of the Transports in His Majesty's Service, & acquainted Us, by the King's Command, of the Expediency of sending out Seamen to complete the Transports to their proper Number, and of augmenting the Crews of His Majesty's Ships to a War Establishment; We are in return to acquaint Your Lordship that Directions are given to the Navy Board to take proper Measures with the Owners of the Transports to complete them in their respective Complements, & that having foreseen the Necessity of augmenting the Complements of His Majesty's Ships employed in North America, We gave the necessary Orders to V.A. Graves for that purpose on the 7th of September & 6th of October last.

We are &c.
Sandwich J Buller H. Palliser

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/259, 6–7.

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDMAN, BOSTON [1]

Sir, [Admiralty Office] 8th Janry 1776.

My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty were pleased in a Letter from Mr. Stephens dated the 11th of Novemr last, which was forwarded by the *Triton,* to acquaint you that His Majesty had judged it expedient that a Body of Land Forces supported by a Squadron of Ships of War under the command of Sir Peter Parker should be sent to North or South Carolina with a view to the Objects mentioned in the said Letter.

The *Triton* sailed from Plymouth on the 21st of Novemr, but on the 14th of last Month had the misfortune of losing all her Masts in a hard gale of Wind, which has obliged her to return to Plymouth and now lays their Lordships under the disagreable circumstance of transmitting their aforementioned information in this Letter by the *Milford,* whose sailing at this time may probably occasion the Reinforcement you are therein directed to send to assist the Operations of Sir Peter Parker's Squadron to arrive later than was expected; but it is from that reason more strongly recommended by their Lordships that upon the *Milford*'s arrival you give such immediate Orders with respect to such Reinforcement as you conceive will be most effectual to his Majesty's Service.

The Instructions given to Sir Peter Parker being drawn conformable to what is mentioned in Mr Stephens's aforementioned Letter, I have only to trouble you further on this Subject with observing that the *Boreas* which was intended to have made part of his Squadron, in turning from Spithead unfortunately got on the Dean Sand and received such damages as made it expedient to order the *Active* to proceed in her room. – That the *Deal castle* another of his Squadron has likewise had the misfortune to lose her Masts, but it is expected she may be refitted so as to arrive on her Station by the time or soon after Sir Peter shall get there. – That their Lordships instead of ordering the *Hawke* as mentioned to you in Mr Stephens's Letter to join the Squadron at Jamaica, have directed Sir Peter to continue her as one of the Vessels under his Command; And that an addition is made thereto of the *Carcass* Bomb and the *Friendship* a hired Vessel of 489 Tons to serve occasionally as a Transport or Armed Vessel, for which last mentioned purpose she is provided with Eighteen Nine Pounders & Six Six Pounders and a proper proportion of Ordnance Stores.

The severity of the Weather which there has been of late has prevented the Ships employed on this Expedition assembling at Corke so early as was expected; the Ships of War are now on their passage thither, and my Lords have confidence that no time will be lost in embarking the Troops and putting to Sea the first favorable opportunity that may afterwards offer. I am &ca.

Geo. Jackson DS.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/1333, LC Photocopy.

George Jackson to Vice Admiral Molyneux Shuldham [1]

Sr [Admiralty Office] 8th Jany 1776

An Act having pass'd the present Sessions of Parliament "To Prohibit all Trade & Intercourse with the several Colonies in North America therein named during the continuance of the present Rebellion within the said Colonies." In which Act it is declared that all Ships and Vessels trading to & from any of the said Places except as in the said Act is excepted shall be forfeited & become the Sole property of the Captors; I am commanded by my Lords Commrs of the Admty to send you one of the said Acts also of the Kings Proclamation appointing the distribution of the Prizes that may be taken in consequence thereof for your information & guidance

I send you 70 more of the said Acts & Proclamations which you will please to distribute to the Captains of the several Ships & Vessels under your command & to such as you may happen to meet with who have not already been furnished with them &c

G J DS

(By the *Milford*)

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/550,507–08.

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM [1]

Sr. [Admiralty Office] 8th Jany 1776

My Lords Commrs of the Admty having received Advices of several American Armed Vessels Cruizing in the Bay of Canso & of one in the Gulph of St Laurence I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you therewith for your information & taking such measures thereon as may appear to you to be necessary to protect the property of His Majts Subjects in those parts &c

G J DS

By the *Milford*

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 508.

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM [1]

Sr. [Admiralty Office] 8th Jany 1776

My Lords Commrs of the Admty having received an Article of Intelligence [2] which appears very necessary for your information; I am commanded by their Lordships to send you inclosed a Copy thereof I am &c

G J DS

Rear Adml Shuldham — Boston — By the *Milford*

The like to Commodore Sir Peter Parker — at Corke by the Post

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 509.

[2] Shuldham's acknowledgment of the foregoing, received by him on March 27, 1776, states it was "intelligence from Virginia and Maryland," PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM [1]

Sr. [Admiralty Office] 8th Jany 1776

My Lords Commrs of the Admty having procured a Set of Draughts for different parts of the Coast of No America which have never yet been published; I have it in command from their Lordships to send You the same herewith for your information &c

G J DS

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 514.

GEORGE JACKSON TO COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER, CORKE [1]

Sir, [Admiralty Office] 8th Janry 1776.

My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty having, in their General Instructions of the 14th of last Month, observed to you that Rear Admiral Shuldham had been apprized of the Expedition on which you are employed and the grounds on which it was adopted; I have it now in Command from their Lordships to acquaint you that the *Triton,* which was to carry the Dispatches containing the said Information and sailed from Plymouth the 21st of Novemr, had the misfortune, on the 14th of last Month having got 450 Leagues to the Westward, to lose all her Masts in a hard gale of Wind, and in consequence thereof is returned to that Port; by which their Lordships are obliged to send her Dispatches by the *Milford* which is yet at Spithead, but under Orders to sail as soon as the wind will permit.

From this Misfortune it is to be doubted whether the Reinforcement which Rear Adml Shuldham was ordered to send to assist in your Operations, can arrive by the time you may expect it; but their Lordships have recommended it to him, upon the arrival of the *Milford,* to give such immediate Orders with respect to the said Reinforcement as he finds to be most effectual to His Majesty's Service.

I am &ca

Geo. Jackson DS.

[Endorsed] Sent by the *Active* at Portsmo Duplicate sent to Corke

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/1333, LC Photocopy.

Morning Post and Daily Advertiser, Monday, January 8, 1776

[London, January 8]

News from America.

The *Tartar* man of war, just arrived from Boston in twenty-one days, brings the alarming advice to administration, that *three* more of their transports, with troops and warlike stores for the King's service, were, after a smart engagement, taken by some Provincial privateers, who carried them with great triumph, into one of their ports, unshipped the stores for the immediate use of the rebel army, and marched all the men and officers prisoners up the country.

We learn from the same quarter that Capt. Montague of the *Fowey* man of war had taken a provincial letter of marque with 70 soldiers on board; [1] the colours she carried were an ensign, on which was displayed a pine tree on a white field.

London.

Can a stronger proof be required, that Providence militates for the Americans, than the following facts:

The *Actaeon* frigate sails for America, but she runs ashore, and receives so much damage as to retard her at least three months; –

The *Boreas* frigate is sent on the same service, and shares the same fate; –

The *Triton* sails to cruize against the Americans, but soon returns dismasted; –

The *Deal Castle,* in her way from Portsmouth to Plymouth, runs ashore at Easterking Point, in Plymouth harbour, and is obliged to cut away all her masts; –

The *Bristol* of 50 Guns, sails on the same service, but the winds have driven her back, and the genii of America have driven her ashore: –

The *Rockingham* sails with troops; but when even *Rockingham* goes forth against America *Rockingham* shall suffer, and her troops perish: –

Two other transports, with British troops have shared the same fate since September: –

The hardy sailors, coming from the North to combat America, perish in that rash enterprize even on their own element, for five ships in which they were passengers, were driven on the sands in November, and they all perish.

1. Washington's armed brig *Washington.*

London Chronicle, SATURDAY, JANUARY 6 TO TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 1776

London. January 8.

The *Tartar* man of war is arrived at Portsmouth, in 21 days, from Boston; and brings advice that two or three transports from England are taken by the Provincials; and that Capt. Montague of the *Fowey* had taken a cruizer with 70 soldiers on board, together with the colours of the United Colonies, on which are a white field and a pine tree.

It is said Col. Ethan Allen, and the other Prisoners in Pendennis Castle, will be ordered back to America in the first vessel to Boston.

INTELLIGENCE FROM A LONDON NEWSPAPER [1]

London, January 8.

A Commodore with six line of battle ships and eight frigates, will sail, we are told, to America, the beginning of March next; the above ships are to take on board their full complement of marines, and are to be laden as deep as possible with provisions, &c.

Press warrants are sent out to Admiral Graves to press all American seamen.

Press warrants are expected to be issued out soon, as the Captains of all the outward bound ships have been very solicitous to procure protections.

Orders have been sent to Plymouth for all the guard ships there to take on board their full complement of men, as in time of war.

Orders have been sent to all the out-ports, to be very cautious and strict in examining all persons, vessels, &c. that may be judged the least suspicious.

Orders are given for a quantity of beef and pork, sufficient for ten ships of the line for six months, to be got ready as soon as possible.

Several transports are brought up to the Tower in order to take in cannon, balls, and other warlike stores, for Boston; which transports are to be convoyed by six men of war, to prevent their being taken by the Provincials.

A small vessel will be dispatched to America this week, with orders for all the transports that have delivered their cargoes at Boston, &c. to leave that place immediately, and return to England with all expedition.

[1] *New York Packet,* April 25, 1776.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM GOSPORT, JAN. 8." [1]

The *Boreas* is come out of dock, and is fitting for sea.

The *Romney,* of 50 guns, Capt. [George Keith] Elphinston Commander, is come into the harbour to dock, and fitting out for her station at Newfoundland.

[1] *London Chronicle,* January 11 to January 13, 1776.

Public Advertiser, FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 1776

Corke, Jan. 8.

Last Friday [January 5] arrived at Cove, his Majesty's Ship *Bristol,* of 50 Guns, Sir Peter Parker, Commander, as Convoy to the Troops bound to America, now under the Command of Lord Cornwallis.

LORD GRANTHAM TO LORD WEYMOUTH [1]

No 1. [Madrid] 8th January 1776.

I have been well informed that the Spanish vessel which M. Grimaldi [2] has assured me was detained at Gixon, was hired by the master of an American vessel mentioned in mine No 57 of the last year, and had brought from Holland a very considerable quantity of gunpowder. The American vessel which was to receive the powder, has kept out of the Spanish ports. On my mentioning these circumstances to the Spanish Minister, he repeated to me his promise that no part of these stores should fall into the hands of the American captain.[3]

[1] Letters and Extracts from the Correspondence of Lord Grantham In Spain, January 1776 to June 1779, Sparks Transcripts, No. 23, I, 1, HU.

[2] Jeronimo, Marquis de Grimaldi (1720–1785), Spanish Minister of State.

[3] Captain John Wilson, of the ship *Lion*; see H. Katenkamp to Lord Weymouth, January 24, 1776.

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9 Jan.

GEORGE JACKSON TO JOHN POWNALL [1]

Sir, Admiralty Office 9th Janry 1776.

Sir Hugh Palliser has desired me, upon the Paper of Memoranda which you inclosed to him for private Information, in your letter of the 7th of January, to desire you will please to inform me.

First, the Names of the three Victuallers which have been taken up by the Treasury, also their Masters, & where they lie.

2d The Size or Dimensions of the Sloops proposed for the Navigation of Lake Champlain, & a draft of those Sloops, with what other particulars you can, & to note whether designed for fast Sailing or for Burthen.

3d The nature of the Batteaux to be provided in frame, these being a sort of Vessel unknown in this Country, so that if it can be done, they should be described by a Drawing. What part of the Materials may be provided on the Spot, which, if to be done at all, would be with more Expedition and Advantage than by carrying the same from England to Place where they are to be set up. I am &c.

Geo: Jackson D.S.

[1] PRO, Colonial Office, 5/259, 5–6.

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM, BOSTON [1]

Sr [Admiralty Office] 9th Janry 1776.

My Lord George Germaine having transmitted to my Lords Commrs of the Admiralty a return He had received from Major General [William] Howe of the Transports in His Majts Service at Boston by which it appears the greatest part of the said Ships are deficient in the Compliments of Men which by the Charter Parties with the Owners they are required to have; And the General observing that sixty five of the Men wanting to complete the Transports have entered or been pressed into His Majesty's Ships on that Station: I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you therewith & to signify their direction to you, if it shall be found that Men have entered or been pressed as aforementioned to cause such

Men to be returned to the Transports to which they properly belong, and in future, Order the Captain's of His Majts Ships or Vessels under your Command, not to receive any Seamen belonging to the Transports or other Vessels in the King's Pay, and on no Account to suffer any such Men to be impressed into the Service. I am &c

Geo. Jackson DS

(By the *Milford*)

[1] PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 522–23.

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM [1]

Sir, [Admiralty Office] 9th Jany 1776.

Vice Adml Graves having in his letter of the 10th of Octr requested to have some of the General Printed Instructions to deliver to such Gentlemen as may be appointed Lieutenants, also a few Extracts from Marine Treaties, & Statutes, I have therefore taken the opportunity of sending you by His Majesty's Ship *Milford,* a Box, containing Six Books of Statutes, Six of Marine Treaties, & twelve of the Naval Instructions, and am to desire you will please to transmit to me a List of the Persons who are furnished with them, and if any remain unissued, you will also please to cause them to be delivered into this Office on your return from America. I am &c

Geo. Jackson DS.

(By the *Milford*)

[1] PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 517.

GEORGE JACKSON TO WILLIAM EDEN [1]

Sir, [Admiralty Office] 9th Janry 1776

Having communicated to my Lords Commrs of the Admty your letter of Yesterday's Date, inclosing an Extract of a letter from Mr Crawford to the Earl of Suffolk, containing particular Intelligence of several Pieces of Cannon, with a quantity of Ball & Chain Bullets, being put on board a Dutch West India Vessel at Flushing, and of the sailing of the Brigantine therein referr'd to; Their Lordships are pleased to desire you will transmit them a Copy of Mr Crawford's former letter of Intelligence, in order that they may be better able to consider on the Directions proper to be given on the Occasion. I am &c

Geo. Jackson DS.

[1] PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 519–20.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CHATHAM, JAN. 9." [1]

The *Brune* frigate is taken into dock to be sheathed, and is daily expected to be commissioned for America.

The *Isis,* of 50 guns, commanded by Cha. Douglas, Esq; is ready for sailing to America, and only waits a fair wind.

[1] *London Chronicle,* January 11 to January 13, 1776.

10 Jan.

LORD SANDWICH TO GEORGE III [1]

Admiralty *Jan* 10. 1776.

Lord Sandwich has the honour to inform your Majesty that he came to town yesterday in order to pay his duty to your Majesty this day, but on his arrival at the Admiralty was met by the melancholly account of the death of his son at Lisbon, which will prevent his attending to recieve your Majesty's Commands till Sunday next.

As your Majesty does not disapprove of being troubled with the sight of such private letters as relate to the business of this department, I take the liberty to send those I have recieved from Admiral Graves, and from Lieutenant Collins of the Marines; as allso one from Sir Hugh Pallisser, which will serve to shew your Majesty that the business has not been neglected during my absence, & that we shall probably be able to supply everything that is wanted, tho' the short notice we have had for such enormous demands is without precedent. Imagining your Majesty might chuse to see the Rebel flag it is sent herewith, I propose, if your Majesty permits, to send it to Admiral [John] Montagu.[2]

[1] Sir John Fortescue, ed., *The Correspondence of King George the Third from 1760 to December 1783* (London, 1928), III, 328. Hereafter cited as Fortescue, ed., *Correspondence of George III.*

[2] Flag of Washington's brig *Washington.*

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN [1]

My Lord Admiralty Office 10th Janry 1776.

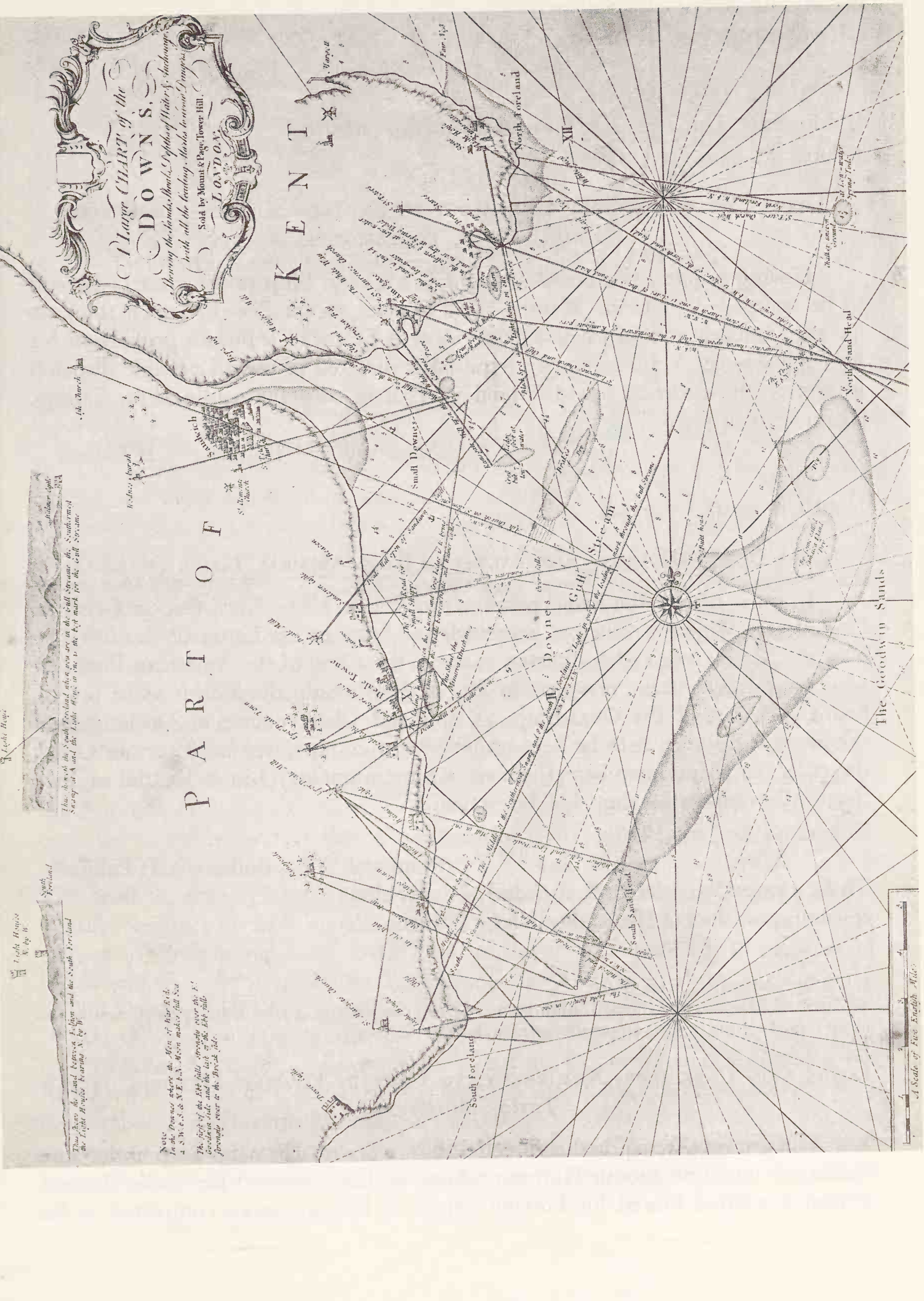
Your Lordship having in your letter of the 6th instant, signified to Us the King's Pleasure that a Frigate, or 20 Gun Ship, should be stationed at the Bermuda Islands, for their Security; we beg leave to acquaint Your Lordship that, in consequence of the King's Pleasure, signified by the Earl of Suffolk in his Lordship's Letter of the 14th of October last, We the next day sent Directions to Vice Admiral Graves, Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels in North America, to station one of the small Ships of his Squadron at the Bermuda Islands, and another at the Isle of [New] Providence, for the Safety & Preservation thereof, in case any Attempts should be made against them. We are &c.

Sandwich J. Buller H. Palliser

[1] PRO, Colonial Office, 5/259, 7–8.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN DIGBY DENT, H.M.S. *Arethusa* AT THE DOWNS [1]

You are hereby required & directed to proceed forthwith in His Majestys Ship under your command to Spithead where we have ordered her Provisions to be completed to Eight Months of all Species except Beer of which she is to have as much as she can conveniently stow, & Stored to a proper proportion for Foreign


A Large CHART of the DOWNS,
Shewing the Sands, Shoals, Depths of Water & Anchorage with all the leading Marks to avoid Dangers.
Sold by Mount & Page, Tower Hill.
LONDON.
PART OF KENT
Sandwich
Ash Church
Small Downes
Deal Town
Downes
Gull Stream
The Goodwin Sands
North Foreland
South Foreland
North Sand Head
South Sand Head
Margate
A Scale of Five English Miles

Service; using all possible dispatch in getting the same on board & holding yourself in constant readiness for Sailing.

Given &c 10th Jany 1776

Sandwich J Buller H Palliser

By &c G J DS

[Endorsed] Duplicate sent the next day to Portsmouth

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 348.

Lords Commissioners, Admiralty, to Captain Mitchell Graham, H.M.S. *Thetis,* Portsmouth [1]

Having ordered the Provisions of His Majestys Ship under your command to be completed to Eight Months of all Species except Beer of which she is to have as much as she can conveniently stow & Stores to a proper proportion for Foreign Service; You are hereby required & directed to use all possible dispatch in getting the same on board & hold yourself in constant readiness for Sailing.

Given &c 10th Jany 1776

Sandwich J Buller H Palliser

By &c G J DS

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 348.

Lords Commissioners, Admiralty, to Rear Admiral James Douglas [1]

In pursuance of the Kings pleasure signified to Us by Lord George Germain One of His Majestys principal Secretaries of State in his Letter of the 6th Inst You are hereby required & directed to cause the Crew of the American Privateer who are brought home prisoners in His Majesty's Ship the *Tartar* to be put on board such one of the Guardships at Spithead whose course of Docking is at the greatest distance & to be kept under proper confinement until further Order directing her Captain to bear them on a Supernumerary List & Victual at Two thirds Allowance while they shall be on board.[2]

Given &c 10th Jany 1776

Sandwich J Buller H Palliser

To Sir James Douglas Knt Rear Adml of the White
& Commr in Chief of His Majts Ships at Portsmouth

By &c G J DS

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 349.
2. Crew of Washington's brig *Washington.* Consignment to a guard ship at Portsmouth was the prelude to their impressment into the British navy.

Lords Commissioners, Admiralty, to Captain Edward Medows, H.M.S. *Tartar,* Spithead [1]

You are hereby required & directed to repair with His Majs Ship under your command into Portsmouth Harbour where we have ordered her to be cleaned, graved & refitted Stored for Foreign Service & her provisions completed to Six months of all Species except Beer of which she is to have as much as she can conveniently stow, & to be supplied with a proportion of Wine or Spirits for two Months in lieu of the remainder.

Applying to the Commanding Officer at Portsmouth for the security of his Men

And repairing when ready to Spithead for further Order.[2]

Given &c. 10th Jany 1776

Sandwich J Buller H Palliser

By &c G J DS

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1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 349–50.
2. *Ibid.*, the last two paragraphs appear on page 350, and read as if they were a memorandum by the deputy secretary of what he intended to put into proper letter form.

JONATHAN SEWALL TO EDWARD WINSLOW [1]

London, Brompton-row, No 1

Dear Ned Janry 10. 1776.

Imprimis, God bless you, here and hereafter, forever & ever, for preserving the Life of my dear Jenny, till the 14th Decr last, & then procuring for her a passage to Halifax under the Care of Capt Watson of the 65th – Heaven grant that no untoward Accident prevent this happy Incident from being co-incident with my Wishes – had she starved in Boston, it would have been Death to me – had she fallen into the hands of your infernal Rebels, it would have been the Devil – how have I felt for her since I left her – how much more pungently since I recd yours of 3rd Decr – well, God bless you & your's again & again – if I can but hear she has had one good Belly full before she dies, I shall feel perfectly resigned to her future fate – wishing however, that I may once more see the dear charming Creature before she or I die.—

Your history of the Dispute between the Adml [2] & the Custom-house is curious – I can't conceive what put it into the head of the Lord of your Sea's that the Exercise of the Law martial (or military Law, as he quaintly phrases it) operates as a Supersedeas to the residence of the Commissioners there in their official Capacity; & gives him a power of dispensing with an Act of Parliament. – The truth is, some of your Gentry have conceiv'd most absurd Notions of the Nature & Effect of Law martial – it has no other Operation than to carry into Execution the criminal Law of the Land in those Instances where the Course of the Common Law is interrupted by War [however that] does not affect the official Capacity of [the Commission]ers or any other constitutional (I hate that Word) Officer any more than it affects the official Capacity of an Admiral on the high Seas in the Moon – I have no doubt but the Commissioners are right & the Adml wrong for most surely if he was invested with a dispensing power, it was to be exercised only when the Necessity of the Case required it – & tho' (for a Moment we admit) he could dispence with the port-bill it wod by no Means follow that he could knock the Cus[tom Commission]ers in the head, & dispense with all the [blurred] but I suppose by this Time he has recd his Supersedeas by the Arrival of Adml Shuldam & this Dispute will drop where it is – tho' if it shod be brought over hither, you may depend upon every Assistance in my power.

I am out of all patience at hearing, from you & others, the Accounts of your Sufferings – what Excuse can be found for a British Admiral, who, with 30. or 40. Ships under his Command, suffers a Garrison to starve tho' surrounded with plenty of every Necessary, within the reach of his Ships! who tamely & supinely looks on & sees Fishing Schooners, Whale-boats and Canoes riding triumphant under the Muzzles of his Guns, & carrying off every Supply destin'd for your relief! Heaven grant you patience, & reward every one according to the Deeds done in the Body. – I can tell you, for your Comfort, that he is cursed as hard upon this Side the Water, as he can be on yours – he has now no Advocate here, & I believe will scarcely find a Friend in England upon his return. I hope by this Time, you are relieved in some Measure, as, out of the great Number of Ships wch have sailed loaded with provisions & Coal, it will be hard indeed, if some dont get in safe, maugre the Vigilance of the Rebels, & the Inactivity of Trunnion[3] – I verily believe your Sufferings are drawing near a period – you will undoubtedly have, early in the Spring, an Army of 40,000. & a Fleet [of] upwards of 70. Ships, & then the Mettle of the Rebels [will] be try'd – hitherto their Successes have been owing to their having none to oppose them – the poor infatuated Wretches, as yet, know Nothing of War – they have been treated as froward Children heretofore, but now, they will be treated as incorrigible Traitors – I pity, I feel for the Majority, but, for their Sakes, I wish the Vengeance of G. Britain may speedily overtake their base Deluders.

I wish you were here Ned, with Money enough in your pocket – you can have no Idea what a noble Country this is for a Gentlemen – every Thing is upon an immense Scale – whatever I have seen in my own Country, is all Miniature, yankee, puppet-shew – I was at Court the Day before yesterday, being the Queen's Birth Day, (I am now at the 20th) & I believe in my Conscience, the prime Cost of the Drapes I saw there, was sufficient to have purchas'd our whole Continent – the Wealth of this Country is truly astonishing, but unless a Gentleman can get his Share of it, he has no Business here – £600 pr An. is but as a Drop in the Ocean – the Man is lost – he is Nothing – less than Nothing & Vanity – & his Contemplation on his own comparative Littleness, is Vexation of Spirit – but, humiliating as it is, I wish to stay here for the Sake of giving my Boys a Chance for the grand prizes which every profession presents to View – however, I fear, the cold, inhospitable Lilliputian Region of Halifax will finally bring me up; for as to Massachusetts Bay, I wish it well, but I wish never to see it again, till I return at the Millenium – No; believe me, Ned, the mad Conduct of my Countrymen has given me a Dose I shall never get over – God mend them, & bless them – but let me never never be cursed with a residence among them again – I hate the Climate where Rebellion & Fanaticism are ingendred – & would shun it as I would a Country infested with the plague, – from all which, good Lord, deliver me. – I thank you for writing to me, & beg for such favours every Oportunity – & in return, you shall have frequent Scribblings from, dear Ned [&c.]

Jon: Sewall

[Endorsed] answerd July. – Staaten-Island.

1. Winslow Papers, DAC. An edited version appears in W. O. Raymond, ed., *Winslow Papers A.D. 1776–1826* (St. John, N.B., 1901), 13–14. Jonathan Sewall, former attorney general of Massachusetts, had gone to England in 1775. He had been an intimate friend of John Adams.
2. Vice Admiral Samuel Graves.
3. A rather obscure reference to the cylindrical projections which hold a cannon on its carriage, and which Sewall used as a symbol of Graves's inactivity.

HUGH PALLISER, ADMIRALTY, TO JOHN POWNALL [1]

Dear Sir, Admiralty Office Janry 10th 1776.

I wish to be informed as soon as possible of the Names of the Victuallers for Quebec, & where they are to be found, also of the other particulars mentioned in Mr. [George] Jackson's Note to you, in answer to Your's to me the 7th instant, for want of which we cannot be doing any thing relating to those matters. I am &c

Hugh Palliser.

(private) I. P.

[1] PRO, Colonial Office, 5/259, 8.

London Chronicle, TUESDAY, JANUARY 9 TO THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 1776

London, January 10.

Yesterday the King's proclamation for the encouragement of Seamen, &c. to enter into his Majesty's service, was read at the Royal Exchange gate.

A ship from England, belonging to James Anderson of Boston, with a cargo of cloathing, wines, &c. Also a vessel with rum and sugar from the West Indies; and a ship with coals from England, are all taken by the provincials.[1]

They write from Portsmouth, that orders are come down there to take particular care of the prisoners on board the *Tartar* man of war, and to treat them with the greatest humanity, that they may be sent back to Boston, in order that they may be exchanged for some of the King's troops.

[1] The ships *Concord* and *Jenny*, and the brig *Little Hannah*, taken in December by Captain John Manley, in Washington's schooner *Lee*.

Public Advertiser, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 1776

London [January 10].

By the last Letters from America we are informed, that the Provincials are very successful in their naval Enterprizes, and that the British Flag in those Parts has already received every Sort of Insult; some of our Vessels being almost daily taken under the Eyes of the Fleet: On the other hand, the Provincial Army seems by its Inactivity to be already benumbed by the Season; not one British Post near Boston had been disturbed within two Months before the Date of the above Letters.

INTELLIGENCE FROM A LONDON NEWSPAPER [1]

London, Jan. 10.

Several of the Captains have complained by letters to the A[dmiralty], that their respective ships were too weakly manned to proceed to sea, which has been taken no notice of; in consequence of which they have had private surveys, and attestations signed by several officers of the exact state of their complements, in order to exculpate themselves, in case of accidents that may arise from the scandalous manner in which they have been sent to sea.

[1] *New York Packet,* May 16, 1776.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PORTSMOUTH, JAN. 10." [1]

Arrived at Spithead the *Arethusan* man of war from the Downs: went out of harbour to Spithead the *Greyhound* man of war, Capt. [Archibald] Dickson; she is bound to North America, and has 40,000 *l.* of foreign specie on board for the King's troops.

[1] *London Chronicle,* January 11 to January 13, 1776.

COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER TO PHILIP STEPHENS [1]

Sir *Bristol* Cove of Cork 10th Janry 1776

The 6th instant I informed You of my Arrival Here, the preceding Evening, with His Majesty's Ship the *Bristol*; Not a Pendant has appeared of[f] this Harbour since, but this Morning, One of the Ordnance Ships called the *Noble Bounty* came in, and as the Wind has been favourable, and the weather sufficiently moderate for Two or Three Days past, I hope Our whole Force will be assembled in the Course of to Morrow and next Day, or at least such part of it, as I may venture to proceed with. All the Troops are Embarked, and I have Anchored the Transports in convenient Births for putting to Sea. I am Sir [&c.]

P: Parker

[1] PRO, Admiralty 1/486.

LORD STORMONT TO LORD WEYMOUTH [1]

Very Secret Paris Janry 10th 1776

My Lord, It is with Pleasure that I can assure Your Lordship, that I have now pretty good Reason to beleive, that the Report I mentioned in a former Letter, of the small Fleet preparing at Brest, being designed for the West Indies, is void of all Foundation: My Informer is positive, that the Destination of this Fleet has been invariably the same, Vizt to the Isle de France, and Pondicherry; but adds, that it is now determined to send only One Ship of the Line & 2 Frigates, notwithstanding the News received here, of the Marratoes [2] having attacked the French Comptoir [3] called Mahé, which it is thought has Strength sufficient to defend itself: The same Informer adds, that a Person of some consequence, whom M. de Sartine [4] Sent for to get Information with regard to the real State of the above-mentioned Comptoir, had a long conversation with him upon the present State of Canada, and the unexpected Success of the American Rebels there: He gave it as his Opinion that 'tho a hostile attempt to recover Canada, might be liable to great Objections, as it would necessarily draw on an expensive War; Yet, he saw no Reason, why France should not attempt to recover it by Treaty, making an offer to give us the most effectual Assistance to reduce the Rebels, in case that Cession was made; to this M. de Sartine answered in the most positive manner "Quil ne falloit pas penser à cela Et que la France etoil très decideé de ne se meler de rien. ["]

I have, I think, good Reason to believe that M. de Sartine did hold this Language, But how far it was sincere, or how far he has the real Secret of this Court, I will not take upon myself to determine; I will however venture to repeat to Your Lordship, what I have more than once said already; that the present Sentiments, of the present French Ministry, seem to me pacific; But then, My Lord, it is but too obvious, that this Ministry hangs entirely by M.de Maurepas[5] Life, which cannot be as strong a thread as I could wish it. His Successors might have a very different Plan of Policy; that of the Duke of Choiseul would be as decidedly hostile as possible.

I am sure Your Lordship will be beforehand with me in drawing the natural Inference from all this, and will think the State of this Country, a Strong additional Reason, for that Speedy, as well as vigorous Exertion of our Strength, which the present most unhappy Emergency demands. I am with great truth, and respect, My Lord, [&c.]

Stormont

Lord Viscount Weymouth

[Endorsed] Paris 10 Janry 1776 Lord Stormont very secret R 21st by Express fm Dover.

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1. PRO, State Papers 78/298.
2. Mahrattas, inhabitants of central India.
3. Factory, or settlement.
4. French Naval Minister.
5. Jean Frédéric Phelippeaux, Comte de Maurepas (1701–1781), French Minister of State, and principal adviser to Louis XVI.

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11 Jan.

GEORGE III TO LORD SANDWICH[1]

Queens House *Jany* 11*th* 1776

Lord Sandwich $\frac{m}{33}$ *pt* 10.A.M.

I sincerely condole with You on the melancholy event that prevents Your coming before Sunday to St James's.

Sir Hugh Pallisser's letter shews he has not been idle during Your absence, and I trust Your activity will instill that vigilance into the inferiors in Your great department that no delay in sending out the Succours in the Spring will arise from the short notice You have had; You call it unprecedented, the expression in ordinary times ought undoubtedly to be attended to, but when such acts of vigour are shewn by the Rebellious Americans, we must shew that the English Lion when rouzed has not only his wonted resolution but has added the swiftness of the Race Horse. I should not be so desirous of employing Your tallents at the Head of the Admiralty Board if I did not entrust You with the general idea that is of late entertained that the Navy is not so quickly when called on fitted out as was expected by those who know Your unremitted ardour to effect whatever You undertake; my answer on all occasions has been that I did not deny that every other Department has been ready for the Southern Expedition three weeks sooner than the Navy but that the difficulty of obtaining Sailors was the cause of this, and that now a bounty is ordered, I trust things will be carried on with infinite dispatch.

I cannot too strongly inculcate the necessity of setting all Official forms aside that in the least delay the engaging Transports; I have reason to think the Ships of force fitting out at Philadelphia are not to attempt any engagement with Our Vessels of force but to intercept homeward bound India Men to obtain Salt Petre. Ships must be fitted out for to prevent their Succeeding; I cannot help on this occasion reminding You of the idea You mentioned some months ago of buying some Coal Vessels and fitting them out as Ships of War; in short every means of obtaining many Vessels ought to be addopted, and a considerable addition ought with the utmost expedition to be sent to strengthen the Southern Squadrons, for every intelligence points out St Eustacia as the Port from whence the Americans hope in the course of the Winter to obtain Gun Powder, therefore between that place and N.America we ought to cover the Sea with Vessels to disappoint them in this essential article for carrying on the next Campaign.

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1. Fortescue, ed., *Correspondence of George III,* III, 331–32.

Lord Sandwich to George III [1]

Admiralty *Jan*: 11.1776.

Your Majestys great goodness in mentioning to me some things that have been thrown out, intimating that it has been hinted that the Naval Department has not been so expeditious in the equipment of the Southern expedition as they might have been, will I hope incline you to forgive the liberty I take in explaining that matter in which I think your Majesty has been in some part misinformed.

When the first orders were sent to prepare transports for the expedition, they were ordered to be ready the beginning of December; they were ready at the time. The men of war were allso ready except the *Bristol,* which was delayed in the dock only four or five days after the time fixed for her being fit for Sea; and I fear your Majesty will never have a sea expedition that will be in readiness so near the given time as this has been. what delay has been since the *Bristol* sailed from the Nore, has been occasioned by contrary winds & accidents, and I am certain by nothing that human wisdom could guard against; the *Boreas* one of the squadron run ashore in going out of Spithead, and received considerable damage; she was immediately replaced by another ship and no time lost on her account. the ships that were left behind in the river were the armed Transport, the Hospital ship for the Army, and the Bomb tender; the former of these was taken up when the others were ready for the sea, therefore could not go at the same time; the second was delayed principally by the Physical people with whom we have no business, the Bomb tender is entirely under the direction of the ordnance, and they best know why she was not ready; however that no time might be lost to the expedition, Sir Peter Parker was directed, if they did not join him before he was ready to sail from Corke, to sail without them; & to leave one of his squadron to follow him as soon as the missing ships arrived.

The Elements have certainly warred against us most cruelly, for the *Actaeon, Thunder* Bomb, & *Deal Castle* that sailed with Sir Peter Parker have been driven back to Plymouth, and the latter run ashore and was saved with the utmost difficulty, having lost all her masts, and greatly damaged in her hull, so that she will require a considerable time to refitt, and must be replaced by some other ship.

The *Actaeon* is put again to sea, and the *Thunder* will sail in a day or two at furthest, but I am perswaded Sir Peter Parker will not stay for them, as they will overtake him on account of his being obliged to keep company with the transports. I do not mean the word unprecedented as a complaint, I readily acknowledge every office must exert itself to the utmost, & that rules must not be attended to, unless they are such as would prejudice the immediate purpose if they were broken thro': my whole meaning is conveyed in what your Majesty has seen in Sir Hugh Pallissers letter, namely that if we do get the transports required at so short a notice, it is more than ever was done before, & your Majesty may be assured, that whatever constant attention & money can do, shall be done in the whole of this important business.

The second assistant to the Surveyor of the Navy & the Boatswain of Deptford Yard are ordered to repair to Glasgow to procure transports for the men that are to come from Scotland, and to attend to their equipment; & every ship that can be got in the river, or the out Ports will be taken; but if ships are not to be got for money, your Majesty will permit me to say that it is out of the reach of this department to provide the means of supplying that want at so short a notice. however as I have allready said, I do believe we shall be ready in time with all the transports that are wanted.

Your Majesty has had the goodness to make an excuse for us to which we are not entitled, as no ship of Sir Peter Parkers Squadron has been delayed a single moment for want of men; & I hope that such measures are taken as will prevent any of the ships that are fitting, from lying in Port an hour after they are wanted for service: when I forsee a want of seamen I will apply in time for leave to press, but I still hope to do without it.

The Marine recruiting goes on so well, that when I have the honour of paying my duty to your Majesty, I propose to ask whither [*sic*] a farther addition might not be made to that usefull corps, an additional second Lieutenant to each company & ten private[s] would add considerably to our strength & without much expence, but I doubt whither that would enable us to have an additional Battallion on shore; however I shall put this calculation into writing in order to be prepared to lay the whole properly before your Majesty.

The *Arethusa* & *Thetis* of 32 guns each are ordered to be fitted for the protection of the India ships, they are both ready for the sea, & have nothing to take in but their additional provisions & stores.

Reinforcements are ordered to the two Southern Squadrons, where the services your Majesty points out deserve and will meet with the utmost attention from this board, and therefore we were rather surprized that orders were sent to us to direct Admiral Gayton to proceed with his whole squadron to Pensacola in case of an attempt being made upon that place, we have therefore thought proper to write Our opinion to the Secretary of State upon this subject.

One armed Transport is gone with Sir Peter Parker, two others will go to Quebec but the two last are not colliers, but there are many proper vessells among the transports that the commanders in chief may arm if they think proper, and so much call for colliers for the transport service, that I am unwilling to take them from the more immediate & material service.

[1] Fortescue, ed., *Correspondence of George III,* III, 328–31.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN [1]

My Lord, Admiralty Office Janry 11th 1776.

Your Lordship having in your letter of the 6th instant acquainted Us that there is ground to suspect that the Rebels in North America may, early in the Spring, invade the Province of West Florida, by the Channel of the Ohio & Mississippi Rivers; & may make some Attempt upon Pensacola; & having signified His Majesty's Pleasure that We do instruct the commanding Officer of His Majesty's Ships on the Jamaica Station to be very attentive to that Province, & to keep one or two of the smaller Ships under his Command constantly cruizing upon the Coast of West Florida, with Directions to bring immediate Intelligence to him in case any such Attempt should be made, in which case he is to take on board the first Battalion of the 60th Regiment, now on Duty at Jamaica, which the Governor will have Orders to embark, accordingly, and to proceed with his whole Squadron to Pensacola, consulting upon his Arrival with Governor [Peter] Chester the measures it may be advisable to pursue in such an Event. In return, We think it necessary on this occasion to acquaint Your Lordship that the Ships and Sloops that are at present Stationed at Jamaica, are 1 Ship of the 4th rate, 2 of the 6th & 3 Sloops, and that, in pursaunce of His Majesty's Pleasure signified in a letter from the Earl of Dartmouth, We gave Orders on the 11th of August last to Rear Admiral Gayton, the Commander in Chief, to station two of the said Ships or Sloops, one at Heneago, the Other at the little Caicos, in order to intercept North American Vessels which were represented to resort to Cape Nicholas Mole & other Ports in the Island of Hispaniola, where they do load with french Produce and secretly take in large quantities of Arms & Ammunition. From which, Your Lordship will please to observe, after executing our aforementioned Order, there will remain only four of the Ships or Sloops under the Admiral's Command, which We think not sufficient for all the Services recommended to his Protection; & to prevent the Island being left intirely exposed, which would be the Case, if the Admiral, upon receiving the Intelligence aforementioned, should proceed with his whole Squadron to Pensacola. We submit whether, instead of giving him Orders so to do, it may not be more expedient to send Orders to the Governor to hire Transports to carry the said Battalion, and for the Admiral to proceed therewith in his own, or any other of his Ships, which may be most fit for the Service, by which we conceive he would be equally able to execute His Majesty's aforesaid Intention.

We cannot help observing to Your Lordship upon that part of Your letter desiring two of the smaller Ships under the Admiral's Command may cruize constantly upon the Coast of West Florida, to be ready to carry Intelligence, that, by this means of Conveyance, it must necessarily be a considerable time in reaching him, as the Ship to be dispatched, must be obliged, during her Passage back, to work all the way to Windward.

We are further to acquaint Your Lordship as a matter immediately relating to this Subject, that we have this day been attended by a Committee of the West India Merchants, who have requested such a Reinforcement may be made to the Squadron stationed at the Islands, as may effectually protect the Trade, for which We shall give immediate Orders.

All which desiring Your Lordship will Communicate to His Majesty, that We may receive His Majesty's Pleasure thereon, We remain &c

Sandwich. J.Buller. H.Palliser.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/259, 9–11.

London Chronicle, TUESDAY, JANUARY 9 TO THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 1776

London. Jan. 11.

The *Tartar* man of war had orders sent down on Tuesday by express, to land the Americans she has brought over, and to go into dock, to be repaired for another voyage, with all expedition.

A letter from Portsmouth says, that people flock from all parts of the country to have a sight of the prisoners brought home in the *Tartar* man of war from Boston; that a great deal of money has been collected for their support during their residence in England.

The flag taken from a provincial privateer, is now deposited in the Admiralty; the field is white bunting, with a spreading green pine; the motto "Appel to Heaven!"

Orders are sent to Chatham, for his Majesty's ship *Repulse* to be fitted out for the American station. She is already put in commission, and the command is given to Capt. [Henry] Davis.

COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER TO PHILIP STEPHENS [1]

Bristol Cove of Cork 11th Janry 1776

Sir

Please to acquaint Their Lordships, that this Evening, only the *Nancy* Ordnance Ship, and the *Nancy,* the missing Army Victualler arrived Here. There are yet to come, the Five Frigates, Two Bomb Vessels, and Their Tenders, One

Ordnance Ship, the Hospital Ship, Store Ship, Navy Victualler, and the *Friendship* armed Ship. I am Sir [&c.]

P: Parker

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1. PRO, Admiralty 1/486.

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12 Jan.

Lord Sandwich to George III [1]

Admiralty *Jan*: 12.1776.

Lord Sandwich has the honour to inform your Majesty that a thought has occurred to him that a large number of Transports may be procured at Hamburgh, which would aid us exceedingly, add greatly to the dispatch & be particularly convenient for the embarkation of the foreign troops at Stadt and Ritz-buttell. The Hamburgh Ships are five [*sic* fine] large Vessels of the Collier sort, and I believe are very fit for the purpose.

The Comptroller of the Navy is now with Lord Sandwich & greatly approves this idea, and Ld Sandwich has sent to Mr [William] Eden that no time may be lost in communicating it to Ld Suffolk.

If we get the Scotch from Holland, possibly it might be advisable to bring them in Dutch Ships.

The enclosed letter will shew your Majesty why we do not immediately send agents to Bristol &c. And as soon as the letters that were written on Saturday are answered, if the present mode does not succeed, proper people will be sent immediately to see what can be done on the spot.

Admiralty *half past eleven.*

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1. Fortescue, ed., *Correspondence of George III,* III, 332.

Count de Guines to Count de Vergennes [1]

[Extract] London, 12 January 1776

You may recall, Sir, that at the time when parliament gathered the rumor spread that the Americans had marched on Halifax. I had the honor to inform you of this at the time. The Ministers and everyone else believe it. However, this is what happened.

I had the honor to write you in a private letter before I left for Bath that M.[Benedict] Arnold had marched on Quebec and had captured the Point of Levi which is close enough to Quebec so that the city could be shelled from there. M. Arnold, who is quite simply a horse trader, left with fifteen hundred men of the Rebel army near Boston and spreading the rumor that he was marching towards Halifax. He embarked and made sail for the French[man's] bay, landed at Cas[c]o Bay, went up the Kimbeki [*sic* Kennebec]. He made a portage from the source of this river to Nansacanti, then went down the River of Etchemins to Quebec [2] The obstacles were almost insurmountable; he was abandoned by a third of his party. The Canadians helped him on the way with all sorts of assistance and he finally succeeded with this undertaking. Meanwhile, Colonel [Richard] Montgomery marched on fort Chambly and St. John and attracted to this region General [Guy] Carleton who, going ahead with the elite of his forces, left Canada and Quebec open to M. Arnold whom Colonel Montgomery must have rejoined immediately after his expedition. You will easily follow this bold undertaking Sir, on the maps of Canada drawn by M. D'Anville. . . .

Lord Weymouth acknowledges the treaty with the Landgrave of Hesse Cassel of which you were informed, Sir, by the last Bulletin. He told me, however, that this agreement was not signed yet, but that they had good reason to believe it would be. This minister stated positively that it was a matter of twelve thousand Hessians; that the Duke of Brunswick was giving five thousand of his own forces; that more were expected from a German Prince; that all would be embarked for America as soon as possible; and finally that England expected to have there eighteen thousand foreign troops at her service and at least as many national troops.

These are finally the real means; I would consider them sufficient if the greater part of these forces could be taken to Canada in order to attack the English Colonies on land from the rear, while, at the same time, a considerable fleet with landing troops could threaten the whole length of the American coast. But if the Canadians side with the American rebels, and if the united continent makes a common cause, this campaign will probably be like the last one and furthermore the Germans, who are slaves at home, will become recruits for the Americans. To believe those who know the Americans well and who were brought by their intrigues and their own opinions to study this matter closely, American independence is assured; especially once Canada is taken, the Ministry will no longer be in a position to prevent this misfortune with their plan involving force which they adopted so inconsiderably and carried out so poorly.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 514, 1307, LC Photocopy.
2. Arnold's force crossed the Height of Land to Lake Megantic, and descended the Chaudiere River to Point Levis.

Count de Guines to Count de Vergennes [1]

[Extract] London, 12 January

Indeed, Sir, nothing is more alarming than the factors which presently affect the foresight of the King's Council. Much can be feared from the rigorous measures of precaution taken by England in order to intercept all trade between Northern America and the rest of the world. To illustrate this point, I quote has just happened. Two Danish vessels have just been seized in the Channel on pretext that they were carrying ammunition to the Americans. They were taken to Dover; they were visited, insulted, but nothing was found.[2] Denmark requested that the English Captains be punished, but this cannot be done because Lord Suffolk made a ministerial declaration to the effect that this action had been taken on his orders. I don't even know what will result from this; the Danish Minister is waiting to see what his Court will reply in such circumstances. We must flatter ourselves that better attention will be given to the French and Spanish ships; but at the same time, we must not overlook the fact that the danger of a blazing rupture will always rest on the possibility that an English Captain will find a way to satisfy his cupidity under the protection of his instructions. Those that you have given me, Sir, are too important and I shall not neglect any means to conform to them with the scrupulous attention which, while revealing the coming dangers to the English Ministers, may show them how to forsee and prevent them.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 514, 1308, LC Photocopy.
2. See journal of H.M. Sloop *Speedwell,* November 5–8 and 21, 1775, and December 9–11 and 22–23, 1775.

"Extract of a Letter from Gosport, Jan. 12." [1]

Last night came down four large casks, containing money, which is going to be sent to Boston in his Majesty's ship *Milford,* Capt. [John] Burr, in order to pay the troops there.

1. *London Chronicle,* January 13 to January 16, 1776.

13 Jan.

London Chronicle, Thursday, January 11 to Saturday, January 13, 1776

London. January 13.

Great numbers of seamen have within these few days been sent from the houses of rendezvous in and about London, to the different ships they have entered for.

It is said, that advice by a ship just arrived at the Cove of Cork, in a quick passage from Virginia, that since Lord Dunmore's success in defeating the Virginian militia, four counties had voluntarily come in and swore allegiance to the Royal standard; that the King's forces under his command had been joined by upwards of 5000 effective men; and that the Provincials in that and the neighbouring colonies were, in consequence of this event, thrown into the utmost consternation.[1]

1. "The report of three provinces declaring for government, and joining Lord Dunmore, is false," *London Chronicle,* January 16 to January 18, 1776.

14 Jan. (Sunday)

"Extract of a Letter from Greenock, Jan. 14." [1]

Last post we received a letter from Captain James Laurie of the ship *Concord* of this place, dated Cambridge, in America, 6th of December, advising of his being taken by a provincial privateer, within 30 miles of Boston, after a hard passage of ten weeks and five days.[2]

1. *London Chronicle,* January 20 to January 23, 1776.
2. Taken by John Manley in Washington's armed schooner *Lee.*

"Extract of a Letter from Crookhaven, Jan. 14." [1]

The *Thunder* bomb is put in here by a strong easterly wind; she is one of Sir Peter Parker's squadron, and sailed from the Downs four weeks ago, in company with several other ships of war for Corke; but three of them have been dismasted or otherwise damaged, so as to prevent their proceeding till repaired, viz. the *Boreas, Triton* and *Deal Castle.*

[1] *London Chronicle,* February 6 to February 8, 1776.

M. D'ANGLEMONT TO GABRIEL DE SARTINE [1]

Milord, Boulogne, 14 January 1776

I had the honor to receive your dispatch of the 4th instant in which were enclosed copies of the letters from Count de Vergennes and Count of Stormont concerning the complaint made by this ambassador to the effect that there was presently in Dunkerque a vessel of 120 tons, called the *Charming Peggy* and commanded by Capt. [Gustavus] Conyngham, and which was suspected to have taken on powder. I have the honor to report to you that this ship arrived in Dunkerque on the 3rd of December last coming from Londonderry from whence she had sailed on the 11th of November; that she intended presently to take on spirits for England, but that M.Viguhard, Captain of the ship la *Breton* which carried the Hanovrian troops that had run aground on the coast of Dunkerque about two months ago, spread the rumor among the public that being moored by the flat boat for repairs with the ship The *Charming Peggy,* he had seen many barrels being taken on board the latter at night, which barrels he suspected to be filled with powder. This rumor was credited among the English and M. Frazer, Commissioner of His British Majesty went to see all the English brokers in order to obtain information with regard to the cargo of this ship and requested and obtained from the officers of the Admiralty that a visit be made. It took place on the 3rd instant and nothing was found except some ballast and some supplies which were probed throughout with iron-rods. I am certain that M. Frazer reported the results of this visit to his Court.

Moreover, the orders which you sent me to prevent the exportation from our ports of arms and war ammunition destined for the English Colonies are so precise that I give my strictest attention to them.

[Endorsed] Copy of the private letter from M. d'anglemont, General Commissioner of the Navy in Dunkerque, to M. de Sartine.

[1] AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 514, 1311, LC Photocopy.

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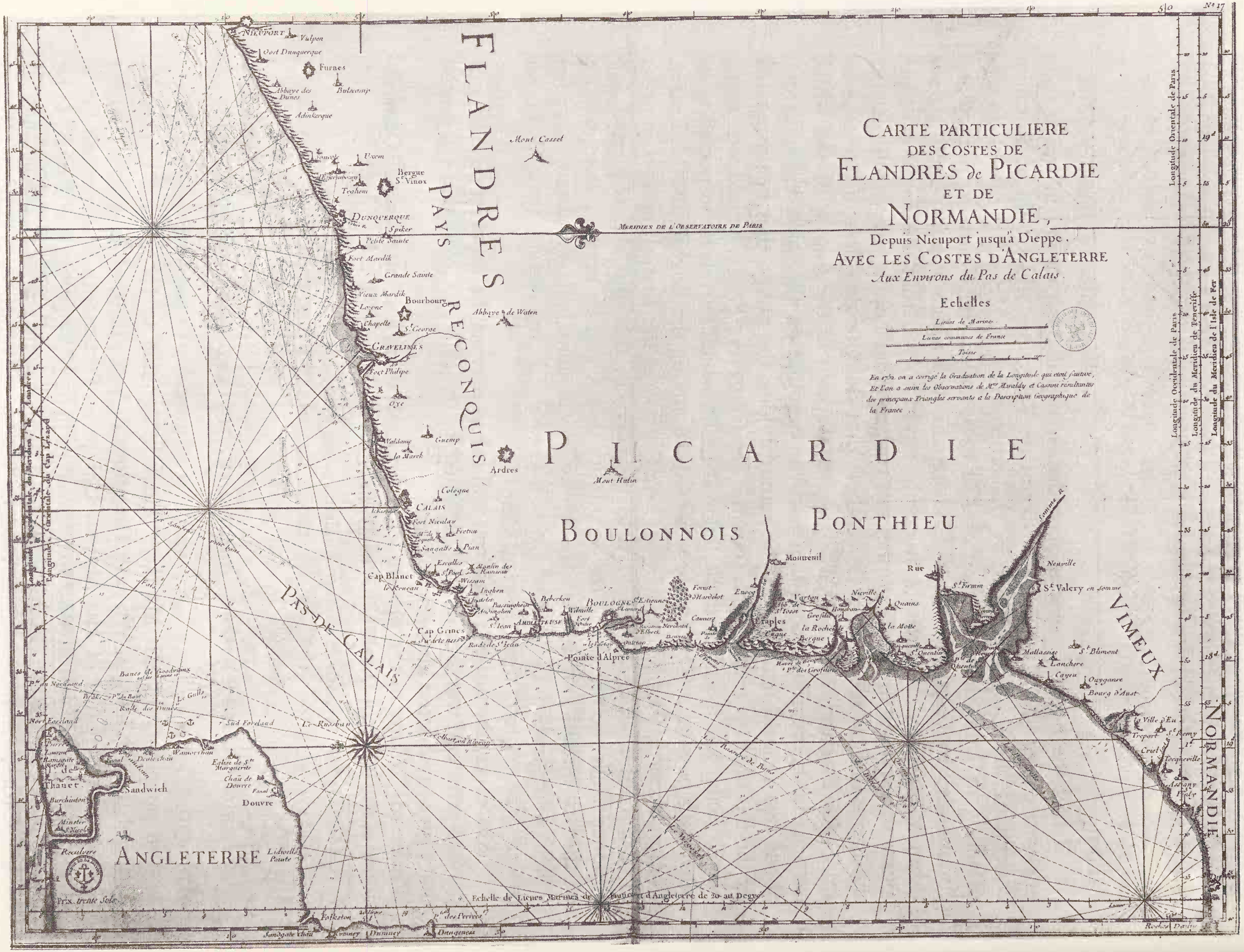
15 Jan.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN [1]

My Lord, Admiralty Office 15th Janry 1776.

In pursuance of His Majesty's Pleasure signified to Us in your Lordship's Letter of the 6th instant, We gave Directions to Vice Admiral Sir James Douglas Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships at Portsmouth to cause the Crew of the American Privateer who were brought home Prisoners in the *Tartar,* to be put on board one of the Guard Ships, & to be kept under proper Confinement till farther Order,[2] And Sir James Douglas having in return, acquainted Us that


N° 17
Carte particuliere
des Costes de
Flandres de Picardie
et de
Normandie,
Depuis Nieuport jusqu'à Dieppe.
Avec les Costes d'Angleterre
Aux Environs du Pas de Calais
Echelles
Lieues de Marine
Lieues communes de France
Toises
En 1752 on a corrigé la Graduation de la Longitude qui etoit fautive, Et l'on a suivi les Observations de Mrs Maraldy et Cassini résultantes des principaux Triangles servants a la Description Geographique de la France
Meridien de l'Observatoire de Paris
Longitude Orientale de Paris
Longitude Occidentale de Paris
Longitude du Meridien de Teneriffe
Longitude du Meridien de l'Isle de Fer
FLANDRES
PAYS RECONQUIS
PICARDIE
BOULONNOIS
PONTHIEU
VIMEUX
NORMANDIE
PAS DE CALAIS
ANGLETERRE
Nieuport
Vulpen
Oost Dunquerque
Furnes
Abbaye des Dunes
Bulscamp
Adinkerque
Uxem
Bergue St Vinox
Tethem
Dunquerque
Spiker
Petite Sainte
Fort Mardik
Grande Sainte
Vieux Mardik
Bourbourg
Lorone
Chapelle
St George
Gravelines
Fort Philipe
Oye
Valdame
la Marck
Guemp
Mont Cassel
Abbaye de Waten
Ardres
Mont Hulin
Cologne
Calais
Fort Nieulay
Fretun
Sangatte
Pian
Escalles
Wissam
Cap Blanet
le Reneau
Inghen
Ambleteuse
Cap Grinez
Rade de St Jean
Boulogne
Wimille
Pointe d'Alpres
Forest d'Hardelot
Camiers
Estaples
Montreuil
Rue
St Firmin
Quains
la Motte
St Quentin
Neuville
St Valery en Somme
Somme R.
Mallassise
Lanchere
St Blimont
Cayeu
Ouyganne
Bourg d'Ault
Ville d'Eu
Treport
St Remy
Criel
Tocqueville
Roches Dailly
Nort Foreland
Bancs de Goodwins
Sud Foreland
Le Ruspan
Le Gulls
Ramsgate
Isle de Thanet
Sandwich
Burchinton
Minster
St Nicolas
Reculvers
Walmer
Deale
Eglise de Ste Marguerite
Chau de Douvre
Douvre
Lidwells Pointe
Folkston
Sandgate Chau
Rumney
Dunney
Dungeness
des Perrées
Le Wasnel
Echelle de Lieues Marines de France et d'Angleterre de 20 au Degré
Prix trente Sols

some of the above Prisoners have had the small Pox on board the *Tartar*; That others are troubled with Disorders, & having no Cloaths, will, if removed into other Ships, in all probability carry their Disorders with them, and infest the Ships' Companies, which he is informed was the Case in some of the Ships at Boston, on board which Rebel Prisoners were sent; He hath therefore proposed these Prisoners may be sent to Haslar Hospital, put into small Pox Ward, & have clean Cloaths given them, without which the Infection cannot be removed; We are to desire Your Lordship will lay the same before His Majesty for His Information, in case it should be thought necessary, upon what Sir James Douglas hath represented, for Us to receive His Majesty's further Directions concerning the said Prisoners. We are &c

Sandwich. J.Buller. Hugh Palliser.

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1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/259, 13–14.
2. The crew of Washington's brig *Washington,* taken in December 1775. Douglas' orders are in PRO, Admiralty 2/551, 2–3.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN [1]

My Lord, Admiralty Office 15th Janry 1776.

Your Lordship having acquainted Us, by your letter of the 4th instant, that it is the King's Intentions every effort should be made to send relief to Quebec as early as possible, & that for this purpose three Ships of 180 Tons each have been contracted for to carry Provisions. And Your Lordship having at the same time signified His Majesty's Pleasure that one Fifty Gun Ship two Frigates and a Sloop of War be forthwith prepared to accompany those Victuallers, and to be ready to sail by the Middle of February, and also that two large Vessels be taken up to serve as Transports each of sufficient Tonnage to contain Provisions for Six Months for 300 Men, and likewise Accomodation for about ten commissioned Officers of His Majesty's Land Forces, and 188 Noncommissioned Officers & private Men, with half the Baggage & Camp Necessaries & Women belonging to a complete Battalion, and that these Vessels have each a Lieutenant on board. We are to acquaint Your Lordship that, in pursuance of His Majesty's said Pleasure, the Ships named in the Margin,[2] being both of them large Ships are taken up, & are fitted to serve as Transports, & that Lieutenant Thomas Pringle and Lieut Anthony Parry, who lately came Express from Quebec, have Our Orders to take charge of, & proceed, the former in the *Lord Howe,* the Latter in the *Bute*; And as these Vessels, together with the Ships of War mentioned in Your Lordship's Letter, will be ready by the time His Majesty hath been pleased to direct, We are to desire Your Lordship will signify to Us the King's further Pleasure whether any particular Directions are requisite to be inserted in the sailing Orders to be given to the Captains of His Majesty's Ships & whether some of the Men of War may not proceed to Sea, & make the best of their Way leaving a proper Convoy for the Protection of the Transport Vessels. We are &c

Sandwich. J Buller. Hugh Palliser.

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1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/259, 12–13.
2. *Lord Howe* and *Bute.*

GEORGE JACKSON TO JOHN POWNALL [1]

Sir, Admiralty Office 15th Janry 1776.

I am commanded by My Lords Commrs of the Admiralty to desire you will be at the trouble to learn, and inform them, if any of the Transports, which will be first ready for Service, are intended for the reception of Horses, such Information being necessary with respect to the further Orders their Lordships may give for their Equipment. I am &c.

Geo: Jackson D.S.

[1] PRO, Colonial Office, 5/259, 11–12.

Public Advertiser, MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 1776

London [January 15].

The Congress have appointed two Admirals, [Esek] Hopkins, a brave old seaman; and Brice, an Englishman. Also 300 marines and officers. They have sent Brice after Lord Dunmore, whom they intend to bring to trial for piracy. The Americans say, he has broken four of the Province laws, which he was bound by oath to preserve, any one of which is capital; therefore, in a paper printed there, "they just caution him, that his privilege of Peerage will not protect him in that Province." . . . Hopkins was to sail with his fleet on the 25th of December, to intercept the transports from England and Ireland.[1]

[1] This seems to have been the earliest account printed in England of the appointment of Esek Hopkins to command the Continental Fleet. The mythical "Brice" again appears.

London Chronicle, SATURDAY, JANUARY 13 TO TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 1776

London, January 15.

The naval force destined to act against America will, we hear, consist of fifty-six ships of war, from 50 to 15 guns each, besides sloops, bombs, &c. and will be manned by 16,000 seamen and 3000 marines; the expence of which will be 1,800,000 *l.* The army will consist of 34,000 effective men, which will cost 1,500,000 *l.* so that the whole of the armanent for America, by sea and land, for the year 1776, will be 53,000 men, and the expence 3,300,000 *l.*

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16 Jan.

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM [1]

Sr [Admiralty Office] 16 Jany 1776

I am commanded by my Lords Commrs of the Admty to send you herewith a Copy of their Order address'd to Vice Adml Graves or the Commr in Chief of His Majts Ships at Boston dated the 15th Octo last, directing him to Station one of the small Ships of His Squadron at the Bermuda Islands & another at the Island of Providence for the safety & preservation of the Ordnance & Stores belonging to His Majesty at those places And I am commanded by their Lordships to recommend it to you to cause the directions therein contained, if not carried into execution when this shall reach you, to be done with all the dispatch the nature of the Service will admit of, the securing of the Stores mentioned in the said Order being an Object of great consequence &c

GJ DS

By the *Milford*

(By Express at 2 PM under Cover to Commissr Ourry at Plymouth)

[1] PRO, Admiralty 2/551, 6.

London Chronicle, SATURDAY, JANUARY 13 TO TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 1776

London, Jan. 16.

It is *reported* that Brice, the American Commodore, with three armed vessels under his command, which mounted from 24 to 28 guns each, had fallen in with his Majesty's ship *Preston,* of 50 guns, and two frigates, when the Commodore was taken, together with his squadron, without exchanging one broadside, and carried into Boston.[1]

[1] While the report was without foundation in fact, it seemed to the printer, probably, an excellent way to dispose of the mythical "Brice."

VICE ADMIRAL SIR JAMES DOUGLAS TO PHILIP STEPHENS [1]

[Copy] *Resolution,* Spithead 16 Janry 1776

Please to acquaint the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that agreeable to their Order of the 10th Instant I have sent the Seventy Prisoners from the *Tartar* on board the *Centaur* at Spithead; and as all of them were bare of Cloaths and some of them almost naked I took upon me to order each of them, except the Officers, to be supplied with a Suit of Slop Cloaths, to be washed and cleaned and their old Cloaths to be thrown overboard to prevent Infection, being full of Vermin. I have ordered them to be mustered and have herewith inclosed the numbers and name of the Country in which each of them were born, who are all, except the Officers, desirous of entering into the King's Service, and would not choose to be sent back to America.

Rhode Island	32	Pensylvania	1
New England	20	New York	1
Old England	7	Quebec	1
Corke in Ireland	3	Lisbon in Portugal	1
Germany	2	Virginia	1
Philadelphia	1	Total	70

James Douglas

[1] PRO, Colonial Office, 5/123, 26b.

COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER TO PHILIP STEPHENS [1]

Sir *Bristol* Cove of Cork 16th Jany 1776

Be pleased to acquaint their Lordships, that this evening His Majesty's Ship *Acteon, Carcass* Bomb Tender, and *Earl of Darby,* Ordnance Vessel arrived here; and that Captain [Christopher] Atkins inform'd me that the *Solebay* sail'd from

Falmouth on Sunday the 7th instt with the Thirty four American Prisoners on board.[2] I am Sir [&c.]

P: Parker

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1. PRO, Admiralty 1/486.
2. Ethan Allen and the men captured with him before Montreal.

JOHN MARSH TO LORD WEYMOUTH [1]

Malaga, 16th January 1776.

I think it necessary to acquaint Your Lordship that information having been given me by two masters of English vessels, with their voluntary declarations on oath to the truth of what they affirmed, that an American sloop, under American colors, that put in here a few days since, by a contrary wind, from Barcelona bound to New York, had warlike stores on board, I thought it my duty to insist upon a proper scrutiny, and the search was accordingly made, but nothing found on board of what had been mentioned to me, tho' there were undoubtedly the greatest motives for suspicision, the sloop being of infinitely too small a burthen to suppose that a lawful trade at this juncture could be anyways answerable, added to the circumstance of her going from Cadiz to Barcelona with ballast, and returning here with the same, bound to New York.

Both the masters of the English vessels assert in their declaration, that they had had their intelligence from another who was at Barcelona when the American was there, who affirmed to them that he was confident arms had been shipped on board the sloop at that place, that he knew the person who had procured them for the American captain, and whom they were in particular intended for at New York.

So many circumstances concurring to enhance my suspicions, I thought it incumbent on me to take the step I have mentioned, and as similar cases may daily happen, I should be glad to be informed if my conduct in the present, meets His Majesty's approbation.

The Master had no pass, and the two English captains still insist that the arms were on board, but concealed in such a manner as not to be easily come at; he sailed a few hours after the search was made. I have great reason to think that many of those American vessels that have lately sailed from the different ports of this kingdom, bound to the continent, have carried with them warlike stores. I shall endeavour to prevent any thing of this kind happening here, tho' I suspect that two of them that left this port the latter end of October, did smuggle on board a small quantity of muskets, as I then advised the Earl of Rochford in my letter of the 31st of the said month.

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1. Letters and Extracts from the Correspondence of Lord Grantham In Spain, January 1776 to June 1779, Sparks Transcripts, I, 1–3, HU. Marsh was British Consul at Malaga.

17 Jan.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO VICE ADMIRAL JAMES DOUGLAS, PORTSMOUTH [1]

Whereas we think fit that the Complements of His Majestys Ships the *Arethusa* & *Thetis* shall be increased to Two Hundred Men to serve on board the said Ships during their present intended Voyage; You are hereby required & directed to cause Twenty Men each to be lent from the Guardships to complete the Complements of the said Ships to the aforementioned number accordingly their Captains being directed to receive & bear them as Supernumeraries. Given &c 17th Jany 1776

Sandwich J Buller H. Palliser

By &c G J DS

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 362.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAINS DIGBY DENT AND MITCHELL GRAHAM, R.N. [1]

Whereas we have thought fit that the Complement of the Ship you command shall be encreased to Two Hundred Men to serve on board during her present intended Voyage & having for that end given directions to Vice Adml Sr Jas Douglas Commr in Chief of His Majts Ships & Vessels at Portsmouth to cause Twenty Men to be lent from the Guardships at that Port; You are therefore hereby required & directed to receive the said additional Men bearing them as Supernumeraries for Wages & Victuals during their continuance on board.

Given &c 17th Jany 1776 Sandwich J Buller H. Palliser

Capt Dent – *Arethusa* – Spithead
" Graham – *Thetis* – Do
[By &c. G J DS]

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 362.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN [1]

My Lord Admiralty Office 17th Janry 1776.

Vice Admiral Sir James Douglas, Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels at Portsmouth, having acquainted Us by his Letter of Yesterday's date of his having sent the 70 Prisoners brought to England in the *Tartar*, on board the *Centaur* at Spithead, & that they are desirous (the Officers excepted) of entering into the King's Service. We send Your Lordship a Copy of Sir James Douglas's Letter for His Majesty's Information, submitting it to His Majesty whether it may not be advisable to permit the said Prisoners to enter on board the King's Ships as they desire. We are &c

Sandwich. J. Buller. H. Palliser.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/259, 15.

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL SIR JAMES DOUGLAS, PORTSMOUTH [1]

Sir [Admiralty Office] 17th January 1776

I have communicated to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty your Letter of yesterday's date, informing them of your having sent the Seventy american Prisoners from the *Tartar* on board the *Centaur* and that as all of them were bare of Cloaths and some of them almost naked you have ordered each of them except the Officers to be supplied with a Suit of Slop Cloaths to be washed and cleaned, and their old Cloaths to be thrown over board to prevent Infection being full of Vermin; also of your having caused them to be mustered, and that all except the Officers, are desirous of entering into the Kings Service and would not chuse to be sent back to America and I am commanded to acquaint you that their Lordships approve of what you have done and that Lord George Germain is made acquainted with what you represent respecting the said Prisoners inclination to enter into the Kings Service, for His Majesty's Information, and it is submitted whether it may not be adviseable to permit them to do so. I am &c.

Geo. Jackson D:S:

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/551, 14.

George Jackson to the Commissioners for Sick and Hurt [1]

Gentn [Admiralty Office] 17t January 1776

Having communicated to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty your Letter of the 15th Instant, transmitting in original a Letter you received from the Physician and Council of Haslar Hospital, with an order from Sir James Douglas addressed to the Agent directing him to receive into the said Hospital Seventy Prisoners from New England, and desiring that you may receive their Lordships directions thereupon; I am commanded by their Lordships to return you the said Papers, and to acquaint you that the said Men are put on board the *Centaur*, where they will remain til further Order. I am &c Geo. Jackson DS.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/551, 16.

"Extract of a Letter from Portsmouth, Jan. 17." [1]

This day sailed his Majesty's ships the *Milford,* Capt. [John] Burr, and *Boreas,* Capt. Thompson, with stores, &c. for the service of his Majesty's troops in America.

1. *London Chronicle,* January 16 to January 18, 1776.

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18 Jan.

Public Advertiser, Thursday, January 18, 1776

London [January 18].

The Ship called the *Washington* (after General Washington) taken by one of his Majesty's Ships from the Provincials, with 70 Men and 17 Guns on board, is arrived in the Downs, and Notice of her received at the Admiralty.[1]

1. An erroneous report; the *Washington* was left in Boston when the British evacuated in March, 1776.

"Extract of a Letter from Gosport, Jan. 18." [1]

Since my last the seventy-two Rebels that came home in the *Tartar* man of war, were ordered to be sent to Haslar hospital, and there to stay till opportunity will admit of their being sent back.

Yesterday the *Juno* frigate came out of dock.

The *Hazard* sloop is come out of dock, and is fitting for sea.

1. *London Chronicle,* January 23 to January 25, 1776.

19 Jan.

Count de Guines to Count de Vergennes[1]

[Extract] London 19 January 1776

Sir, I had a conference yesterday with Lord Weymouth on the important matter which you entrusted to my care in your despatch of 31 December last. I depicted to this Minister all the dangers presented by the last bill[2] and I made use of the remarks which you sent me concerning the possibilities that might disrupt the harmony which subsisted between this court and ours; they produced all the effect that could be expected. Lord Weymouth conceded that it would be necessary to give all the Captains of the English ships particular instructions with all the details and precisions required to keep them from abusing the terms of the Bill; he confessed to me that this would be absolutely essential in order to provide means of punishment against those who would commit infractions. He will talk about it with Lord Sandwich and the other Ministers of His British Majesty before next Thursday, and he asked me to assure you that all the necessary precautions would be taken so that order and equity be respected or at least to insure that on no account repairs, compensations or other acts of justice required in such circumstances shall be dispensed with. I will speak on this same subject to Lord Sandwich with whom I am intimately acquainted and I would not be surprised if I obtained even a copy of the particular instructions given to the Captains destined to cruise along the American coast.

a few days ago, I had a very interesting talk with a merchant who left Quebec on the 28th of October who has a business there as well as another one in Philadelphia where he spent part of last year and witnessed the beginnings of the disorders and their progress; he was more interested and in a better position than anyone to ponder their consequences . . .

This same merchant who, on his way from Philadelphia to Quebec, saw all the military forces of the Americans and is personally acquainted with their commanders has views which are quite different from those to which the supporters of the Government try to give credit here. Their army is well paid, well clothed, well armed and full of good will and zeal. All the country people have become more soldiers at heart than farmers; thus, this army is countless and led by officers several of whom are German and well experienced. They even have good engineers; this merchant saw them fortify Ticonderoga, Crown Point and a fort on the river of Philadelphia, 20 miles below the city, which opposes the approach of even the largest ships as it is so strongly built. Finally, the Americans have foundries; they manufacture salt petre and powder; paper money is circulated with great confidence; even the merchants are determined to limit their trade to the local resources and to secure real and eternal advantages through this temporary inconvenience. . . .

The Landgrave of Hesse has agreed to furnish troops to the English Commissioners on the 1st of April only; it will take these troops a month to march to Stade where they will embark; the month of July will almost be over before they are taken to America and ready for action.

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[1] AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 514, 1313, LC Photocopy.

[2] Prohibitory Act.

GEORGE JACKSON TO JOHN POWNALL [1]

Sir, Admiralty Office 19th January 1776.

The Navy Board having informed My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that the *Dorothy* Transport, which is fitted to carry 100. Soldiers of the 29th Regiment from Sheerness to Plymouth, would have sailed the 14th if the great Quantitys of Ice in the River had not prevented, and that the same Cause had made it impossible for anything to be done on board the *Lord Howe* and the *Bute* Transports, which are fitted for Service to Quebec, I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you therewith for Lord George Germain's Information. I am &c

Geo: Jackson D.S.

[1] PRO, Colonial Office, 5/259, 16.

LORD GEORGE GERMAIN TO THE LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY [1]

My Lords, Whitehall 19th Janry 1776

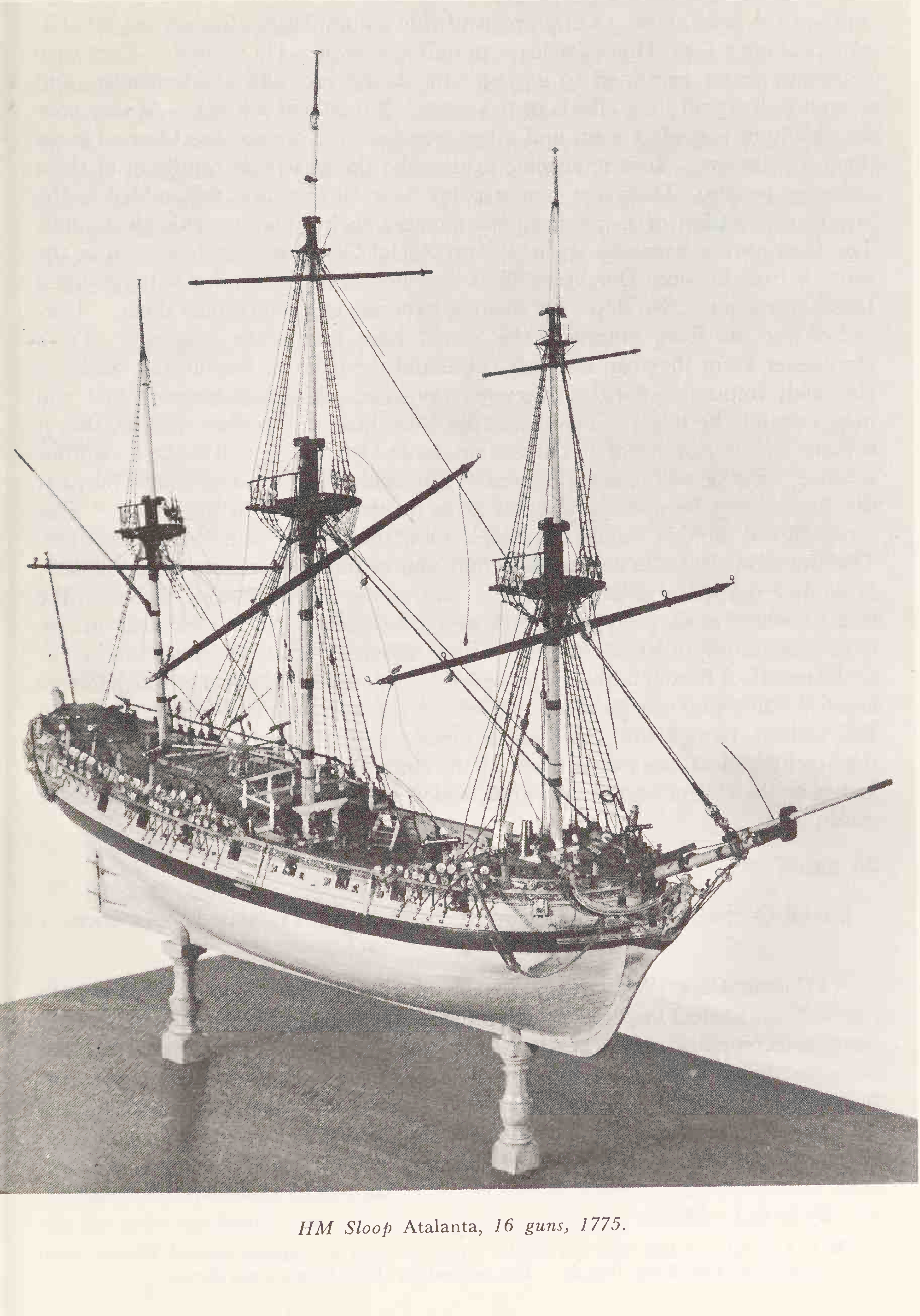
Having laid before the King Your Lordship's Letter of the 17th Instant, inclosing Copy of a Letter from Vice Admiral Sir James Douglas, stating his Proceedings in regard to the Prisoners brought home in the *Tartar* Man of War, and the Desire of all the private Men to return to their Allegiance and engage in His Majesty's Service; His Majesty, whose Magnanimity is only equalled by His Clemency, commands me to acquaint Your Lordships, that His Majesty very much approves the humane & prudent Treatment which the Vice Admiral has shewn to those Prisoners, and to signify to Your Lordships His Majesty's most gracious Acceptance of the Offer of those deluded Persons to return to their Allegiance, and His Royal Permission to be received into His Majesty's Service on board his Fleet; and Your Lordships will give the necessary Directions to Sir James Douglass, for entering and distributing them on board His Majesty's Ships, in such manner as Your Lordships shall think fit.

[1] PRO, Colonial Office, 5/123, 27.

London Chronicle, THURSDAY, JANUARY 18 TO SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 1776

London. January 19.

The difference between General Howe and Admiral Graves, at Boston, no matter from what cause originating, has arisen to such a height, that the Admiral treats the military with great contempt. General Howe is obliged to repair the light-house with his own people; the Admiral refused to have any thing to do with it. The distress of the troops and inhabitants in Boston, is great beyond all possible degree of description. This account is dated December 14. Neither vegetables, flour, nor pulse, for the inhabitants; and the King's stores so very short, none can be spared from them. No fuel; and the winter set in remarkably severe. The troops, and inhabitants, absolutely, and literally, starving for want of provisions and fire. Even salt provision is fifteen pence sterling per pound. The only three coal ships from England, which had been able to get near Boston, were



HM Sloop Atalanta, *16 guns, 1775.*

taken at the mouth of the harbour by the American privateers; as was also a vessel with live-stock from Halifax. They boarded another vessel within two miles of the light-house. On account of this accumulating distress, the inhabitants petitioned Gen. Howe for leave to quit the town. He refused. They then petitioned to be permitted to go out with their wives and children only; and offered to leave all their effects in the town. But he still refused. As they consist chiefly of the select men, and other principal inhabitants, the General keeps them as hostages. It is impossible to describe the miserable condition of these unhappy people. Language cannot paint their distress; and this, added to the hourly expectation of a bombardment, makes their situation truly deplorable. The frost having begun to set in, the provincial Generals intend, as soon as the water is froze between Dorchester Neck and Boston Neck, to erect batteries upon Dorchester Point. No ships, nor floating batteries, can then annoy them. They waited for the frost, otherwise this would have been done long ago. From Dorchester Point they can not only command the town of Boston, but render it absolutely impossible for the troops to stay in it. – This is a measure that will most certainly be taken. The next news from Boston, therefore, will be, that it is taken by the Americans. There is no doubt Gen. Howe will make a vigorous defence. But he will be overpowered. The town, it is probable, will be burned; that it may not be made a place of arms for the regulars in the spring. This attack, it was thought, would commence about the 17th or 18th of December last. The Americans ridicule the excessive folly and extreme ignorance of the ministry, in sending transports to Boston, with troops, stores, and provisions, so late in the season; when, as they say, the north-west winds alone will prevent four in five from ever getting to North America. The American privateers constantly cruize at the mouth of Boston harbour and between Cape Cod, Cape Anne, and Jefferys's Ledge. Only four companies of one of the last two regiments which were sent had arrived, though the whole sailed together. The other six companies, and the other regiment, are lost or taken by the Americans, or drove away to the West Indies by the violent north-west winds, which are common upon that coast at this season.

20 Jan.

Lords Commissioners, Admiralty, to Captain Thomas Underwood, H.M. Sloop *Atalanta*[1]

Whereas Capt [William] Cornwallis of His Majestys Ship the *Pallas* hath received our Orders to proceed with that Ship together with the *Weazle* and the Sloop you command upon a particular Service; You are hereby required & directed notwithstanding any Orders you may be under from Capt Cornwallis to the contrary to proceed with His Majesty's Sloop under your command to such part of the Coast as you may think most likely to meet with him.

Given &c 20th Jany 1776

Sandwich J Buller H Palliser

By &c G J DS

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 364. A similar letter was sent to Captain Samuel Warren, commanding H.M. Sloop *Weazle*. The destination of the letters is not given.

GEORGE JACKSON TO JOHN POWNALL [1]

Sir, Admiralty Office 20th Janry 1776.

The *Charming Sally, Hope,* and *Russian Merchant* Ordnance Storeships which were intended to have gone to North America, under Convoy of the *Actaeon,* but were afterwards left to go under Convoy of any other Ship that might be ordered thither, being still at Spithead waiting for Convoy; I am commanded by My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you therewith for Lord George Germain's Information, and to desire you will let them know if the said Ships are to proceed to Boston as at first intended, as their Lordships in that case will give Orders to the Ships of War which may convoy the first Embarkation of Troops to that part of America to take these Storeships under Convoy also. I am &c

Geo: Jackson D.S.

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1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/259, 16–17.

GEORGE JACKSON TO THE BRITISH NAVY BOARD [1]

Gentn [Admiralty Office] 20th Jany 1776

I am commanded by my Lords Commrs of the Admty to signify their direction to you in consequence of what passed on your attendance upon them this Morning upon the Subject of providing Ships to serve as Armed Vessels in No America, to propose to them a method of taking up Ships for this Service, observing that if such Vessels as offer are capable of being Armed, it will not be necessary to pay regard to the nature of their construction, And that you are to give the preference to such Vessels as are not fit to be employed as Transports which is a Service that must not be interfered with.

I have it farther in Command from their Lordships to recommend it to you to treat with the Owners of the *Lord Howe* & *Bute* Transports, in order to their being employed as Armed Vessels when the Troops they are at present ordered to Carry to Quebec are landed at some Port in No America &c

G J DS

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1. PRO, Admiralty 2/551, 21–22.

21 Jan. (Sunday)

GEORGE JACKSON TO PETER MITCHELL [1]

Sir, [Admiralty Office] 21st Janry 1776.

A Paper of Intelligence having been transmitted to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty representing that two Ships, one to carry 34 Guns, & the other 30, with two single decked Brigantines to mount 16 Guns each, are fitting out at Philadelphia, and that they were to be joined by a 20 Gun Ship from Rhode Island, and to proceed to the Island of Ascension and cruize betwixt that place & the Island of St Helena for the homeward bound East Indian Ships. – My Lords immediately upon receipt thereof took into consideration the measures that would be the most adviseable not only for the intercepting the aforementioned Cruizers should they proceed into those parts, but to protect and defeat any attempts that may be made on the homeward bound East India Ships; and, in consequence of their own Opinion on the Subject, and of what has passed at several Meetings with the Chairman & Deputy Chairman of the East India Company, their Lordships have thought it expedient to appoint the two Frigates mentioned in the Margin for the Services aforementioned, and which they expect will be ready to proceed to the Island of St Helena in a few days.[2]

I have their Lordships directions to add for the information of the Secret Committee, that the Captain of the *Arethusa* (after calling at Madeira & St Iago for refreshments) will be directed to make the best of his way to St Helena, and return from thence to England with such Ships under his Convoy, and at such time as the Governor, to whom he is to apply, shall signify to him will be the most convenient and effectual to the Service of the Company.

The Captain of the *Thetis*, after calling for refreshments as aforementioned will be directed to keep to the Eastward along the Coast of Guinea, 'til he is in a situation to enable him to fetch the Island of Ascension, where he is to proceed and cruize round the said Island so long as his Provisions and Water will allow; reserving sufficient to carry the Ship to St Helena, where he is then to make the best of his way, and from thence return to England under the like Orders as are described for the *Arethusa*.

Besides the said Frigates their Lordships have thought it further adviseable to send directions to the Captain of the Ship and Sloops named in the Margin,[3] which are at present stationed on the Coast of Africa, to proceed to the Island of Ascension, and cruize at and about it so long as their Water & Provisions will allow, in hopes if any American Cruizers shall be in those Seas, of their falling in with them. – Having so done, the *Pallas* and *Atalanta* are to proceed to Jamaica agreable to former Orders, and, in case of falling in with any Homeward bound India Ships to take them under Convoy so far as their way lye together: The Captain of the *Weazle* being order'd to return immediately to England, he is, under the event of falling in with any of the said Ships, to take them under his Convoy 'til he shall arrive on the Coast.

The Chairman & Deputy Chairman having observed to my Lords that a Vessel is on the point of sailing with Advices from them to the Island of St Helena, I send you therefore a Pacquet directed to the Governor & Council of Cape Coast Castle, containing their Orders to the Captains of the Ship & Sloops on the Coast of Africa; and am to desire the same may be forwarded in her, together with an Order which is under a flying Seal from the African Committee to their Governor & Council at the Fort aforementioned, directing them to forward the Orders to His Majesty's Ships upon whatever part of the Coast they may happen to be when the same shall be received.

I send you also other Dispatches directed to the Captains of the aforesaid Ship & Sloops respectively, being Duplicates of those under Cover to the Governor & Council at Cape Coast Castle, which Duplicates the Officer commanding the East India Packet not having met with the King's Ships before, is to deliver to them in his way to St Helena, or Princes Island or St Thomas's, – where it is hoped he cannot fail to find them; but it is not expected he should delay his Voyage by waiting for them at either Place. I am &ca

Geo Jackson DS.

Peter Mitchell Esqr East India House.

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1. PRO, Admiralty 2/1333, LC Photocopy.
2. *Arethusa,* 32 guns, and *Thetis,* 32 guns.
3. *Pallas,* 36 guns; Sloops *Atalanta* and *Weazle,* of 14 guns each.

JOHN BODDINGTON TO JOHN POWNALL [1]

Dear Sir. Tower – Sunday 21 Jan: 1776

The Ordnance Storeships mentioned in Mr [George] Jackson's Letter are as follows –

For Boston	The *Russia Merchant* . . .	Has on board 500 Barrels of Gunpowder – and great part of Captn [John] Montresor's Demand of the 19 August
	The *Hope*	Has 1600 Carbines – 1500 Barrls [of Gunpowder] and the remainder of Captn Montresor's Demand of the 19 August
	The *Charming Sally*	Has on board – Iron Ordnce Shot Powder and Stores for the Fleet – 1000 Stand of Arms & Barrack Bedding for 3 Regiments all Consigned to Halifax –

Your Letter contains the first and only Intelligence to this Office of their being still at Spithead

I am Dear Sir [&c.]
John Boddington

P.S. These Ships were ordered to proceed with Convoy & application made for the same, therefore orders will be necessary for Convoy to be appointed. The *Russia Merchant* & *Hope** were first intended for North Carolina, afterwards Countermanded & ordered for Boston, since which no alteration has been made in their Destination

[Endorsement] *These sailed under the *Greyhound* for Boston; the *Russia Merchant* reached Halifax in May & the *Hope* was taken by the Americans.

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1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/162, 61–64.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CHATHAM, JAN. 21." [1]

Friday [January 19] orders were received at the Commissioner's office in this dock yord, for the *Richmond, Diamond, Lark, Ambuscade,* and *Amazon* Frigates, to be fitted out with the greatest expedition for America.

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1. *London Chornicle,* January 23 to January 25, 1776.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PORTSMOUTH, JAN. 21." [1]

Prompted by a paragraph in one of the evening papers I went to see the American prisoners brought home by the *Tartar.* I intended to contribute something towards cloathing them, and expected to find them all in irons; but how great was my disappointment, when I found them removed from the *Tartar* to the *Resolution,* at free liberty, victualled the same as the ship's company, and since removed on board the *Centaur,* where their old cloaths were changed for new, at the expence of Government; this surprised me much.

The weather has been so bad that few would venture to the place, nor do I find many of the American friends so free with their contributions. The commander of these poor Americans, who seems to be an intelligent man, gave me the following information: I think he said his name was Nightingale,[2] that being bred to the sea, he was commanded, by General Washington, together with seventy men, to fit out the vessel, and although he saw the impropriety of embarking in such hazardous enterprizes, and represented to the General the same; and though a petition was drawn up by the whole crew, and sent, begging they might return again to the camp, their answer was, that if they did not proceed to sea immediately, they were to be sent to him in irons, and would have been hanged as traitors to America, for daring to refuse his orders.

Many of them say they are married men, and were forced into the field against their own inclination; that the common soldiers grumbled much at their situation, and, in fact, that the whole camp is in such a state of rebellion against their commanders, that they entertain not one doubt but the army before Boston is by this time dispersed; . . . As these people are under no apprehensions, kindly treated, denied no liberty but that of going on shore, these facts may easily be credited, as they were not forced into a confession.[3]

P.S. The sick, to near twenty, are in Hasler Hospital: I believe one is dead of the small-pox.

1. *London Chronicle,* January 25 to January 27, 1776.
2. Captain Sion Martindale.
3. John Walkar, a member of the crew, wrote, in a letter to Benjamin Franklin, dated February 19, 1779, "when we got home to England our Captain patitiand to the Cort that his men ware willing to serve S.M.volontirily which was falce & by that he was Sent home to amarica again & I was put on bord of the *royal oak* & frome thence on bord of the *ousstrige*[*Ostrich*] & was Sent awy to the west Enges [Indies]," Franklin Papers, XIII, 123, APS. John Vail, gunner's mate on board the *Washington,* deposed, "We arrived in England in January, 1776, we were then put into the Hospital, the greater part of the crew being sick in consequence of the confinement during the voyage, where many died – I remained in imprisonment about sixteen months when I made my escape – . . . According to my best recollection nearly one third of the crew died in the hospital –" *Life of Israel R. Potter,* 107–08.

"Extract of a Letter from Plymouth, Jan. 21." [1]

Last night went out of dock his Majesty's ship *Deal Castle,* having had her leaks stopt, and the damage she received when on shore repaired.

We have now fitted at this port for America, and will soon be ready for sea, the *Triton, Surprize, Martin,* and *Deal Castle* ships of war.

1. *London Chronicle,* January 25 to January 27, 1776.

Commodore Sir Peter Parker to George Jackson [1]

Sir *Bristol* Cove of Cork 21st Jany 1776

I have received your Letter of the 8th instt inclosing a Copy of an Article of Intelligence respecting Virginia and Maryland, which I shall endeavor to make a proper use of when occasion offers. – I have also received the Duplicate of your Letter of the 8th instt giving an Account of the return of the *Triton* to Plymouth, dismasted, and that their Lordships had order'd the *Milford,* which was then at Spithead, to carry the Dispatches &ca. to Rear Admiral Shuldham. The 16th instt I inform'd their Lordships of the arrival of the *Actaeon, Carcass* Bomb Tender, and the *Earl of Darby* Ordnance Ship. – This evening His Majesty's Ship *Solebay* arrived here, and also the *Friendship* Arm'd Ship. – Inclos'd is the State and Condition of His Majesty's Ships under my Command at this Port. I am Sir [&c.]

P: Parker

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/486.

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22 Jan.

Lord George Germain to the Lords Commissioners, Admiralty [1]

My Lords, Whitehall, 22d January 1776

Having laid before the King your Lordships Letter to me, of the 15th Inst in which you desire to be informed whether any particular Directions are necessary to be inserted in the sailing Instructions to the Captains of His Majesty's Ships, under orders to proceed to Quebec, and whether some of them may not put to Sea, and make the best of their way, leaving proper Convoy for the Victuallers & Storeships; I am commanded to signify to your Lordships His Majesty's pleasure, that Isle aux Coudres, in the River St Lawrence, be the place of Rendezvous for all the Ships of which the early Fleet for the relief of Quebec, is to consist, that the Commander of each Ship be Instructed that, if upon entering the Gulph of St Laurence, he shall find the Passage through the Gulph impracticable, on account of the Ice, he do make the nearest & safest weather Port, watching with great Attention, the earliest Opportunity of proceeding upon his Voyage; that upon his arrival off Kamaraska he should use his utmost endeavors to procure Intelligence from the Inhabitants of that Parish, of the State of Quebec, and in case he shall learn that the Town is still in His Majesty's Possession, that he do exert his utmost Efforts to get up to the Bason, or as near to it as possible, contriving all practicable means of sending Intelligence to Major General Carleton of his arrival, and of the relief which may be expected, and also desiring his advice & Directions with respect to such further steps as it may be proper to take; But, if on the contrary he should learn, that the Town of Quebec has been taken by the Rebels, he is not to proceed higher up the River than the Isle aux Coudres, where, it is hoped, the 29th Regiment may be landed & continue in safety, under the Protection of His Majesty's Ships, until the arrival of the larger Body of Forces, which will Sail from Ireland, early in the Month of March. –

What your Lordships have suggested of the Propriety of some of the King's Ships destined for this Service proceeding to Sea, before the rest, is approved by the King & your Lordships will give the necessary Orders accordingly. – I am & ca

Geo: Germain

[1] PRO, Colonial Office, 5/123, 32.

LORD GEORGE GERMAIN TO THE LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY [1]

My Lords, Whitehall 22d January 1776.

Having laid before the King Your Lordship's Letter to me of the 11th instant, on the subject of the Steps it may be advisable to pursue, in case of any Attempt by the Rebels upon West Florida; It is His Majesty's Pleasure to recall the Orders upon that head, contained in my letter to you of the 6th instant, and I am to signify to you His Majesty's Commands that Rear Admiral [Clark] Gayton be instructed that he do, as soon as conveniently may be, place one of the small Ships of his Squadron upon the Station of Pensacola, and that he do also procure, & fit out, a proper armed Vessel, drawing about 6 foot Water abaft, & mounting 2 four Pounders & 2 three Pounders to be stationed in the Lakes Pontchartrain and Maurepas, in order to intercept any Craft that may attempt to pass through that Channel, with an Intention to commit Hostilities in West Florida.

It is also His Majesty's further Pleasure that Rear Admiral Gayton should be instructed that, if at any time he should receive Intelligence of West Florida being invaded by the Rebels, he do in that case immediately send such part of his Squadron to Pensacola, for its Relief & Protection, as can be spared from the necessary Services of the Jamaica Station. I am & ca

Geo Germain

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[1] PRO, Colonial Office, 5/123, 33.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM GOSPORT, JAN. 22." [1]

Yesterday sailed his Majesty's ship *Acteon*, Capt. [Christopher] Atkins, for America, and the *Carcase* Bomb for Ireland.

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[1] *London Chronicle,* January 25 to January 27, 1776.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CORKE, JAN. 22." [1]

His Majesty's ship *Solebay* arrived yesterday at Cove, and we hear has on board Ethan Allen, and some other Americans who were lately sent home prisoners, and are now sending back to America.

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[1] *London Chronicle,* February 6 to February 8, 1776.

COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER TO GEORGE JACKSON [1]

Sir *Bristol* Cove of Cork 22 Jany 1776

Please to acquaint their Lordships that this evening His Majesty's Ship *Active* came in here, and by her I received the Original Letter dated the 8th instt relative to the return of the *Triton,* and the *Milford's* being order'd to carry her dispatches to Rear Admiral Shuldham. I am Sir [&c.]

P: Parker

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 1/486.

CARON DE BEAUMARCHAIS TO LOUIS XVI [1]

[January 22, 1776] [2]

To the King Only.

Sire, – When considerations of State impel you to extend a helping hand to the Americans, Policy requires that your Majesty proceed with such caution, that aid secretly conveyed to America may not become in Europe a brand to kindle strife between France and England. Above all, it is the part of prudence to be certain that the money cannot possibly pass into other hands than those of your own choice. Moreover, since the present state of the finances does not at once permit of as great an expenditure as events seem to require, it is my duty, Sire, to submit to your judgement the following plan, having for its principal object, under the semblance of a purely commercial affair, to remove all suspicion that your Majesty or your Council are at all interested in the matter.

Another advantage of this plan is that your Majesty's Council can easily, and at a glance, follow the money throughout all its changes in the course of trade, from the generous hand of the giver to the grateful hand of the receiver, without a fear of its diversion or loss through dishonest agents.

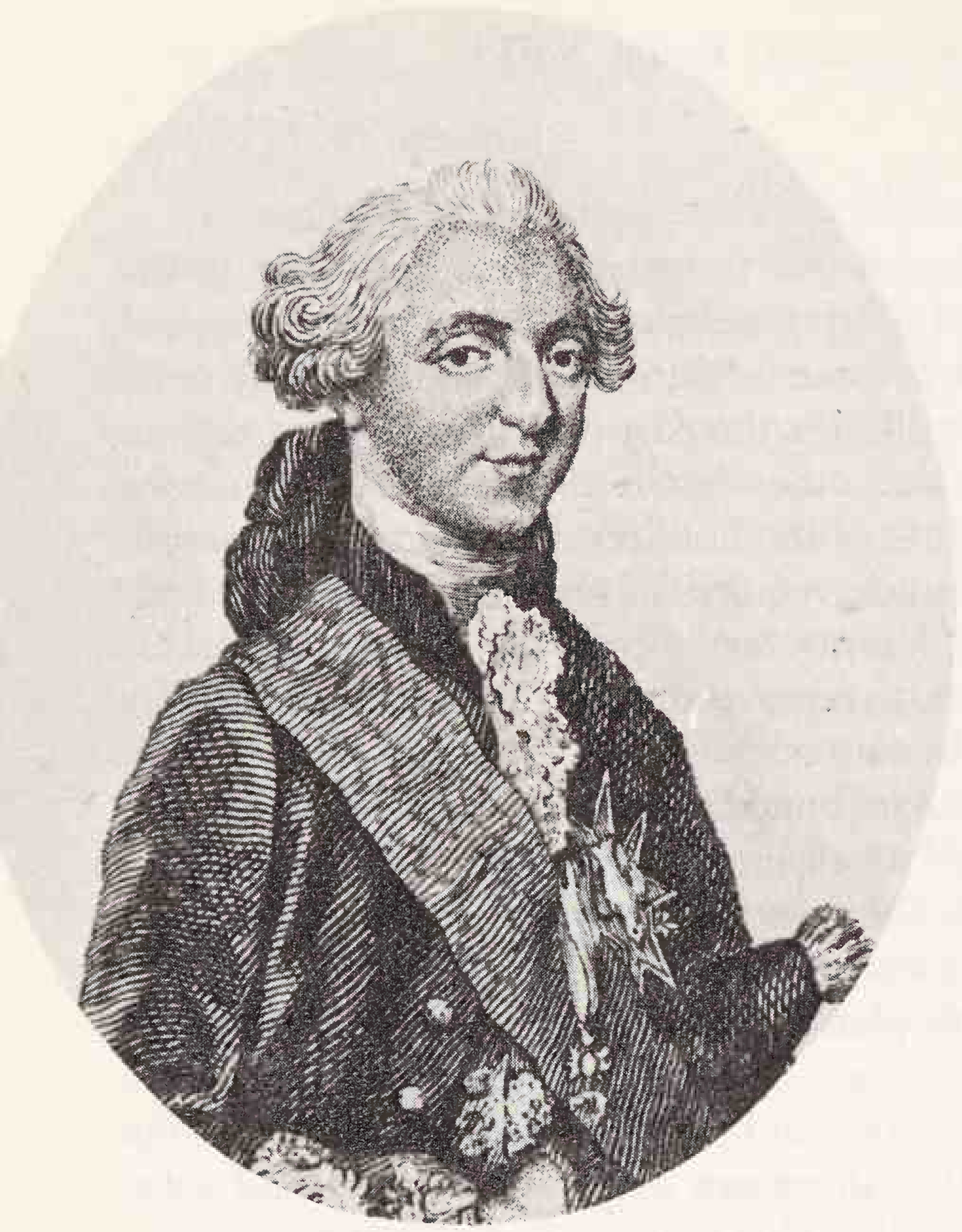
But the principal advantage of this plan is, that it increases the prestige and maintains the continuity of your aid to such a degree, that by multiplying this money by its increase, a single million enhanced by being again put in circulation produces the same results in favor of the Americans as if your Majesty had actually paid out nine millions for their benefit. This requires further explanation.

Finally, this plan, in execution, unites with many other advantages, the power of retarding or accelerating the course of these supplies as your prudence may dictate, and according as the situation of the Americans becomes more or less pressing, with the result that these aids, wisely administered, will serve not so much to terminate the war between America and England, as to sustain and keep it alive to the detriment of the English, our natural and pronounced enemies.

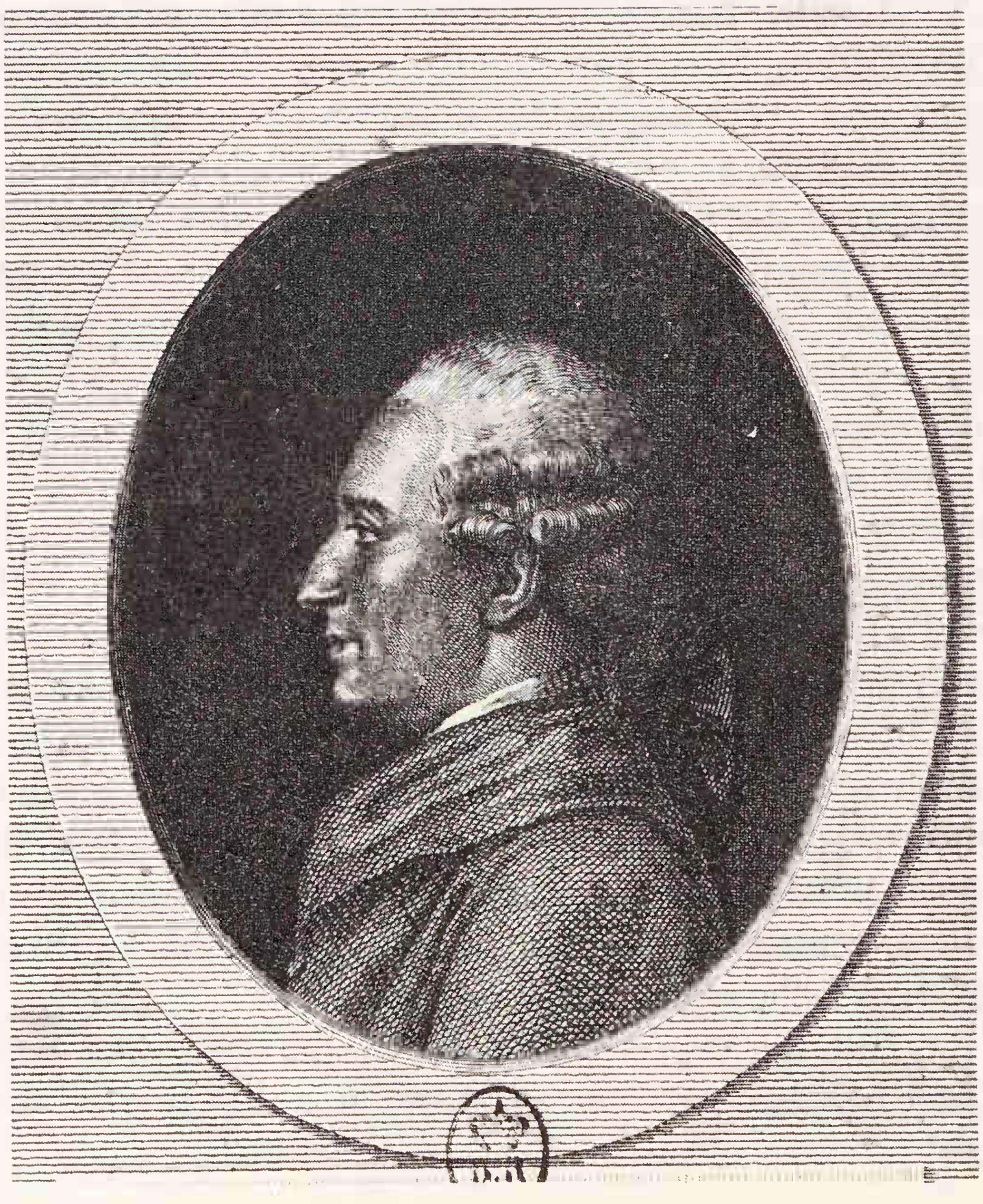
Besides, should your Majesty in pursuance of this important object be obliged to increase the amount, it is certain that every million spent by you to enable the Americans to defend their soil, will cost the English 100 millions, if they persevere in going 2,000 leagues from home to attack them. In other words, to sacrifice a million in order to occasion a loss of 100 millions to England, is precisely the same thing as advancing a million to gain ninety-nine millions; and, in a calculation of chances throughout the longest reign, it is impossible, Sire, that you could ever find another opportunity to make a less expensive, more practical or greater gain.

Let us consider the details of the scheme. The unvarying impression of this affair to the majority of the Congress, should be the delusion, that your Majesty has nothing to do with it, but that a Company is about to entrust a certain sum to the prudence of a trusted agent, to furnish continuous aid to the Americans by the promptest and surest methods, in exchange for returns in the shape of tobacco. Secrecy is the essence of all the rest.

But the two vital points of the operation are, first, the ease with which your Majesty may obtain as much power as you wish, at a moderate price, and,



Louis XVI.



Caron de Beaumarchais.

second, the impossibility of the Fermiers-Généraux now obtaining tobacco at any price whatever. Admitting this, I would proceed as follows:

Your Majesty will begin by placing one million at the disposal of your agent, who will style himself Roderique Hortalez and Company, this being the signature and title of the firm under which I have agreed to conduct the entire business. One half of this sum, changed into moidores or Portuguese pieces, the only foreign money that passes in America, will be immediately forwarded thither; for it is necessary that the Americans should have a little gold at once, to put in circulation their own paper money which, lacking this impetus, is likely to become valueless and stagnant. It is the leaven that must be poured on the heavy dough to make it rise and properly ferment.

From this half million, no other benefit can be derived than its return in the form of Virginia tobacco which the Congress ought to furnish to the Firm of Hortalez, the Ferme-Général having previously agreed with the latter to purchase the tobacco at a good price. Yet, this is of small consequence.

Roderique Hortalez intends to use the remaining half million in procuring powder, and in conveying it without delay to the Americans. Instead, however, of buying this powder in Holland, or even in France at the current prices of 20 or 30 sols tournois a pound, the price at which the Dutch hold it, or even higher, when supplying the Americans, the real device of the operation consisting, as Roderique Hortalez hopes, in secretly procuring, with the sanction of your Majesty, all necessary powder and saltpetre of your Registrars, on a basis of from four to six sols a pound.

If the firm of Hortalez contracts with the Americans to forward to them powder on the basis of 20 sols a pound, and pays the equivalent to the merchants, it cannot send to Philadelphia for the remaining 500,000 livres more than 500 milliers of powder, and this second operation will be as barren as the first, in regard to the gold coin, nor will it yield further profit, beyond a payment in tobacco, confining the speculation to the same return as in the first instance. As has been stated, this is of small consequence in itself.

But if Hortalez secretly obtains powder from your Majesty's Registrars, at 5 sols a pound, with the 500,000 livres remaining he can obtain 2,000 milliers, or 20 thousand quintals, of powder, which forwarded to America, at 20 sols a pound, will leave Congress in debt to Hortalez to the amount of 2 millions tournois. The profits, returning in the shape of tobacco, sold in advance to the Ferme-Général, will enable the firm of Hortalez to settle with the real owner, namely, your Majesty, for the sum of two million five hundred thousand livres; and in addition there remains to be calculated the profit on sales of tobacco, that may rise in round numbers to 500,000 livres.

The return of these various sums will place at the disposition of Hortalez an actual capital of 3 millions, with which to renew the operation, to rehabilitate the American paper money with 1,500,000 livres in gold, and to supply American mortars and cannon with 60,000 quintals of powder, while this 60,000 quintals, although costing Roderique Hortalez but 15 thousand livres, will nevertheless make the Americans his debtors to the amount of 9 millions in return for both the powder and the Portuguese gold received by them.

Enough has been stated to demonstrate to your Majesty, how the returns in this affair treated in accordance with a large conception of the principles of commerce ought to grow by circulation, not merely by using two for a multiple, as 1,2,4,8, etc., but by using three, as 1,3,9,27, etc.; for if the first million produced three, these three employed in further operations on the same theory, ought to produce 9, and these 9, 27 etc., as I think that I have sufficiently demonstrated.

Your Majesty will not mistrust the plan as I have stated it, because of its complications, when you realize that no commercial speculation either advances or succeeds by a method more simple or natural than this.

I have exhibited the matter to you, Sire, in the character of a large merchant who wishes to speculate to advantage, and I have explained the real secret by which a wholesale business, drawing its profits from abroad, by a profitable exchange of its returns, increases the prosperity of all nations sufficiently intelligent to foster it. This art is far superior to that of the financier, who, invariably drawing his profits from speculations at home, directed against the subjects of the home government, cannot increase the revenue except at the expense of the manner of life of the governed. Thus, instead of the healthy plethora occasioned by commerce, that destructive science only produces a monstrous swelling like a tumor on the head, the result of penury, discomfort, and the general clogging of all other parts of a sickly body.

But to return to the subject, my primary object is less to embark your Majesty on a lucrative speculation than to secure to your first gifts the air and effect of a much larger sum.

The outcome of my first operation, above described, will be the receipt by the Americans from your Majesty, through Hortalez, of actual aid to the amount of 2 millions 500 thousand livres; that is, 500 thousand livres in gold and 2 millions in powder, while your Majesty will have parted with only one million livres. Besides, if the assets in tobacco and the sale of this return proceed as I have indicated, your Majesty can soon recommence, by the hand of Hortalez, the redistribution of the three millions arising from the sale and profit of these returns, and begin the operation anew on a larger scale. Thus, following the geometrical progression indicated above, the Americans will have received in two installments from your Majesty a sum of 9 millions – that is to say, 2 millions in gold, and 7 millions in powder – although your Majesty, having merely invested a second time the profits of the former operation, will have actually paid out in all but a single million.

Admitting the foregoing as sufficiently explained, it is the same to the firm of Hortalez whether it employs for the trade a French or a Dutch ship. In either case there are advantages and disadvantages that I will briefly enumerate.

The choice of a Dutch ship conceals more effectually the source of the supplies, but it also renders the munitions and the returns liable to be intercepted by English cruisers during the long course of transportation, and thus we may be deprived in an instant of all the profits of the operation; while by employing a

French ship the transportation is absolutely safe as far as the French Cape, selected by Hortalez as the first depot for his trade with America.

This way, however, gives ground for a suspicion that the French government favors the enterprise, but considering that proof of the fact cannot be produced, we can disregard this, for whether France assists the Americans or does not assist them, the English for some time past, have been certain that we are lavish of our aid to the brave rebels in America.

Supposing, then, that a French ship be employed and freighted on account of Roderique Hortalez and Company, Congress, or rather Mr. Adams, the General Secretary of Congress [3] will alone be informed by the American agent in England that a ship will carry to the French Cape gold and munitions to be paid for in Virginian tobacco, in order that he may send to the Cape his representative with the tobacco and with authority to receive the gold and munitions; to give his receipt, and to transfer to the captain and supercargo of Hortalez all the tobacco, or else a note to Roderique Hortalez for the proportion of the debt still outstanding.

Whereupon, the French captain will deliver to him all his cargo, and carry to Europe the cargo of the American – contriving that if the American ship is captured during the short run between San Domingo and the mainland, no trace can be discovered of any-thing beyond a simple commercial transaction between Hortalez and an American war-vessel.

The cargo of tobacco landed in France may meet a part of the loss, and the operation can be repeated in the hope of a better result and without compromising any one.

Before terminating this paper I wish to hazard an idea suggested during its composition, namely, that it would be a pretty thing to aid the Americans with English money. Neither is this difficult.

It would suffice should your Majesty, adopting an English usage that exacts a tax of 75% *ad valorem* on all French vehicles entering England at Dover, decree that in future all foreign vehicles and horses landed at our ports shall pay a tax equal to that levied on ours when entering England.

Considering the enormous number of carriages, horses, etc., that fashion, foolishness, or trade draws hither from that country, I promise your Majesty that were I allowed to arrange this little matter to your advantage you would have no need to contrive how to furnish the firm of Hortalez with funds, but would soon possess sufficient to enable the concern, which is really your own, to flourish on the grandest scale.

This stroke of finance is far superior to all the other speculations in that deadly science, since the cost is borne by the English and not by your Majesty's subjects; and it accords with the principle adopted by the merchant, economist, and politician, Hortalez de Beaumarchais, that foreign merchandise and products ought not to be admitted into any country, unless they create a revenue equivalent to their cost.

By putting in practice this conceit, your Majesty would have the pleasure of using for the relief of the Americans the very money squeezed out of the English, and this seems to me to be quite an agreeable consideration, and, so to speak, like planting a few flowers amid the dry waste of explanations of the output, return, and profits of the commercial capital of the firm of Hortalez, of which your Majesty is about to become the sole proprietor.

After what has been said, it is not necessary that I prove to your Majesty your power to retard or accelerate these aids at pleasure. The trade contracted or expanded by Hortalez, according to the exigencies of the case, will have this effect without raising a suspicion of the true reason of these fluctuations.

Such is the scheme that I submit to your Majesty for this affair, after deliberate reflection upon it, and a calculation of the chances. The decision depends on your commands: the execution on my prudence and the success is left to Fortune. Under these conditions it appears to me the most profitable of any.

In case your Majesty does not adopt it, I shall, at least, be credited with having again shown in your service a zeal as extended as my experience and as active and pure as it is unalterable.

Caron de Beaumarchais.

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1. "The Deane Papers," *Collections of the New-York Historical Society for the Year 1886* (New York, 1887), I, 108–15.
2. This date is based upon a statement in Wharton, ed., *Revolutionary Diplomatic Correspondence,* I, 369: "It was to Beaumarchais, according to Doniol, that the acquiescence of Louis XVI in Vergennes' policy of aid to the colonies was due. Two months, he tells us, after his departure for London, at the end of November, 1775, and again on January 1, 1776, Beaumarchais returned to Paris, and addressed to Vergennes appeals for action as vigorous as they were vivid. These letters, with a detailed report not now to be found, were presented by Vergennes to the King on January 22, 1776." The foregoing document is undoubtedly "the detailed report" not then to be found. Apparently Beaumarchais supplied the copy to Silas Deane.
3. The secretary of the Continental Congress was Charles Thomson, not a Mr. Adams.

23 Jan.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M. SLOOP *Hawke*[1]

Janry 1779 [*sic* 1776] [Lizard] N71E Distance 768 Leagues

Sunday 21 at 7 Saw a Sail to the NEt out all reefs & got up T Gt Yards. at 11 one Sail in sight.
[Fresh Gales & Squally]
½ past 1 PM Set Fore & Main Top studing sails at 2 Haul'd down Fore topmast Studing sail at 4 Strong Gales & Squally, ½ past Carried away the Fore Topsail Yard in the Slings got up another brought the sail in 3d reef set the foretopsail at 7 Got down T Gt Yards & handed the Mizen Topsail. at 8 in 2d reef Main T Sail,

Monday 22d at 11 hauld up the Foresail brought Ship too under the Mn sail – a great Sea.
Hard Gales & Squally Wr
at 1 PM Hauld up the main sail & laid the Ship too under Mizen Staysail & Mizen. at 4 more moderate set Main topmast Staysail at 8 Strong Gales & Squally – hauld down the main topmast Staysail & laid her too under the mizen Staysail furld the foresail & mainsail. at 11 very hard Gales, with Lightening

& Rain at 12 Ballanced the Mizen & brought her too under her bare Poles a heavy gale with a prodigious sea running.

Tuesday 23d at ¼ past a hurricane of wind which lade the Ship on her beam ends which with the body of water on her deck, she was deprived of the power of Motion beat out the ports on the le[e]side & cut away the Mizenmast. after puting the helm up but being water logg'd & the sea breaking violently over us. The helm had no effect on us. we then cut away the main mast, & got the Ship before the wind & then threw overboard all the Guns Carriages Shott, & every thing off the deck by which means the Ship began to be lively tho the waist was continually full of water. at 1 we got clear of the wreck [of] the Mainmast. Stove the pinnace & carried away w[it]h it the reeft trisails 2 small Anchors. and the major part of the boom the mizen mast carried away the barricade swivel Stocks, & 1 swivel hen coops wh all the ship & boats oars &c Stove in the larb[oar]d Quarter & Chains at 2 Ship'd a heavy sea over the Stern which Stove in the Larbd Quarter dead light & fill'd the waist wh water, scuttled the Longboat. at day light found the casks of Tar Pitch Varnish Pine harness Cask Strip tubb with their Contents, which was Stowd in the Manger, Stove to pieces during the night & washd overbd also the brick work of the Stove & fire hearth in the Galley.

at 8 AM a very hard gale & a great Sea following us. hoist'd the fore TGt sail to scud under & keep her before the sea. at 12 am Hard Gales & a great sea followg us scudding under the F T Gt Sail hoist'd on the foremast First and Middle parts Strong Gales and heavy Squalls with a Confused Sea. Latter more Moderate & the sea much fallen at 4 PM Reef'd the fore sail & Scudded under Do & the Top Gt Sail under it.[2]

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1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1780.
2. This storm, as described by the master, Richard Burlace, explains why the *Hawke* did not join Sir Peter Parker's fleet before Charleston, South Carolina, according to orders given Captain Robert Cooper. See Philip Stephens to Rear Admiral Molyneux Shuldham, November 11, 1775.

GEORGE JACKSON TO THE CHAIRMAN AND DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE EAST INDIA COMPANY[1]

Gentn [Admiralty Office] 23d Janry 1776.

My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty upon a consideration of the Orders proper to be given to the *Arethusa* and *Thetis,* have thought it may be most adviseable instead of ordering One of them to go directly to St Helena and the other to Ascension, to order them both to call at Ascension; but they do not choose to give their Orders for so doing 'till they have had an opportunity of knowing whether such Orders can be of any inconvenience with respect to your homeward bound Ships; and on which their Lordships will be glad of the favour of seeing you to morrow morning at 11 oClock, unless you approve of this alteration, in which case it will not be necessary for you to take the trouble. I am &ca

Geo Jackson DS.

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1. PRO, Admiralty 2/1333, LC Photocopy.

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24 Jan.

LORD GEORGE GERMAIN TO SIR BASIL KEITH [1]

(No 2.) Whitehall 24th Janry 1776

Sir, The inclosed Copy of my letter to the Lords Commissrs of the Admiralty of the 22d Int will inform you of the Instruction which His Majesty has ordered to be given to Rear Admiral Gayton, for stationing a Sloop of War & a small armed Vessel for the Protection of West Florida, and for his Conduct in case he should receive Intelligence of any Attack by the Rebels upon that Province, and I am commanded to signify to you His Majesty's Pleasure that you do, in the like Case, detach to Pensacola, in Vessels to be procured by you for that Purpose, such Part of the first Battalion of the Royal Americans as can be safely spared from the necessary duty in Jamaica. I am [&c.]

Geo: Germain

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1. PRO, Colonial Office, 137/71, Part I. Keith was Governor of Jamaica.

LORD GEORGE GERMAIN TO SIR BASIL KEITH [1]

(No 3) Whitehall 24 January 1776.

Sir, The inclosed Copy of my letter of the 20th Inst to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, will inform you of the Orders given in respect to the future Destination of the 50th Regiment; and I am to signify to you His Majesty's Pleasure that, upon the arrival of the Transport Vessels from England, you do give the necessary Orders for the Embarkation of the said Regiment.

As soon as the two additional Battalions, and the additional Companys to the Royal American Regiment are completed to the augmented Establishment, the whole of the Regiment will be stationed in the West Indies; & I hope it will not be long before the 50th Regiment is replaced by another Battalion of the Royal Americans. I am &c

Geo: Germain

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1. PRO, Colonial Office, 137/71, Part I.

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL JAMES DOUGLAS, PORTSMOUTH [1]

Sr [Admiralty Office] 24th Jany 1776

I send you herewith an order from my Lords Commrs of the Admty directing you to Order the American Prisoners to be distributed on board the Guardships under your command

It is their Lordships direction that you send me the Names of the American Officers who came home Prisoners with the aforementioned Men And that in the mean time you do keep them under proper confinement on board one of the said Guardships agreable to their Lordships order of the 10th Inst &c

G J DS

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1. PRO, Admiralty 2/551, 35.

London Chronicle, TUESDAY, JANUARY 23 TO THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 1776

London, January 24.

On the 19th instant arrived at Plymouth, his Majesty's ship *Milford,* bound to Ireland, and from thence to America.

The *Concord,* Laurie [James Lowrie], which sailed from Clyde, in September, for Boston, and is taken by the Americans, was richly laden with stores for the King's troops. She is valued at upwards of 5000 *l.* sterling.

Orders are sent to Sheerness for his Majesty's ship *Rainbow* to be fitted out for the North American station. She is already commissioned, and the command is given to Sir George Collier.

COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER TO GEORGE JACKSON [1]

Sir *Bristol* Cove of Cork 24th Janry 1776

In my last Letters of the 21st & 22d instt, I mention'd the arrivals of the *Solebay, Friendship* Arm'd Ship, and the *Actaeon* – and yesterday I received a Letter from Captain [James] Reid, that he put into Crook: Haven the 12th instt, and that the *Pigot* Hospital Ship was forced in by bad weather the day before – Captain Reid complains that the *Thunder* Bomb is weakly Handed, and Fourteen short of Complement; I have therefore wrote to Lieutt Hay at Cork to send me fourteen of the Seamen he has lately raised, in order to compleat her Complement on her arrival at this Port. – The *Thunder* Bomb Tender arrived the 12th instt at Castle Haven – I received a Letter of yesterday's date from Captain [Anthony] Hunt, informing me of his arrival at Kinsale, with His Majesty's Ship *Sphynx,* and that he had met with so strong a Gale at No Et, that he was oblig'd to run into Latte 46°28′ No Longtd 10°36′ Wt. Captain Hunt transmitted to me your Letter of the 3d instt acquainting me with the accident that had befallen the *Levant* Victualler, and the measures taken in consequence thereof, and with their Lordships directions to me, not to leave a Frigate to wait for her alone, should all the Ships & Vessels, which are to accompany me, be arrived, before the Victualler, whose Master, in that case, would have Orders to wait for Convoy. – The Thirty four Rebel American Prisoners who arrived in the *Solebay,* I have distributed among the Ships of the Squadron, agreeable to their Lordship's Order of the 27t past.[2] – Be pleased Sir to inform their Lordships that the Rendezvous I have appointed, is from three to Ten Leagues So Wt from Cape Fear in North Carolina, with directions to make the Land every day. I am Sir [&c.]

P: Parker

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 1/486.

[2] Taken with Ethan Allen before Montreal.

H. KATENKAMP TO LORD WEYMOUTH [1]

[Extract] Corunna, 24th January '76.

I make no doubt Your Lordship will have had particular information of the vessel that was lately stopped by order of this government at San Antonio, near Bilboa, to prove the property of two thousand barrels of gunpowder which she had brought from Holland with intention to put it on board a vessel, supposed to be the *Lyon,* Capt John Wilson, belonging to Messrs Willing & Morris, merchants in Philadelphia, which vessel remained cruising on the coast of Biscay in expectation of meeting with her.[2] As I have no deputies there, and consequently heard nothing of it but by mere chance, and even then, not until I was convinced, Your Lordship had received more perfect accounts thereof from Madrid, I thought it unnecessary to be troublesome with any thing on that subject hence. . . .

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1. Letters and Extracts from the Correspondence of Lord Grantham In Spain, January 1776 to June 1779, Sparks Transcripts, I, 1, HU. Katenkamp was British Consul at La Coruña, Spain.
2. "In September 1775 Willing, Morris & Co entered into an agreement with the Honble Congress by their Committee appointed for that purpose to deliver them Certain Arms & Ammunition they had written for by the Ship *Lion* Cap Wilson provided she arrived safe with the Goods, on which they received an advance of Eighty thousd Dollars. This Ship arriving in Europe at the time the Foreign Courts were most watchfull to prevent the Exportation of such articles from their Dominions Gap Wilson was disappointed altho he applyed to different Merchants in Spain, France & Holland, and was obliged to return without the Goods bringing back the Specie & bills intended to pay for the purchase." Robert Morris' account of his transactions in behalf of the Secret Committee of the Continental Congress; incomplete, Morris Papers, HUL.

25 Jan.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN [1]

My Lord Admiralty Office 25 January 1776.

Having received a Petition from the Merchants and others of the Town of Pool trading to Newfoundland, setting forth, that they are alarmed at hearing several armed Vessels are fitted out, by the American Colonies, and that they apprehend the same may interrupt their Trade; therefore praying Directions may be given to defend and protect their Property in that Country; and that Convoy may be appointed, for the greater Safety of their outward bound Ships.

We desire your Lordship will please to acquaint His Majesty therewith, and suggest to His Majesty, besides appointing a proper Convoy, for which we shall give the necessary Directions, whether it may not be highly advisable for the better Security of the Island, to give orders for the Troops which have been taken from thence, to be returned thither so soon as the same can possibly be done. We are &c

Sandwich J. Buller H. Palliser

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/259, 17.

GEORGE JACKSON TO CAPTAINS DIGBY DENT AND MITCHELL GRAHAM, R.N.[1]

Sir [Admiralty Office] 25th Janry 1776

The Secret Committee of the East India Company having transmitted to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty a Pacquet addressed to you containing some Cautions & Signals for you to observe when you make the Island of St Helena; I am commanded by their Lordships to signify their direction to you to pay attention thereto.

I am further directed by their Lordships at the desire of the said Committee, to signify their direction to you to be very careful to deliver the Instructions you will find in the said Pacquet to the Commanders of such of the homeward bound East India Ships as you may fall in with during your Voyage. I am &ca

Geo Jackson DS.

Capt Dent, *Arethusa,* Spithead
Capt Graham, *Thetis,* Spithead

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1. PRO, Admiralty 2/1333, LC Photocopy.

Diary of Dr. Thomas Moffat [1]

[London] Janr 25th attended Ld G[eorge] G[ermain]s Levee was first calld out, well receivd and desird to call on The 28th at His House.

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[1] Thomas Moffat's Diary, LC. See entries of January 5 and 6, 1776.

London Chronicle, Tuesday, January 23 to Thursday, January 25, 1776

London, Jan. 25.

Besides the men of war now fitting out at Chatham for the North American station, the *Repulse,* Capt. Davies [Henry Davis], the *Carrysford,* [Robert] Fanshaw, and the *Flora* [John] Brisbane, all frigates of 32 guns, are getting ready with the greatest dispatch.

Advice is received by the Irish mails, that his Majesty's ship *Bristol,* under the command of Commodore Sir Peter Parker, is safe arrived at the Cove of Cork.

The *Milford* man of war is sailed from Plymouth for America.

"Extract of a Letter from Gosport, Jan. 25." [1]

Yesterday his Majesty's ship *Cygnet* was launched from Portsmouth dockyard. She is ordered to be commissioned for foreign service.

This morning sailed out of harbour to Spithead, his Majesty's ships *Fox* and *Seaford,* and saluted the Admiral, which was returned.

The *Tartar* frigate is ordered to sea again; there 26 of the provincials in our hospital, 20 of which have got the small pox, and one has died.[2]

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[1] *London Chronicle,* January 27 to January 30, 1776.

[2] *Life of Israel R. Potter,* 20: "The prisoners were now all thoroughly cleansed and conveyed to the marine hospital on shore, where many of us took the small-pox the natural way from some whom we found in the hospital effected with that disease, and which proved fatal to nearly one half our number."

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26 Jan.

Count de Guines to Count de Vergennes [1]

[Extract] London, 26 January 1776

Lord George Germain pushes actively all the preparations for the next campaign. I was assured that he was gaining more and more the King's confidence and that Lord North's credit was decreasing. Indeed, I received him and his family at my home on the same day I received Lord North and his family and they both avoided each other in marked manner. The re-assembly of Parliament will tell us more about it within a few days. I do not expect anything interesting during the course of the next week. The weather is so bad and the cold so severe that no one is in a hurry to leave his country home and get on the road to return to London.

The three Regiments of the Guards have proved their great zeal as they represented how cruel it was that they should not be of use to their country in such important circumstances. They have offered a thousand volunteers. The choice of the officers who volunteered makes it embarassing to accept their services; most of them are General Officers and they would bring more hindrance than help to the army.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 514, 1317, LC Photocopy.

GEORGE JACKSON TO CAPTAIN DIGBY DENT, R. N.[1]

Sir, [Admiralty Office] 26th Janry 1776

The Orders you will receive herewith from my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty being of a private nature; I have it in command from them signify their direction to you not to reveal the contents thereof to any one but the Captain of the *Thetis,* whom you are to enjoin to observe a like Secrecy. I am &ca

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/1333, LC Photocopy.

ORDERS TO JOHN TOONE, MASTER OF ORDNANCE BRIG *Elizabeth* [1]

(Copy) Instructions for Mr Jno Toone Master of the *Elizabeth* Brigantine Loaded with Ordnance Stores, for the Service of the Expedition under the Command of the Right Honble [Charles] Earl Cornwallis.

You are immediately to proceed to Cork and on your arrival there you are to acquaint the Officer Commanding the Royal Artillery on the Expedition therewith: and follow such Orders as you may receive for your future Guidance from him, or the Officer for the time being.

You are also by the first Post after your arrival at Cork to acquaint the Honourable Board of Ordnance therewith.

Given at the Office of Ordnance at Portsmouth this Twenty Sixth day of Jany 1776

Signed

Richd Veale	J Blake	Ts Matthews
Storekeeper	Clerk of Survey	Clerk of Checque

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/162, 207.

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27 Jan.

THOMAS LYTTELTON TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN [1]

[Extract]

My Lord

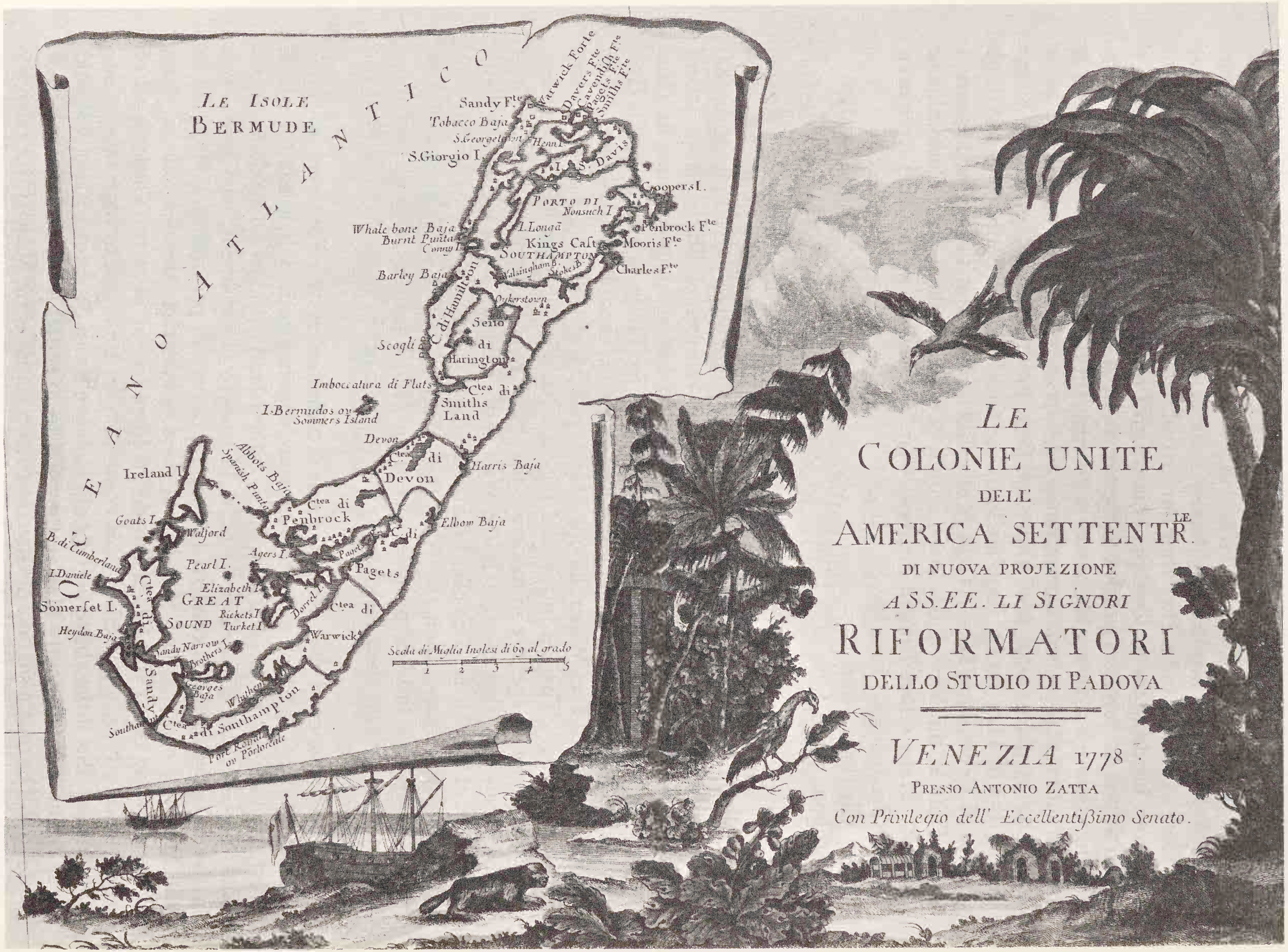
I hope your Lordship will excuse my not waiting upon you this Morning as I am indisposed by a violent Cold I brought with me from Ireland, the Master of the Brig instead of bringing [us] to Liverpool carried us thro' a narrow Channel between Rocks and Shoals into four mile Water near Bantrey Bay, where we had a very providential escape from being entirely Lost. That we have made the best of our way thro' Ireland to London is evident I think from this Circumstance, that a Letter I wrote to my Brother Deputy reciever of the Excise, a Day before we left Cork came to hand a Day after our arrival here. I have taken the Liberty to send your Lordship the inclosed paper in which I have related every Circumstance I can at present recollect relative to the Situation of Bermuda, & tho I omit mentioning those who have misbehaved & do wish they may repent of their Folly & by due submission prevent Correction yet I hope it will not be thought too great a Liberty to name some few who have been most active in supporting Legal Authority viz Thos Burch Esqr uncle to the Chief Justice Benjn Williams Esqr Justice of Devonshire Tribe. Capt Miller Cox of the same Tribe who has serv'd some Time in the Navy has a large Family & would make a good Customhouse Waiter. Many others I might mention, were it not that I am afraid I have been already Too tedious. I am [&c.]

No 41 Charlotte Street Thos Lyttelton
Rathbone place Jany [27] 1776 –

[Enclosure]

Bermuda being situated in Lat. 32.25 N & Long 66.38 E. containing 12,000 Acres, Inhabited by 6500 Whites, & an equal number of Blacks, is an Island capable of great improvement & may be rendered of great importance in Time of War, it being in the Tract of all the West India Trade to France Spain Holland,&c. There is in this Island a spacious Harbour, capable of admitting Vessels drawing 18 or 20 Feet Water, having places convenient for heaving down careening & repairing. There is in the said Island a Number of good ship Carpenters, whose common Wages are so moderate that Ships may be repaired &c at a Third of the expence of what they can in the West India Islands. The Climate & Temparament of the Air is so excellent that were there a Hospital erected for the Sick in the Navy & Army upon the West India Station, it will in all probability be found, that with little or no assistance from Medicines they will recover more within a few Weeks than they can in the West Indies in many Months with the best attendance.

The Entrance of the above Harbour is commanded by a Fort, very advantageously situated, & which in a great measure commands the whole Island; which Fort, & all the rest are in so ill a situation, & the Island left in so defenceless a State, that the Governor & the Officers of, & Friends to Government, who have been active in opposing the ill concerted Measures of certain persons, do entirely lie at the Mercy of every Armed Vessel from the Continent of America, one of those Vessels having taken 100 Blls of Powder, & there having been two Cruising off of the Island in Nov. supposed to have come with an Intention to have taken some Ordnance. But if the above Fort should be taken by an American Vessel & should they repair it & sufficiently Man it, they will be in actual possession of the Island, & there will be only a shadow of Government on behalf of his Majesty, the recovery of which may be attended with much expence, & the Loss of the Lives of many of


Le Isole
Bermude
Oceano Atlantico
Sandy Fte
Warwick Forte
Davers Fte
Cavendish Fte
Pagets Fte
Smiths Fte
Tobacco Baja
S.Georgetown
S.Giorgio I.
Henn I.
I. S. Davis
Coopers I.
Porto di
Nonsuch I.
I.Longa
Penbrock Fte
Kings Cast
Mooris Fte
Southampton
Walsingham B.
Stokes B.
Charles Fte
Whale bone Baja
Burnt Punta
Conny I.
Barley Baja
C. di Hamilton
Okerstown
Seno
di
Harington
Scogli
Imboccatura di Flats
Ctea di
Smiths
Land
I.Bermudos ov Sommers Island
Devon
Ctea di
Devon
Harris Baja
Ireland I.
Albbots Baja
Spanish Punta
Ctea di
Penbrock
Elbow Baja
Goats I.
Walford
B. di Cumberland
Agers I.
Paget
C. di
Pagets
I.Daniele
Pearl I.
Elizabeth I.
Ctea di
Somerset I.
Great
Sound
Rickets I.
Turket I.
Dorrel I.
Ctea di
Warwick
Heydon Baja
Sandy Narrow
Brothers I.
Sandy
Georges Baja
Whitney
Southampton
Ctea di Southampton
Port Royal ov Portroiale
Scala di Miglia Inglesi di 60 al grado
1
2
3
4
5

LE
COLONIE UNITE
DELL'
AMERICA SETTENTRLE
DI NUOVA PROJEZIONE
A S.S. E.E. LI SIGNORI
RIFORMATORI
DELLO STUDIO DI PADOVA

VENEZIA 1778
PRESSO ANTONIO ZATTA
Con Privilegio dell' Eccellentiſsimo Senato.

his Majesty's good Subjects. The Burmuda Vessels are reputed the swiftest Sailing Vessels in America & consequently require an attention to be paid them lest under . . .

As matters are at present circumstanced in Bermuda all Vessels in his Majesty's Service, bound there should endeavour to go in at the Eastermost End, where they may have a better chance of meeting with a pilot. Capt. [John] Tallemache of the *Scorpion* has an excellent Black pilot on board of his Ship. The Difficulties of the Navigation to Bermuda might be easily obviated by a Light house being erected there. – The Chief Justice, who has been of late very serviceable to the Governor, & persevered steadily in the Line of his Duty, hath been 11 yrs in that office, & for the Trouble & Fatigue inseperable therefrom has receiv'd no other satisfaction than the pleasure of having served the Public, there being no Salary annex'd to his Office; if it should be thought expedient to assign him a small Salary a way may be pointed out by wch 100 £ p Ann. may be paid without any additional Expence to Government.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 37/36.

28 Jan. (Sunday)

LORD NORTH TO GEORGE III [1]

[28 January, 1776] [2]

Lord North has the honour of troubling his Majesty with this note to inform him that Lord Sandwich has consented with great good humour, & readiness to appoint Lord Howe Commander of the Fleet, giving a separate command to Adl Shuldham of the Fleet in the River & Gulph of St Lawrence. Lord Sandwich having just left Ld North, & being upon the point of attending his Majesty at St James's, Lord North thinks his Majesty ought to be apprized of it, as Ld Sandwich will probably mention the subject to his Majesty.

Sunday Morng

1. Fortescue, ed., *Correspondence of George III,* III, 338.
2. Fortescue suggests the date of February 4, 1776, for this letter. Evidence derived from the contents, as well as from Lord North's letters of February 2 and 3, however, would indicate that it was written on January 28, 1776; this letter contributed to the situation whereby Lord Howe refused to accept the appointment unless his command included the St. Lawrence.

DIARY OF DR. THOMAS MOFFAT [1]

[London] Janr 28th had conference with Him [2] and directed to come again Febr 2d Then referrd by a message to Sr Grey Cooper.

1. Thomas Moffat's Diary, LC.
2. Lord George Germain; see January 25, 1776.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Pallas,* CAPTAIN WILLIAM CORNWALLIS [1]

January 1776	In Frenchman's Bay Sierraleona River
Monday 22d	A M punished John Cormick (Seaman) for Swearing, Sailmaker converting Foretopsail into a Mainsail for the *St John.* Moderate and Cloudy, Employed wooding and watering, fired a Shot to bring to a Sloop coming in, sent 13 Butts of Bread, 4 Butts and a hogshead of Wine, 4 Casks of Beef, 2 of Pork, 1 of Flow'r, 2 of Pease, 1 of Oatmeal on board the *St John* Arm'd Sloop having been taken into the Service, sent also several Boatswain's, Gunner's and Carpenter's Stores.[2]
Tuesday 23d	Sailed the *St John* arm'd Sloop. Light Breezes and hazey, Employed wooding and watering . . .
Wednesday 24th	AM clear'd Hawse. Do Wear, Employed Wooding, Watering, and stowing the hold.
Thursday 25th	Little Wind and fair
Friday 26th	AM punish'd Thos Parkeson and Richd Barker (Marines) for Insolence, sent the Cutter mann'd and arm'd with an Officer to the Banana islands in search of an American Vessel, Employed wooding and watering. Do Wear. P M Employed Painting the Ship, Wooding, Watering, and stowing the Hold.
Saturday 27th	Do Wear, Employed as before, P M sent the Longboat to an American Schooner in the Offing which the *St John* had taken [3]
Sunday 28th	A M the Cutter return'd from the Banana Islands the American Vessel she went after being gone from thence, Punish'd John Brown (Marine) for Theft, at 10 Came in the long boat with the American Schooner.

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1. PRO, Admiralty 51/667.
2. The *St. John* had come into the bay on the afternoon of January 22, 1776, and had saluted the *Pallas* with six guns, receiving three in return.
3. The schooner *Mary,* as subsequently identified in the journal. The last entry regarding her was on May 6, 1776 when forty-one leagues west of the Island of St.Thomas, "at 6 [P. M.] lost sight of the *Mary.*" St. Thomas (São Tomé) lies in the Gulf of Guinea, approximately 200 miles west of Libreville, Gabon, Africa.

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29 Jan.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM [1]

Whereas we think fit that the Complements of His Majestys Ships under your command of the following Classes shall be increased to the Number of Men set out against each; You are hereby required & directed to cause their Complements to be increased to those Numbers accordingly, directing their Captains to bear them until further Orders.

Guns	Men
44	280
32	220
28	200
24 & 20	160
16 & 14 Sloops	125
10 do	110
8 do	80

Given &c 29th. Jany 1776

Sandwich J. Buller H. Palliser

G J DS

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1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 379.

George Jackson to John Pownall[1]

Sir,

Admiralty Office, 29th Jany 1776

My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty intending that His Majesty's Ship the *Greyhound,* which is proposed to join the Squadron under the Command of Rear Admiral Shuldham, shall Sail without loss of time to Cork, and take such Ships as shall desire to proceed under her Convoy from thence to Boston; I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you therewith for Lord George Germain's Information, and to desire if it is approved, that the three Ordnance Storeships now at Spithead shall go under Convoy of the said Ship, they may be directed to lose no time in proceeding to Cork so that they may arrive at that Port before the 15th of next Month, it not being proposed the *Greyhound* should wait there beyond that time. I am &ca

Geo: Jackson

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1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/259, 18.

"Extract of a Letter from Rochester, Jan. 29."[1]

The river Medway is so frozen up, that the *Isis* Man of War, which was to have sailed on Monday last, has not yet been able; the Sheerness boats with all their passengers are frozen up, and cannot proceed.

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1. *London Chronicle,* February 1 to February 3, 1776.

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30 Jan.

Lords Commissioners, Admiralty, to Captain John Macartney, H.M.S. *Ambuscade*, Chatham[1]

Having appointed you Captain of His Majts Ship *Ambuscade* at Chatham which we have ordered to be fitted & Stored at that place for a Voyage to North America, Mann'd with Two Hundred & Twenty Men & Victualled for Six Months with all Species of Provisions except Beer of which she is to have as much as she can conveniently stow & to be supplied with a proportion of Wine or Spirits for Two Months in lieu of the remainder You are hereby required & directed to use the utmost dispatch in getting her ready for the Sea accordingly & then falling

down to Blackstakes take in her Guns & Gunners Stores at that Place & proceed to the Nore for further Order.
Given &c 30th Jany 1776

Sandwich J Buller H Palliser

By &c G J DS

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1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 383.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN [1]

My Lord, Admiralty Office 30th Jany 1776

Vice Admiral Sir James Douglas Commander in Chief of His Majestys Ships at Portsmouth, having in his Letter of the 26th Inst transmitted to Us, a List of the Names & Rank of the Officers belonging to the Armed Brig taken in North America & brought to England Prisoners in the the *Tartar*; We send your Lordship a Copy of the said List for the King's Information, and are to desire you will signify to Us His Majesty's pleasure concerning the disposal of the said Prisoners. We are My Lord [&c.]

J. Buller Palmerston H: Palliser

[Enclosure]

A list of the Officers Names &c that came home in the *Tartar,* belonging to the American Privateer.

Where borne	Names.	Rank.
Rhode Island	Sion Martindale	Captain
Do	Moses Turner	1st Lieut
Do	James Childs	2d Do
Plymo New Engld	Consider Howland	Master
Quebec	Jno Marwide	Surgeon, desirous of entering into His Majts Service.

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[1] PRO, Colonial Office, 5/123, 44a, 44b.

London Chronicle, SATURDAY, JANUARY 27 TO TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 1776.

London, Jan. 30.

His Majesty's ship *Milford* is sailed from Plymouth for Halifax, with a number of ship carpenters, caulkers, &c. to repair any of his Majesty's ships that may put into that port and stand in need thereof.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM GOSPORT, JAN. 30." [1]

The weather is got to be so severe here that the harbour is frozen up at the upper part, the lower part is very bad.

The *Juno* frigate has been in commission upwards of six months, and has only five men on board; most of the ships now fitting for sea are greatly distressed for want of men; the guardships men are sent on board many of them to assist in rigging them.

The *Worcester* and *Royal Oak* guardships are ready to go out of harbour, and will go to Spithead the first wind.

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1. *London Chronicle,* February 1 to February 3, 1776.

COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER TO GEORGE JACKSON [1]

Sir *Bristol* Cove of Cork 30th Jany 1776

In my last Letter of the 24th instt I acquainted you with the arrival of the *Thunder* Bomb Tender at Castle Haven, and His Majesty's Ship *Sphynx* at Kinsale, and sent, for their Lordships information, the Rendezvous I have appointed, which is from three to Ten Leagues So Wt from Cape Fear in North Carolina, with directions to make the Land every day. On Thursday evening the 25th instt His Majesty's Bomb Vessel the *Carcass* arrived here, since which time, it has blown so strong to So Et that we have not had any communication with the shore, and it now continues to blow from the same point, but more moderately – I have received your Letter of the 13th instt signifying that their Lordships were much displeased with Lieutt Knowles, for having taken up the *Clibborn* without Orders, and leaving it to me, to continue, or discharge her, from the Service, as I may find it most adviseable. The *Clibborn* is taken up for six months certain, and is well fitted for a Transport, I shall therefore (as the *Friendship* is here and properly fitted to receive Troops) move those from on board the *Clibborn* into her, and give Lieutt Knowles Orders to direct the Master of the *Clibborn* to proceed as soon as possible to Spithead, giving immediate notice of his arrival to the Navy Board – Captt Dring having reported to me, that the Lieutt of the *Carcass* Bomb, is left behind & absent without leave, I have appointed Mr. John Rickman (who has passed his Examination for a Lieutenant) to act as Lieutenant of her, 'till further Order. I am Sir [&c.]

P: Parker

[Minute of Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty]

Send a Commission for Lt Rickman for the *Carcass* The Marshall of the Admiralty to be ordered to apprehend the Lieut who has deserted from her in order that he may be tri'd Own rect & acqt Sir Peter Parker as above Lieut Jno Stoddart

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1. PRO, Admiralty 1/486.

COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER TO PHILIP STEPHENS [1]

Sir Bristol Cove of Cork 30 Janry 1776

Lieutenant [John] Knowles has just now brought me the Copy of a Letter dated the 13th instt from the Navy-Board, address'd to Mr Foxworthy Naval Officer at Kinsale, desiring him to apply to Lieutt Knowles, to order the *Clibborn* to proceed to Plymouth, giving the Master Orders to give them immediate notice of his arrival there – As I find it is the Navy Board's desire, that the *Clibborn* may be sent to Plymouth, I shall give directions accordingly. I am Sir [&c.]

P: Parker

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1. PRO, Admiralty 1/486.

Captain William Cornwallis, R.N., to Philip Stephens [1]

Sir *Pallas,* Sierraleona 30th Jany 1776.

I beg you will be pleased to acquaint their Lordships, that after having stop'd off Senegal and Gambia agreeable to their Orders, I proceeded to this place where upon my arrival I was inform'd that several American Vessels belonging to the Rebellious Colonies had got up the different Rivers upon this part of the Coast and were hiding there until we were gone, when they would come out and probably get supplied with Powder and Ammunition from the European Vessels. I sent Lieut Bray in a Boat mann'd and arm'd to the Banana Islands about nine leagues from hence to seize a Schooner which I heard was there, but upon his arrival the person settled there inform'd him that some of her people had been found on shore arm'd among the Bushes endeavoring to take off some of his Negroes, but upon being discovered they got off and put to Sea, and Lieut Bray could not follow her in an open boat. It was impossible for the *Pallas* to go up the Rivers after their Vessels if there had been time and I had no Vessel of any kind with me, but the Officer whom I sent up to Bence Island informd me there was a Sloop calld the *St John* belonging to the proprietors of that Island which mounted eight four Pounders, and he thought would be of force sufficient to seize the Vessels up the Rivers and guard this part of the Coast. As their Lordships in their Orders to me mention'd a Su[s]picion of the Rebels in America being supplied with Powder and Ammunition from hence, I thought after the information I had received, and what happen'd upon my sending Lieut Bray to the Banana's, I could not leave this part of the Coast entirely clear for them to carry on their Plan, at the same time I am well aware that I have no Authority to Commission a Vessel, but as it must appear clearly to their Lordships that I could not execute this part of their Orders without it, the Exigence of the Service in time of actual Rebellion will I flatter myself plead an excuse for my doing what I was not sufficiently authorised to do. I have therefore taken this Vessel into the Service until their Lordships pleasure shall be known. I have been obliged to put her upon an Establishment of Men, for as the *Pallas* was at her lowest Complement and nine short it was impossible for me to lend her Men; I have left Lieut Agnew in her to Command her with a Complement of Thirty Men, fifteen of which I have discharged from the *Pallas* which I hope to compleat in my way down the Coast, and I do not doubt but that he will be able to Compleat his Complement from the different Guineamen he may meet with upon this part of the Coast and the Men that belong'd to the Vessel before. I have not taken upon me to appoint Officers to the arm'd Sloop, only Lieut Agnew to Command her with a Mate, Midshipman and Surgeon's Mate, and I have fill'd up Mr Agnew's Vacancy in the *Pallas,* by removing Lieut Bray to first Lieutenant and appointing Mr James Cornwallis who was acting Lieutenant, second. I am conscious that it must be an additional expence to Government, but I do not doubt it will appear to their Lordships as necessary an Expence as any occasion'd by this Rebellion.

Mr Agnew has just sent in a Schooner belonging to South Carolina which he seized coming out of Quia port River, and I intend taking her with me.

I have ordered Mr Agnew to keep constantly cruising upon this part of the Coast and to be particularly careful that no Powder or Ammunition is carried off that he may suspect to be going to the Americans and to seize and detain all Vessels belonging to the Colonies specified in my Orders from their Lordships, 'till the arrival of some of his Majesty's Ships or 'till farther Orders. I am Sir [&c.]

W: Cornwallis

[Endorsed] Recd 5 June & Read

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/1611, Part I.

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31 Jan.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN[1]

My Lord, Admiralty Office 31st Janry 1776

Having received a Letter from Rear Admiral [Clark] Gayton, Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships & Vessels at Jamaica, dated the 7th of November last, giving an Account of the Proceedings of Captain [William] Judd of His Majesty's Ship the *Squirrel,* whom he had sent to the Mosquito Shore & Bay of Honduras, to examine into the State of the Logwood Cutters; We send Your Lordship a Copy of his said Letter, together with the Papers therein referred to, for the King's Information.

And the Rear Admiral having at the same time, transmitted to us a Letter he received from His Majesty's Agent at Turks Island, giving an Account that a Number of lawless People on that Island, had illegally & forcibly detained a Spanish Schooner & his Crew on Suspicion of her Masters facilitating the Escape of a Servant belonging to one of the Inhabitants; We send Your Lordship the said Letter herewith, for the King's further Information. We are &ca

Palmerston H. Penton H. Palliser

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/259, 19.

NARRATIVE OF COLONEL ETHAN ALLEN[1]

[January 8 to January 31,1776]

The prisoners were . . . ordered on board of the *Solebay* frigate, Capt. [Thomas] Symonds, the eighth day of January, 1776, when our hand irons were taken off. This remove was in consequence, as I have been since informed, of a writ of habeas corpus, which had been procured by some gentlemen in England, in order to obtain me my liberty.

When we were first brought on board Capt. Symonds ordered all the prisoners, and most of the hands on board, to go on the deck, and caused to be read, in their hearing a certain code of laws, or rules for the regulation and ordering of their behavior; and then, in a sovereign manner, ordered the prisoners, me in particular, off the deck, and never to come on it again; for, said he, this is a place for gentlemen to walk. So I went off, an officer following me, who told me, that he would shew me the place allotted for me, and took me down to the cable tire, saying to me, this is your place.

Prior to this I had taken cold, by which I was in an ill state of health, and did not say much to the officer; but stayed there that night, consulted my policy, and found I was in an evil case; that a Capt. of a man of war was more arbitrary than a king, as he could view his territory with a single look of his eye, and a movement of his finger commanded obedience, I felt myself more desponding than I had done any time before; for I concluded it to be a governmental scheme, to do that clandestinely which policy forbid to be done under sanction of public justice and law.

However, two days after, I shaved and cleaned myself as well as I could, and went on deck. The Capt. spoke to me in a great rage, and said, "did I not order you not to come on deck?" I answered him, that at the same time he said, "that it was the place for gentlemen to walk," that I was Col. Allen, but had not been properly introduced to him. He replied, "G – d damn you, sir, be careful not to walk the same side of the deck that I do." This gave me encouragement, and ever after that I walked in the manner he had directed, except when he, at certain times afterwards, ordered me off in a passion, and I then would directly afterwards go on again, telling him to command his slaves; that I was a gentleman, and had a right to walk the deck; yet, when he expressly ordered me off, I obeyed, not out of obedience to him, but to set an example to his ship's crew, who ought to obey him.

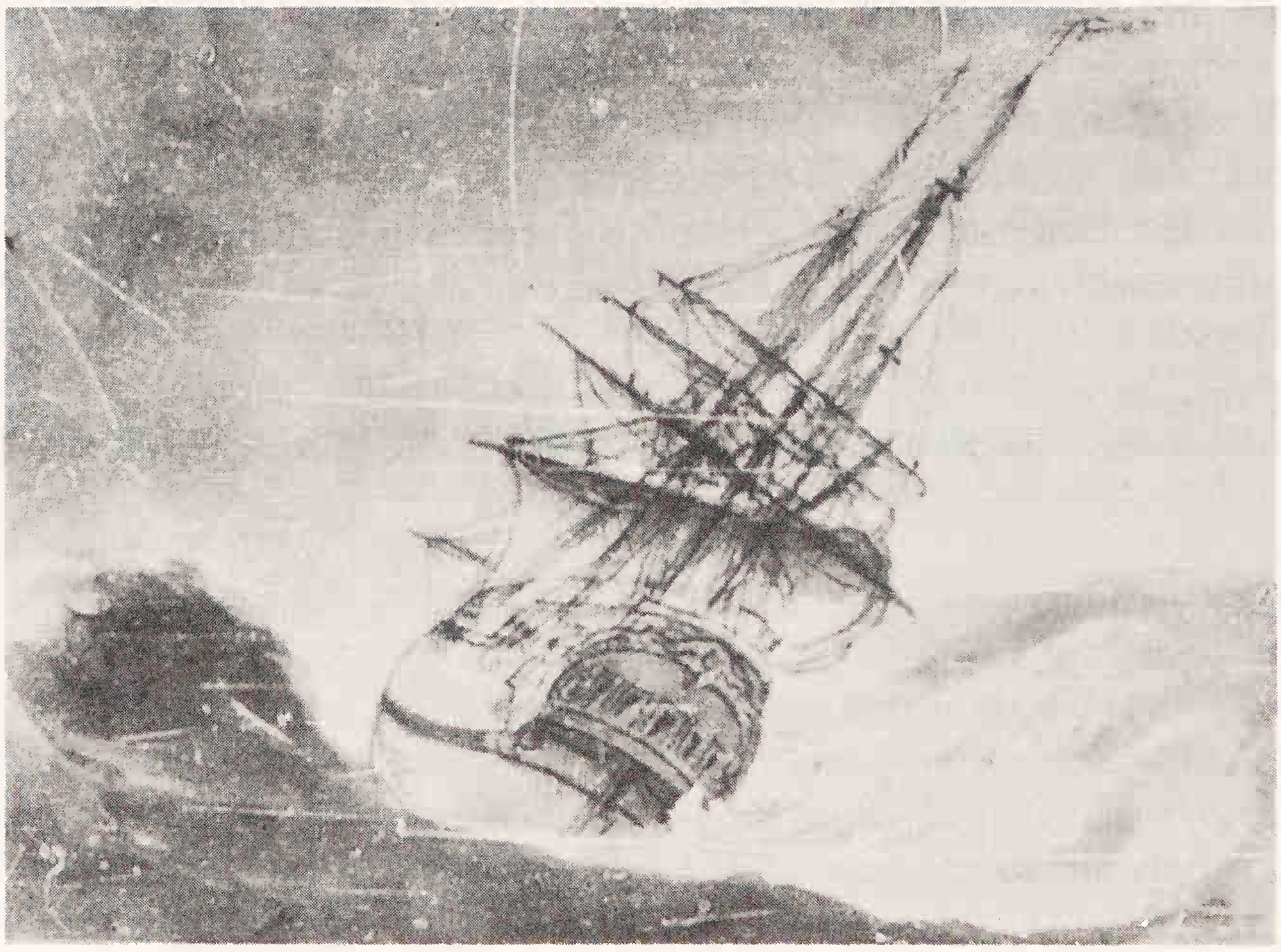
To walk to the windward side of the deck is, according to custom, the prerogative of the captain of the man of war, though he oftentimes, nay commonly, walks with his lieutenants, when no strangers are by; when a capt. from some other man of war, comes on board, the captains walk to the windward side, and the other gentlemen to the leward.

It was but a few nights I lodged in the cable tire, before I gained an acquaintance with the master of arms; his name was Gillegan, an Irishman, who was a generous and well disposed man, and, in a friendly manner made me an offer of living with him in a little birth, which was allotted him between decks, and enclosed with canvas; his preferment on board was about equal to that of a sergeant in a regiment. I was comparatively happy in the acceptance of his clemency, and lived with him in friendship, . . .

Nothing of material consequence happened till the fleet rendezvoused at the cove of Cork,[2] except a violent storm which brought old hardy sailors to their prayers. It was soon rumored in Cork that I was on board the *Solebay,* with a number of prisoners from America; upon which Messrs. Clark and Hays, merchants in company, and a number of other benevolently disposed gentlemen, contributed largely to the relief and support of the prisoners, who were thirty-four in number, and in very needy circumstances. A suit of clothes from head to foot, including an over coat, or surtout, and two shirts were bestowed on each of them. My suit I received in superfine broadcloths, sufficient for two jackets, and two pair of breeches overplus of a suit throughout, eight fine Holland shirts and stocks ready made, with a number of pairs of silk and worsted hose, two pair of shoes, two beaver hats, one of which was sent me richly laced with gold, by Mr. James Bonwell. The Irish gentlemen furthermore made a large gratuity of wines of the best sort, old spirits, Geneva loaf and brown sugar, coffee, tea and chocolate, with a large round of pickled beef, and a number of fat turkies, with many other articles, for my sea stores, too tedious to mention here. To the privates they bestowed on each man two pounds of tea, and six pounds of brown sugar, These articles were received on board, at a time when the capt. and first lieut. were gone on shore, by permission of the second Lieut. a handsome young gentleman, who was then under twenty years of age; his name was Douglass, the son of Admiral [James] Douglass, as I was informed.

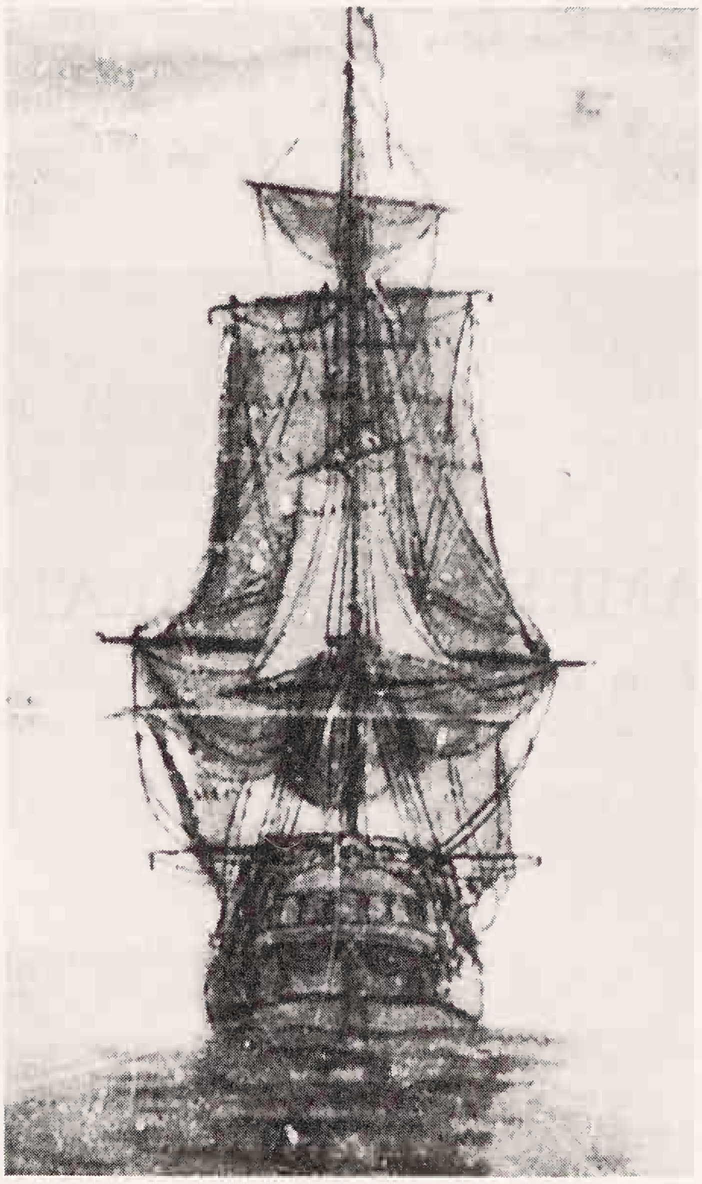
As this munificence was so unexpected and plentiful, I may add needful, it impressed on my mind the highest sense of gratitude towards my benefactors; for I was not only supplied with the necessaries and conveniences of life, but with the grandeurs and superfluities of it. Mr.Hays, one of the donators before mentioned, came on board, and behaved in the most obliging manner, telling me, that he hoped my troubles were past; for that the gentlemen of Cork determined to make my sea-stores equal to those of the capt. of the *Solebay*'s; he made an offer of live stock and wherewith to support them; but I knew this would be denied: And to crown all, did send to me by another person fifty guineas, but I could not reconcile receiving the whole to my own feelings, as it might have the appearance of avarice; and therefore received but seven guineas only; and am confident, not only from the exercise of the present well-timed generosity, but from a large acquaintance with gentlemen of this nation, that as a people they excel in liberality and bravery.

1. *Ethan Allen,* 47–52.
2. The *Solebay* arrived in the Cove of Cork the evening of January 21, 1776.



AMERICAN THEATRE

From January 1, 1776, to February 18, 1776



AMERICAN THEATRE

From January 1, 1776, to February 18, 1776

SUMMARY

Toward the close of the Year 1775, the outlook in America was most favorable. Washington had overcome innumerable difficulties to embody a new Provincial army in the very face of the enemy, and had maintained an unbroken land blockade around the British in Boston. The enemy's only access to the beleaguered town was by sea, and already the tiny schooners His Excellency had commissioned in September and October, had taken an ordnance brig and several supply transports. While this little fleet was not expected to close the sea lanes, its captures had had a disturbing effect upon the morale of what the embattled Americans were prone to call "the ministerial army."

The ambitious plans for the subjugation of Canada seemed close to consummation. Commanded by a sickly Schuyler, and spear-headed by a spirited Montgomery, the invaders had subdued a stubborn garrison in St. John's, marched unopposed into Montreal, and were now before the walls of Quebec, joined with the force under Arnold which had made its fatiguing way through the Maine and Canadian wildernesses. That Quebec would fall was confidently expected and predicted throughout the Colonies; unaware, until days later, that the fondest hopes of the Canadian campaign had been blasted in the disastrous assault which closed out the old year.

Broader steps to create a navy, to import powder and arms, to encourage the home manufacture of gunpowder, to increase the army, and to take into the continental establishment the battalions and regiments raised for their own defense in the Southern Colonies, had been taken in its stride by the Continental Congress in the closing months of the year. Not content with the fleet of expediency, outfitting in the Delaware, a broader program, to build thirteen frigates, had been inaugurated in December.

From New Hampshire to South Carolina every colony had sent forth cargos of home products to be sold in the French, Spanish, Dutch and Danish West Indies, and the proceeds applied to the importation of gunpowder. Along a wintry coast the cruisers of the "ministerial navy" were seeking, with varied success, to intercept such vessels, inward or outward bound. With the exception of the ports of Newport and New York, yet lying under the menace of man of war guns, the custom of supplying provisions to British ships had been suspended, breaking a practice that had existed for half a century or more. And in all of the Colonies, from New Hampshire to Georgia, the business of protecting their seaports with fortifications of various design was being pushed with renewed vigor in the face of rumors of prodigious invading forces on the way from England.

1 Jan. 1776

Advance Pay to Captain John Manley and the Crew of the Armed Schooner *Hancock* [1]

Manly

Capt. –	£8. –
1st Lie[u]t –	5. 8
2d Lie[u]t –	5. 8
Master –	4. –
Mate –	3
Boatswain –	3.
Steward –	2. 8 –
Gunner –	2. 8 –
Gunners mate	2. 4 –
30 men	60. –
	£95.16 –

[Beverly] 1st Jany 1776 advance pay

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[1] Washington Papers, LC.

Captain John Manley's Memo of Sundries [1]

[Beverly, January 1, 1776] [2]

One Cutlass –
Two Brass Blunder Busses
one new Beaver Hatt
Two China Mugs
one pair Curtains
one of hadley's Quadron
one Delph soap Dish
One Muskitt –
Two Jappand Candlesticks

One Compass –
Two Four hour Glasses
One Speaking Trumpet
One Copper Candlestick
One Copper Stew pan
One two Gallon China Bowl
Several Coffee Cups
One Coffee Mill

[Endorsed] Capt Manly's Memo

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[1] Bartlett Papers, No. 5744, BHS.

[2] While the memo was undated, it is likely that the Captain would have provided it at about the same time that the advance pay was received.

Receipt for Indian Corn and Oats from the Prize Sloop *Betsey* [1]

Recved Beverly the 1st Jana 1775 [*sic* 1776] from On Board the Sloop *Betsey* one hundr[e]d bushells of Oates wich I promise to deliver to Thos Mifflin Esqr Must[er] Master Genl at Head Quarters P me

100 Francis Shay

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[1] Bartlett Papers, No. 5708, BHS.

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S COMMISSION TO CAPTAIN WILLIAM BURKE, ARMED SCHOONER *Warren* [1]

By his Excellency George Washington, Esqr, Commander in Chief of the Army of the United Colonies.

To William Burke, Esqr

By virtue of the powers & authorities to me given by the Honourable Continental Congress, I do hereby Constitute & appoint you Captain and Commander of the Schooner *Warren,* now lying at Beverly port, in the Service of the United Colonies of North America, To have, hold, exercise and enjoy the said office of Captain & Commander of the said Vessell, & to perform & execute all matters & things which to your said Office do or may of right belong or appertain untill farther Order shall be given herein by the Honourable Continental Congress, myself or any future Commander in Chief of said Army, Willing & commanding All Officers, Soldiers & persons whatsoever anyway concerned to be obedient & Assisting to you in the due Execution of this Commission. Given under my Hand & Seal at Cambridge thi[s] day of Anno Domini 1776 [2]

By his Excellencys command –

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1. Washington Papers, LC.
2. This form of commission, created by Washington, was issued first on January 1, 1776 to John Manley, captain of the armed schooner *Hancock.* Subsequent commissions were given Daniel Waters, *Lee,* Samuel Tucker, *Franklin,* and Charles Dyar, *Harrison,* on January 20, and to William Burke, *Warren,* and John Ayres, *Lynch,* on February 1. The form Washington composed is entirely different from the commissions issued by the Continental Congress to the captains of Esek Hopkins' Continental fleet, copies of which had reached Cambridge in December 1775. Washington apparently rejected them and devised his own. See Clark, *Washington's Navy,* 105–06.

INSTRUCTIONS TO WINTHROP SARGENT [1]

Sir You being recommended to His Excellency as a proper person to transact the business of the Severall Armed Vessells fitted out, or to be fitted out at the Continental expence – will be pleased to Consider what follows as your Instructions

1st When any of the Continental Vessells put into Cape Ann you are to Supply them with Such necessarys as are absolutely wanting – when any prize is Sent in, you are without delay to go on board, receive all the papers on board, and transmit them by express to Headquarters –

2 You are to make out an Inventory of the Cargo, as near as you Can from the papers found on board, or information from the Master or Mate of the prize – all possible Care that Can be taken Must be used, to prevent any embezzelment of the Cargo – or of the Captains, Crews or passengers, private property, which must be given up to them, except Some extraordinary Circumstances Shoud arise, to Make an alteration of this order necessary –

3 All Sailors belonging to a prize to be detained with you, or Sent to a neighbouring town where you may think them more Secure, untill you receive orders from Headquarters for the further disposall of them –

4 all prisoners of whatever Rank, or denomination to be treated with the utmost Humanity & tenderness –

5 As you are appointed a Continental Agent only, if the Officers & men chuse to appoint an Agent for their one third of any prize taken – they May do So, in that Case you are to permit him to take a Copy of all papers relating to the Cargo, & when the vessell is discharged, you Must give unto Said Agent a Copy of what was on board –

6 the Hulls of all vessells taken, with all their apurtenances to be carefully Laid up in a Secure Port untill further Orders

7 Whatever advice you at any time have respecting the armed vessells or prizes – that is Material, you will Send up to Headquarters by Suitable Oppertunities –

8 forasmuch as the port of Cape Ann Lyes Convenient for the Armed Vessells to run into, When in Want of Provisions and other necessarys – you will Lay in on the most reasonable terms, 12 barrells of beeff and 12 barrells of Porke, 20 barrells of bread will be orderd to you from Beverly where a quantity is reserved for the use of the Armed Vessells, and as you Supply any vessells with a part of these Articles you are to replace them So as allways to Keep up that quantity on hand you must take the Stewards receipt for every thing you Supply –

9 As the Harbour of Cape Ann is not Lookt upon as Safe to Lay up, any Prizes or their Cargoes, you Must as Soon as possible, have Such as may be brought in there – sent up to Beverly, where William Bartlett Esqr is by his Excellency appointed an Agent. you and Mr Bartlett Must agree amongst yourselves about the terms upon which you will do business of this Sort for each other – the Commission allowed to all Agents is two and one halfe perCent on Sales of any prizes &c and the Same on the amount of provisions & necessarys Supplied the vessells with –

10 In Makeing up your Accounts you are to remember that the Original bills or Invoices are to be Sent as Vouchers – that your own account is to be Genl and at the bottom an affidavit of the justice of your Accounts – this is not done from any jealousy or Suspicion but that the utmost Satisfaction may be given the Country and that all Agents May be on the Same footing –

You will at all times give the utmost dispatch, & if any irregularity, Misconduct, or Negligence in the Officers of any vessell, you are desired to give imediat information to the General

shoud any of the Vessells unnecessarily remain in Port you are to give orders to the Commander to proceed forthwith to Sea, Should he refuse, you are to demand his reasons, & transmit the Same to Headquarters

By his Excellencys Command

Head quarters [Cambridge] 1st January 1776

[1] Washington Papers, LC. Sargent was Continental agent at Gloucester.

Boston Gazette, MONDAY, JANUARY 1, 1776

Watertown, Jan. 1.

In our *gazette* of the 11th instant, we mentioned the brig taken by capt. Manly, bound from Antigua to Boston, being consign'd to one *Brimer* – As there are several lately removed from the town of Boston, by the name of *Brimmer,* we would inform the public that the forementioned Brimer should have been one Alexander Brymer, a Scotch agent to the victuallers of the ministerial navy at Boston.

We hear that a brig from Portugal, bound to New-York, which had been taken by the enemy, and ordered to Boston, was retaken a few days ago by one of the continental cruizers, and carried into Plymouth. She was laden with salt, and had on board, when retaken, a midshipman, and 6 or 8 seamen belonging to the enemy [1]

Saturday last Admiral Shuldham, 'tis said, arrived at Boston to supercede Admiral Graves.

At the same Time arrived seven Transports, we hear without any Troops.

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[1] The editor was in error in calling the brig from Portugal a prize of a Continental cruiser. Her captor has not been identified, but the vessel was probably the brig *St. Lawrence,* of 165 tons, James Coffin, master, libeled against at Plymouth March 25, 1776. The *St. Lawrence* was the only brig carried into Plymouth between October 7, 1775, and March 26, 1776, according to the list of libels covering all prizes sent into that port to that date.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO LIEUTENANT ANTHONY PARRY, R. N.[1]

Whereas there is an absolute necessity to send to his Majesty's Islands in the West Indies for Rum to enable the Contractor to furnish his Majs Ships on this Station, it being impossible for his Agent to procure Spirits by any other means.

You are therefore hereby required and directed to order the *Union* Transport to be got ready for that purpose as fast as possible, and to take from the other Transports under your Direction as many empty Casks, in addition to what are now on board the *Union,* as may be sufficient; taking care however not to have less than three Months Cask in each Transport, and you are also to direct the Master of the *Union* to take down the Soldiers Births to make room.

When she is ready to depart you are to order the Master to proceed without loss of time to Antigua, to deliver the Letters he will receive from Mr Alexander Brymer the Contractors Agent here to his Correspondents Messrs Reed and King Merchants at St Johns; having so done he is to use all possible diligence in taking in a Cargo of Rum, and return again with the utmost Expedition to Boston; but if a Cargo of Rum cannot be so soon procured at Antigua, as at any of the neighbouring Islands, you are to direct the Master to proceed to such other of his Majesty's Islands as the said Messrs Reed and King shall desire, and there load as before mentioned. You are to direct the Master to be on his guard going and returning, to avoid speaking with anything until he has first made the private Signal inclosed, and finds it answered as a friend. And you are further to order him to keep the said Signal as secret as possible, and to deliver the same to you on his Return, but to destroy it if chaced and in danger of being taken.

Given under my hand on board his Majs Ship *Preston* at Boston the 1st Janry 1776

Sam^{l} Graves

To Lieut. Parry Agent of Transports
By Command of the Admiral G. Gefferina

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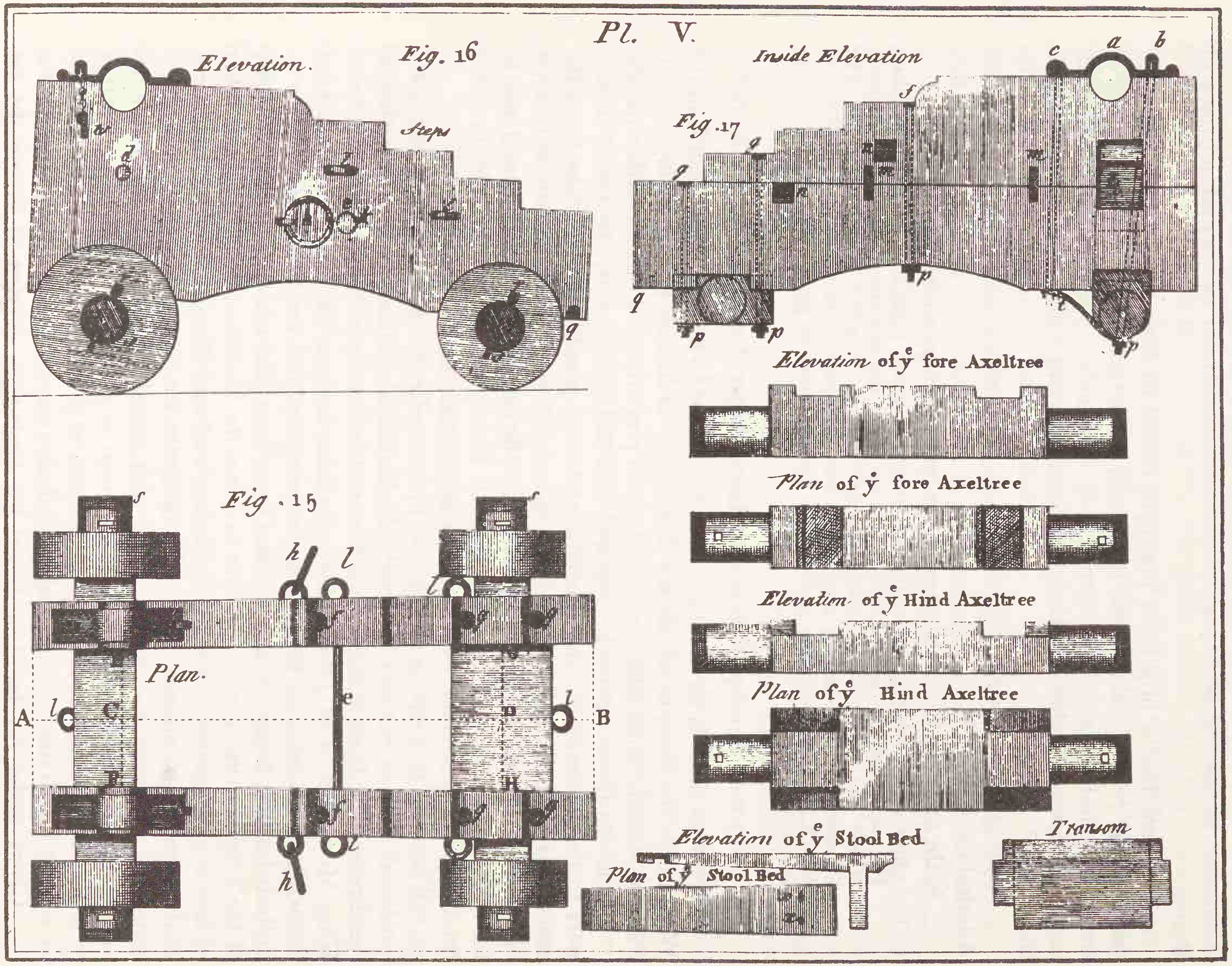
[1] Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 114–15, BM.


Pl. V.
Elevation.
Fig. 16
Steps
Inside Elevation
Fig. 17
c
a
b
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Elevation of ye fore Axeltree
Plan of ye fore Axeltree
Elevation of ye Hind Axeltree
Plan of ye Hind Axeltree
Elevation of ye Stool Bed
Plan of ye Stool Bed
Transom
Fig. 15
Plan.
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Plans for ship gun carriage, 1780.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES [1]

[Boston] 1776 Janry 1

The Victuallers, which had arrived with Supplies of Provision for the Fleet, came without Wine or Spirits. The latter the Commissioners of the Victualling had contracted with Mr [Robert] Grant to deliver at Boston at two periods, for 5000 Men four months in October 1775, and for 6000 Men four months in January 1776, being no less a Quantity than 77,000 Gallons of Rum, the greater part if not all to be distilled in Boston. Without observing how improbable it was that this Contract could be fulfilled in the then State of that Town, or if it was, in the manner designed, the bad Effects the use of such Spirits would have on the health of the Seamen: It is only necessary to say the Want of Fuel prevented this destructive Scheme from taking Effect; although a very considerable part of the Melasses intended for the purpose, was taken by the Rebels. That the Squadron might not be distressed in this Article, the Admiral ordered a Transport to be dispatched to Antigua for a Cargo of Rum which the Correspondents there of the Contractors Agent could without Delay put on board.

[1] Graves's Conduct, II, 24–25, BM.

Newport Mercury, MONDAY, JANUARY 1, 1776

Newport, January 1.

A brig loaded with salt, belonging to New-York which was brought into this harbour by one of the King's cruisers some time past, was drove ashore on Goat Island last Saturday se'nnight, where she still remains; 'tis supposed most of the salt is melted.

GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO GEORGE WASHINGTON [1]

[Extract] Lebanon, 1st January 1776

The 23d yours of the 14th of Decemr came to hand p Monsieurs Penet and De'pliarne – every necessary Assistance for Expediting their Journey was afforded without Delay – they set out the Next Morning – You shall be made acquainted with the Expence incurrd on their Account when the same is known –

The 28th instant at Evening Our General Assembly adjourned. There is great Unani[m]ity in our Common Cause, Among others they passed . . . A Resolve to provide so that we shall have two Armed Vessels – One of 16 Carriage Guns, the other 14 – with a Schooner called the *Spy* of 4 carriage Guns – and four Row Galleys –

[1] Washington Papers, LC.

JABEZ HUNTINGTON TO NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.[1]

Sr Norwich Jan 1st 1776

In Conversasion with Govr. Trumball Some days ago about the affair of the Powder that you was to provide for the Colony [he] told me he wanted to know if you had any Late Intelligence; if you have any thing to Communicate to him on that affair please to forward a Letter P the barer Mr [Killingsly] and I will take Due Care that it goes to the Govr from your [&c.]

Jz Huntington

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1. Nathaniel and Thomas Shaw Letters and Papers, NLCHS.

INTELLIGENCE FROM PHILADELPHIA, TRANSMITTED BY GOVERNOR WILLIAM TRYON [1]

[Received the beginning of January 1776]

The following is a Coppy of what was written under a bill of Such Goods as was immediately to be procured the List of the Goods I havent time to Coppy but they were various Sorts – Gunpowder Lead flints &c to the amount of Twenty five Thousand pound Sterling –

Viz. Those Goods Should be purchased in Holland & france and the most Probable way to affect it will be immediatly to Send Vessels with Provisions for Portugal Spain & the Streights – Order the proceeds to be Remitted by Bills to Amsterdam or London – A factor Capable of Transacting this Business in Holland Hamboro & France Should be Imeadiatly imployed, Goods at Holland may at a Small Risk & Charge be Sent to Dunkirk & there be Sent off –

At Holland Dutch Bottoms may be Got for St Ostatia at Holland or hamboro Danish Bottoms for St Croix –

I Cannot find that the persons Nominated as yet for this Buisiness, I Shall endea[vo]r to Learn who they are to be and what Vessals I think by what little I Can discover that the Vessals fiting out here is part of them that are to be employd for the Above Expedition one of them is a Ship of 36 guns the head is the figure of a man as Drawing his Sword Bottom white, Sides black & yellow above [2] – the Brig has no head at all however as they Don't Sails as yet I will inform you of more particular[s] about them and who will be their Comanders –

There is to be issued a further Sum of three Millions of [Dollars] I have Inclosd part of a letter from Mr [Michael] Hillegas the Treas[urer] it is Broke to pieces but twill Serve to Convince you that an additional Sum is to issued [3]

The Congress are very Resolute to Persefere in their wars now so Came that yesterday that one Regt of foot & 3 Companys of Light horse was Come to Long Island Coll [William] floyd Said he was Glad if they ware & that they would Soon be their horses he Said if the Regulars Should Guard a Sertain place he between Sume [Noted Iland] & hell Gate it would be Difficult for the Provincial Troops to Get on Long Iland —

Here are three persons from N york one Capt Greenol one Brasier & one palmer with a new Draft of Hudsons River Signyfing the Nesessaty of Building another fort on pooplopers Kill [Pooplopens Kill] in the above River – They also Brought Letters from the Convention of N york [4] I Coppyed off the follow[in]g but oppertunity would not alow me any further —

> We take the Liburty to inclose you a Coppy of our Proceedings Respecting the Delinquents in Queens & Richmonds Countys we aprehend we have proceeded against them as far as a prudent Regard to present Circumstances of the Cappital of this Collony Capital &c the

Safty of the Colony in General as far as it Depends upon the Security of its Capital will permit & for this assertion we beg to Suggest the following Reasons to Witt

1st The power which the Kings Ships have for Distroying the property in this City –

2dly our being allmost utterly Destitute of powder for the Defence of this City ware it in other Rspects Defensible against Naval force

3dly The Great Probility that an array of Troops against the above mentioned Delinquents by athority of this Congress even ware we sufficiently Provided for the Purpouse with Powder, would Bring on a firing upon this City –

4ly We are now Expetiting Vessals from the Importation of Powder &c &c this Object Should we unnessarily Incence the Navy we may lose, as well as the oppertunity of Supplying the Inhabitants of this City with the Nessarys of Life in a Severe Season which Nessarys it is well known we are allmost entirly Supplide with by water —

The Latter part of the Letter Signifyd that Troops should be Sent from Sume other parts against the above m[ost named] Countrys – [5]

Another Letter and a Coppy of one that had been Sent to Governor Thrumbull Requesting of him that the Type &c Taken from [James] Rivington might be Delivered into the hands of the Chairman of the Committy of N york & that he would Use his endevors to prevent any inroads or incurtions in to the province of N york for the future —

Here Is one Capt [Simeon] Sellick in this Town with Three others that Came Down from the Back forts with the priseners taken at St Johns &c I have made it my Buisness to Get acquainted with them Sellick is the Fellow that Took the Goods & Stores from Turtle Bay with his owne Sloop which he made free to tell me (being a friend of his) Says he "I had athority and went to N york on purpous to Take that Old Tryon my Self I warant I would have Secured him but when I Came there the D--md Toris pretended to Say it would be best to Lett him alone a little longer hadent it been for Them I should have had him Safe enough" – he is now applying to the Congress for a Reward for his Bravery he Told me he Intend[ed] to fit out his owne Sloop with 6 guns & a Number of Swivels for Privateering he is one of Conecticut he further assured me that there [are] at that Place two fine Scooners fiting out one for Capt Seears of n york the other for one Capt Craig [6] one of the others Told me that 3 Companys of Troops was Stationed at Tycontoroga & ft George, with a greater Number at St Johns 27000 more was fixt on to be embodied nex Spring but Since the News Came from England than an army of 30000 are to be Sent over I believe they are about to Augment their forces however Probly I may Learn what Numbers they will Resolve on The privateers is froze up but now the Thaw will free them and I Shall know when they Saile here is upwards of 100 flats Built to be Set on fire if any fleet Cume up this River they are to Chained one to another in two Rows across the River and a Large Chaine to be put a Cross there is Sumething of Great Consiquences going to be put in motion at Boston as Soon as the frost

Sets in they mean to Use the utmost in their power as I herd s[o]me of tham Say that it would be of Greater Consiquences than the Reduction of Cannada –

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1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/1107, Part I, 255–57. This is the copy enclosed in a letter of January 5, 1776, from Tryon to Lord Dartmouth. Another copy is in the Shuldham Papers, PRO, Admiralty 1/484, supplied by Captain Hyde Parker, Jr., H.M.S. *Phoenix*. The intelligence came to Tryon from James Brattle, valet to James Duane, one of the New York delegates in the Continental Congress.
2. The *Alfred* had been the merchantman *Black Prince*, and the figurehead probably was a representation of that heroic son of Edward III.
3. Congress resolved on December 26, 1775, that "a farther sum of three millions of dollars be emitted in bills of credit," Ford, ed., *JCC*, III, 457.
4. The three gentlemen from New York were Captain John Grenell, Abraham Brasher and Thomas Palmer, who had been dispatched by the New York Provincial Congress to present a recommendation that there be a further fortification erected on Pooplopens Kill. They carried a letter to that effect, dated December 20, 1775.
5. Brattle quoted from a letter of December 21, 1775 from the New York Provincial Congress to its delegates in the Continental Congress.
6. Simeon Sellick's petition, which he had submitted on December 29, 1775, was referred to a committee of three, one of whom was William Floyd, of New York. For the action thereon, see Journal of the Continental Congress, January 1, 1776.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS [1]

[Philadelphia] Monday, January 1, 1776

The Congress took into consideration the report of the committee appointed to consider on Captain Simeon Sellick's petition,[2] which was agreed to, as follows:

That they have maturely considered the petition, and have examined Captain Sellick particularly thereon, and are of Opinion, that the petitioner be allowed, as a compensation for his expences, trouble, and risque in taking the goods at Turtle bay, for the use of the United Colonies, the sum of 333⅓ dollars, and that the committee of Fairfield be directed to take into their possession, for the use of the said colonies, all the goods taken by Captain Sellick, which are not already delivered by him, and to forward the two boxes of saltpetre now in Captain Sellick's custody, to the powder Mill in Ulster county, to be manufactured into powder for the continental service.

The committee to whom the letters from General Washington, and the intercepted letters,[3] were referred, brought in their report, which being taken into consideration, the Congress came to the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the seizing and securing the barracks and castle of St. Augustine will greatly contribute to the safety of these colonies, therefore it is earnestly recommended to the colonies of South Carolina, North Carolina and Georgia to undertake the reduction of St. Augustine, if it be thought practicable.

Resolved, That the president of the provincial council of North Carolina and Georgia, be requested to procure committees of their several bodies to repair immediately to Charleston, and there to confer with a committee of the council of safety of South Carolina, upon weighty and important matters relative to the defence and security of those colonies.

Resolved, That the first resolution together with copies or extracts of such of the intercepted letters as tend to shew the state of the forts and garrison at St. Augustine be transmitted by express to Henry Middleton and John Rutledge Esqrs members of Congress to be by them laid before the committees directed to meet [at Charleston] in consequence of the above resolution and in case the enterprize be judged practicable that immediate preparations be made by the joint force of the said colonies (viz South Carolina, North Carolina and Georgia) and the expedition be undertaken without delay at the expence of the united colonies.

Resolved, That it appears the British ministry and their agents have meditated and are preparing to make attacks upon Charleston, in South Carolina and several places in Virginia, and probably in North Carolina; and that it be recommended to the conventions or committees of safety of the two former colonies, and to the provincial council of the other, by all possible means, to make a vigorous defence and opposition; and that it be farther recommended to the committee of safety of Virginia, and the provincial council of North Carolina, to meet together and confer and conclude upon such operations as they may think most for their mutual interest.

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1. Ford, ed., *JCC,* IV, 13, 15, 16.
2. Sellick's petition was presented to Congress, December 29, 1775, and a committee appointed to consider it. The committee reported the next day, but no action was taken at that time.
3. The intercepted letters were those taken in the British sloop *Betsey* by Captain John Manley in Washington's armed schooner *Lee.* Washington's covering letter was read in Congress, December 30, 1775, and a committee of five was appointed to consider it and the thirty or more intercepted letters.

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH [1]

[Philadelphia] Monday 1 January 1776. An Expedition agt St Augustine recommended to the Colonies of S. & N. Carolina & Georgia if the ruling Powers there shall deem it practicable. . . . the report on Capt Sellicks Affair confirmed – . . . Motion by [Eliphalet] Dyer to pay a Gentlemans Expences who accompanied the 2 Frenchmen [2] from Gen Washns Camp, was postponed –

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1. Richard Smith's Diary, LC.
2. Pliarne and Penet.

ORGANIZATION FOR BUILDING THE FOUR PHILADELPHIA FRIGATES [1]

[Philadelphia, January 1,1776] [2]

For the Frigates building in Philadelphia the following Boards &c are employed
Four Commissioners to Superintend & direct the whole business.

A Committee of Four to inspect, examine & Correct all the Accounts relative to this business & return them with Certificates or remarks to the Commissioners who order payment of such as said Committee pass as being right & just

a Committee of Four, to buy & provide all Timber, Plank & Trenails wanted for these Ships, to keep a general Acct of all they buy & a particular Acct of what they deliver to each Ship, to return their Contracts and Accounts to the Committee of Accts for examination &c

a Committee of Four to buy & provide all Hemp, Cordage, Canvass, & Stores &c necessary for the Ships keeping a general Acct of their whole purchase & a particular Account of what is assigned for the use of each Ship –

a Treasurer to receive the Money assigned him by the Marine Committee & to pay the orders of the Commissioners –

No pay Stipulated with any of the above Boards, it must be proportiond to their trouble & expences, and submitted to Congress, or the Marine Committee, some of them will not ask any pay, others cannot afford their time & trouble without pay

a Superintendant & Clerk to each Ship Yard, to keep an exact Account of the time all persons Work or are employed in this Service, of all Materials expended to procure all things Wanted from Trades men & keep Account thereof. The Master Carpenters have 10/ p day Journey Men Carpenters 7/ p day. Labourers 3/6 to 5/ as they deserve. Superint[e]nd[ent]s 24 Dollrs p Month Clerk £8 p Month each Board or Committee is allowed a Clerk

1. USNAM. The document is in the handwriting of Robert Morris.
2. The date is approximated. The memorandum must have been prepared prior to January 4, as it refers to the various committees as already appointed, and the Timber Commissioners on January 4, 1776 advertised for rising timbers, floor members and knees.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY[1]

In Committee of Safety.
[Philadelphia] January 1st, 1776.

Upon the Application of the Naval Committee of Congress, this Board grant them Permission to engage any three of the Pilots in the Pay of this Province, to conduct the Vessels belonging to the Congress down to Reedy Island, and immediately afterwards to return to their proper Stations.

Mr. Robert Towers, Commissary, is directed to deliver fifty Stand of arms to Capt. Sam'l Nicholls,[2] for the use of the Congress.

Upon application of this Board to the Navy Committee of Congress for some Russia Sheeting, for the use of Colo. [John] Bull's Battalion, this Board was furnished with an order for Forty Pieces, which was ordered to be delivered to Messrs. Mease & Caldwell, or order.

Upon Application of the Naval Committee of Congress, that this Board would permit a number of men from the armed Boats to navigate the vessels belonging to the Congress down to Reedy Island, this Board gave the following order to Capt. [Henry] Dougherty:[3]

> Sir;
>
> You are hereby required to order such a number of men to go from on Board the armed Boats under your command, as may be necessary to navigate the vessels belonging to the Congress down to Reedy Island; [to] appoint some discreet Officer or Officers to take [them down] and to bring them back by such [means as may] be provided for them by the Naval Comm.
>
> To Capt. Henry Dougherty.

Upon application of Capt. Allen Moore, that this Board could indulge him with the liberty of resigning his command as Commander of one of the Armed Boats, and having given reasons why his request should be granted, *Resolved,* That he, the said Capt. Allen Moore, have permission to resign his Command of the Armed Boat *Effingham.*

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1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records,* X, 441–42.
2. Samuel Nicholas, senior Marine Captain, and assigned to the *Alfred.*
3. Henry Dougherty, senior galley commander in the Pennsylvania Fleet, and captain of the galley, or armed boat, *Washington.*

THOMAS WHARTON TO SAMUEL WHARTON [1]

[Extract] Philadelphia Jany 1st 1776.

Two French Men arrived in this City two Days since,[2] and have made their Application to Congress, their Business is a perfect Secret out of Doors, therefore thou must not expect I shall hazard a Conjecture: Its said One of Them is a Count or Marquis They landed from the West Indies at Providence Rd Island, and proceeded from thence to Genl Washington and its said communicated to Him their Business. He has sent Them to the Continential Congress – Time must reveal their Views –

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[1] PRO, Colonial Office, 5/40. An intercepted letter.

[2] Pliarne and Penet.

Pennsylvania Packet, MONDAY, JANUARY 1, 1776

Philadelphia [January 1].

By Captain Hunn [Robert Hume], from Edentown, North-Carolina, we learn, that a certain Cullen Pollock, a man of great fortune in that place, having by various ways and means proved himself an enemy to America, at last by insulting a number of Officers and Soldiers when under arms, and being too great a coward to give any of them personal satisfaction, he drew on himself the resentment of the people, who waited upon him the latter end of November, took him out of his house, paraded him round the town to the whipping post, where he was tarred and feathered, and then dismissed. They afterwards burnt his coach.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Liverpool,* CAPTAIN HENRY BELLEW [1]

Jany 1776 Off Norfolk in Virginia

Monday 1st Long Boat Watering, dry'd Sails, unbent main Topsl Jibb maintopmast Stay sl and Mizn

at 3 PM fird 3 Shot at the Rebels Guard house, to Disperse them, at 4 saw a number of Arm'd Boats put off from the Dunmore towards the shore, ½ past, many of the Store houses were on fire upon the Wharfs, kept a constant fire on the Shore till AM to cover the Boats.

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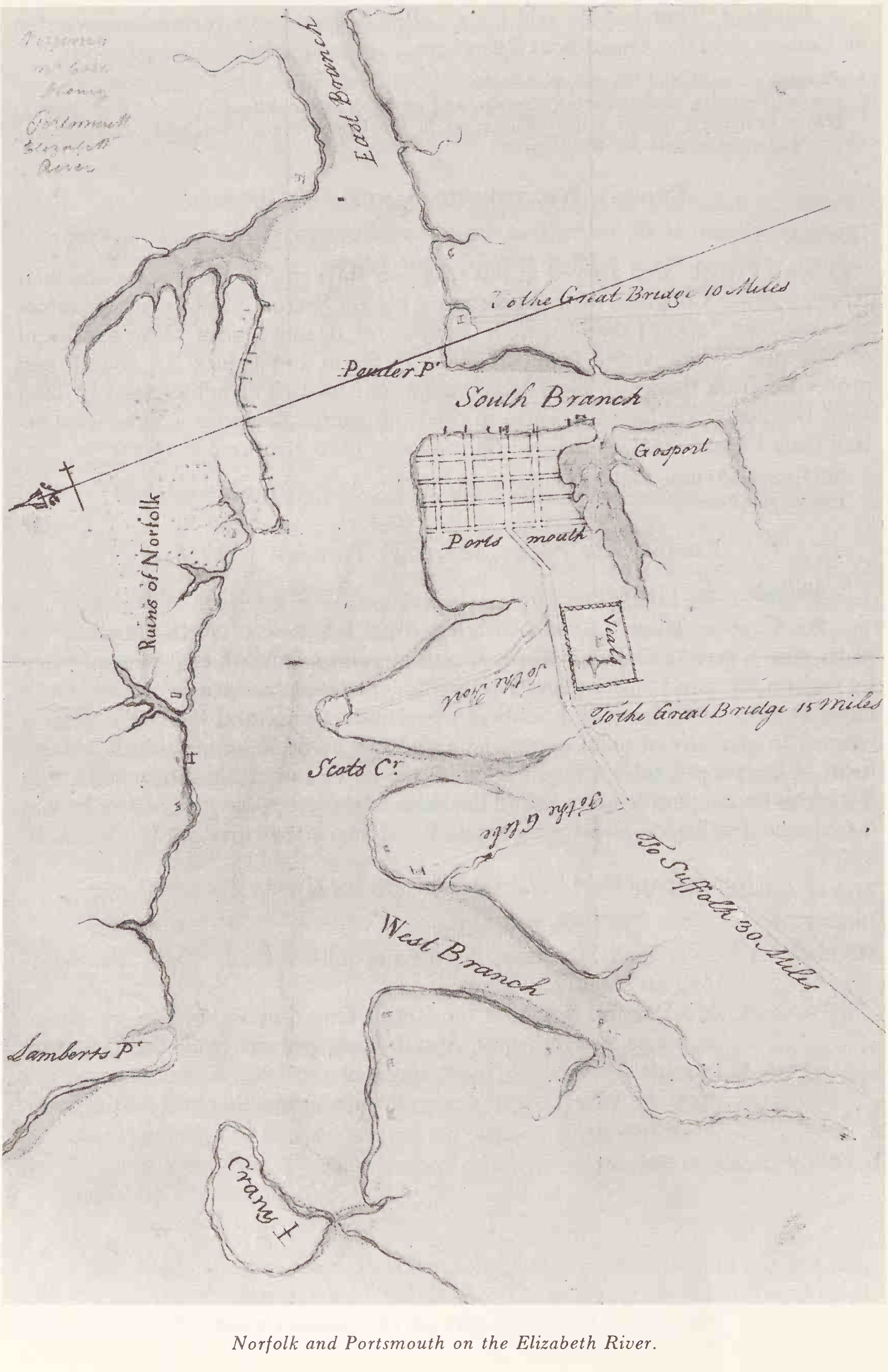
[1] PRO, Admiralty 51/548.


Portsmouth
Elizabeth
River
East Branch
To the Great Bridge 10 Miles
Pewter Pt
South Branch
Gosport
Ruins of Norfolk
Portsmouth
Vialy
To the Fort
To the Great Bridge 15 Miles
Scots Cr.
To the Glebe
To Suffolk 30 Miles
West Branch
Samberts Pt
Crany I

Norfolk and Portsmouth on the Elizabeth River.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Kingsfisher,* CAPTAIN JAMES MONTAGU[1]

January 1776 Moored in Elizbth River Virginia Abreast the Town of Norfolk

Monday 1st A M Recd on Bd Water
At 3 P M Began A heavy Cannonading on the Town of Norfolk as did the *Otter* & *Liverpool* which Continued Some Time Landed A party of Seamen sett Fire to the Town

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 51/506.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Otter,* CAPTAIN MATTHEW SQUIRE[1]

January 1776 Elizabeth River [Virginia]

Monday 1 A M Received 3 Hhds of water by the long boat
Mostly little Wind & fair. at 4 P M began a brisk fire from the Squadron on the Town and continued till 11 during which time the boats landed & set fire to the different wharfs, had two Men wounded by the Rebels Musquetry. The Rebels set fire to many parts of the back of the Town.

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY[1]

In the Council of Safety
[Charleston] Monday, Jan. 1st, 1776.

Resolved, That Capt. Edward Blake be authorized to purchase one hundred and fifty barrels of salted pork, and as many of salted beef, on the public account, for the use of the naval armament of this colony.

Mr. [John] Rutledge reported the following answer to the delegates from Georgia, which being read, was agreed to by the Council:

> Gentlemen – We have maturely considered what you offered to this Board from the Council of Safety in Georgia, and are sorry to find, that the information which occasioned our letter to them, is so well founded.
>
> You know, that by the Continental Association, no produce of the United Colonies, could be exported, from any of them, to Great Britain, Ireland, or the West Indies, after the 10th of last September, except rice to Europe – yet it appears that a vessel loaded with indico, sailed for England from your province, about a month ago; it is said, indeed, her clearance was dated before the 10th of September, but it is admitted, that very little, if any of her cargo was then shipped. It also appears, that a vessel at Savannah is now nearly loaded with indico for England, her clearance also, it is said, bears date before the 10th of September, but, it is confessed, that she did not arrive in your colony till last month. Surely, gentlemen, these acts cannot possibly receive any kind of countenance; such subterfuges to evade the association, are

at least as criminal as declared and open violations of it. It further appears, that vessels with cargoes, laden long since the 10th of September, have sailed from Georgia to Bermuda; this is also contrary to the association. It is pretended, indeed, that they were permitted to load, on account of the great scarcity of provisions, from which, it was feared, the people on that island might starve, if not supplied, but we apprehend it is not in the power of any of the colonies to relax the association, from motives of compassion, for the distress of a particular island. Bermuda applied to the Congress for relief, where only she could properly obtain it, and where she certainly would, if not inconsistent with the plan which they had adopted; but if the colonies should severally relax the association, in favour of that, or any other island, such practice might open a door for supplying many others, or perhaps all in the West Indies.

As rice is the only article which the association allowed to be exported to Great Britain, after 10th September, it clearly follows that deer skins could not be exported, and we are assured that application was made by your delegates to the Continental Congress, for permission to export deer skins, which was refused.

Now, as to the article of rice, that certainly might have been shipped for Great Britain after the 10th of September. We cannot, however, forbear observing, that New-York and the lower counties on Delaware might have shipped their produce to any places except Great Britain, Ireland, and the West Indies, and that North-Carolina and this province might have exported rice to Great Britain, after that time, consistent with the association and the restraining act, yet they all forbore, and every colony (yours excepted) suspended exportation, till the sense of the Congress should be declared on that head. We are well assured they made no doubt that Georgia had done so. Upon this supposition, for which, from the resolution of your convention, respecting the restraining act, they had good grounds, the Congress returned thanks to your colony, as well as to the other priviledged colonies, for not taking advantage of the exemptions in that act. However, that you had a right, by the association, to export rice to Great Britain after the 10th of September is not denied. And we conceive that, until you had notice of the non-exportation resolution which you say was not till 15th December, you could not, in equity or justice, be bound by it, and therefore, that any cargoes, or parts of cargoes of rice, which were actually laden for Europe at that time, may be exported, but no more. Clearing out empty vessels, or vessels partly loaded, when the resolution was known in Georgia, with intent to load, or complete their loading afterwards, is the same kind of evasion, as clearing out before 10th September, and loading indico afterwards.

We wish to preserve union between this and every other colony, particularly at a time when it is essentially necessary, for the support of American liberty, and are desirous that your conduct may appear to all the world, in as favourable a light as that of any other colony. We are concerned for what has happened; we have, however, no jealousy, no animosity; we mean not to arraign or condemn, but as friends and brethren, deeply interested in the event of one common cause, to remonstrate, and to offer our advice, and assistance if wanted. How to punish for past offences, and prevent future, seem to be the points for present consideration. By the Continental Association, persons who violate it, as those who shipped and exported indico to England after 10th of September certainly did, are to be advertised, as inimical to the liberties of America, and all dealings or intercourse with them are to be broken off. But, is this a sufficient terror or punishment to evil-doers? Are not the liberties of America, or at least the safety of the colony in which such offenders reside, endangered by the conduct of men, who are so daring, as to set their country and the continent at defiance, and, if so, do they not well deserve to be treated, as the Congress on the 6th of October last recommended to the several Provincial Conventions or Councils of Safety, viz: "To arrest or secure every person in their respective colonies whose going at large may in their opinion endanger the safety of the colony, or the liberties of America." Every colony may moreover adopt punishments for it's own inhabitants, violators of the association, suitable to the degrees of their offence. We are, gentlemen, unanimously of opinion, and recommend that all deer skins and indico shipped since the 20th [*sic* 10th] of September, and all cargoes or parts of cargoes of rice shipped for Europe since the day when you received the continental resolution of November 1st, and still in any port or river in Georgia, should be re-landed, and not suffered to be exported thither. The sending away immediately, in ballast, vessels which are not admitted to load, would be a good step to prevent fraud, or further trouble with them. We cannot conclude, without mentioning, that as we think ourselves bound to do our utmost, in support of the friends of liberty, in any of the colonies, if you have occasion for assistance, to enforce an observance of the Continental Association and resolutions in your colony, we will most readily afford you all in our power, which we doubt not will effectually crush every attempt to infringe them. We hope our sentiments will meet with the concurrence of you, gentlemen, and of your colony, and request that you will communicate them fully, on your return, to your Council of Safety and General Committee, and to your Provincial Convention at its next meeting.

In the Council of Safety, 15th [*sic* 1st] Jan., 1776.

By order. Henry Laurens, President.

Stephen Drayton, William Ewen, esqs.,
Delegates from the Council of Safety in Georgia.

Read a letter from Archibald Bullock, esq., dated Savannah, 26th December, 1775.

Ordered, That Mr. President be desired to answer the several letters lately received from the Provincial Council at Wilmington, in North-Carolina, and that the case of Capt. Alexander Wylly be recommended to their attention.

Ordered, That Capt. Blake be desired with all possible expedition, to fit out the *Hawke* pilot boat, so as to proceed under the command of Capt. Robert Cochran, in the service of the colony.

An application was made by Col. [George Gabriel] Powell, for two-nine pounders, and a quantity of gunpowder and warlike stores for the *Comet* brigantine.

Ordered, That the consideration thereof be postponed.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society,* III, 136–38.

LORD WILLIAM CAMPBELL TO LORD DARTMOUTH [1]

[Extract] *Cherokee* Armed Ship in Rebellion Road
No 10 1 January 1776.

My Lord On the 30th of November the *Scorpion* with the Transport under her Convoy arrived here having Governor Martin on board, who, I soon found, had left Cape Fear only to secure the *Scorpion*'s immediate return, his situation has long been very disagreeable on board a very small Sloop and it was natural for him to wish to keep the Ship appointed to the North Carolina Station, and he therefore applied to Captain [Edward] Thornbrough to order the *Scorpion* immediately back, which he did. I plainly forsaw the consequence of this step would be his abandoning Charlestown Harbour, I therefore thought it my Duty to remonstrate against it, but without effect; and the *Scorpion* with the Transport and three Vessels that had been stopped here sailed for Cape Fear leaving us in a worse situation than they found us, as the Rebels were greatly elated at their Departure and the very next morning landed a body of men on Sullivan's Island where they never had ventured before, burned the only house upon it, consumed the little all of three poor families who had taken refuge there, carried off the people with two men belonging to the *Cherokee* who were ashore watering & destroyed their Casks. The day after, the Rebels got some Guns upon the main Land on the North side of the Harbour nearly opposite to the end of Sullivan's Island, off which, the King's Ships lay and immediately threw up a work and erected a Battery of four eighteen Pounders. These Circumstances which I clearly forsaw are so truly distressing to me, as I could not agree in opinion with Governor Martin as to the comparative importance of the two Provinces, nor with the Commanding Officer of the King's Ships as to the propriety of his conduct; that I will not dwell any longer upon the subject. I only beg leave to transmit to your Lordship some Letters that passed between Governor Martin Captain Thornbrough and myself. – [2]

I can with the greatest truth assure your Lordship no consideration of any merit that might be attributed me from the first impression being made in His Majesty's Province under my Command influenced my conduct; had I thought it would have been more conducive to the King's Service I would have chearfully served as a Volunteer with Mr Martin in North Carolina rather than have divided our little Force, but I cannot from what I have hitherto seen give up my opinion of the vast difference between the Provinces in Wealth, Strength, and of course in the power of doing mischief. I therefore must have good reason to make me think our whole puny Force ought not to have been collected in Charles town Harbour to keep the Port open; leaving a small vessel to cruise off Cape Fear to give necessary information to any King's Ships that might arrive.

While I so freely declare my Sentiments, and my dissent from the proceedings in Rebellion Road, I have the pleasure to assure your Lordship, the only dispute that can be between Mr Martin and me, will be which of us can most effectually serve our most gracious Sovereign. –

I have the Honor to be with great Truth and Esteem My Lord [&c.]

William Campbell

[Endorsed] R/ 29th Febry [1776].

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1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/396, LC Photocopy. Campbell was Royal Governor of South Carolina.
2. See Campbell to Martin, and Martin to Campbell, both December 1, 1775. Volume 2, 1225–27.

William Heyward to Mrs. Pemble [1]

January 1, 1776

Copy On board the Packet in Charles Town Road

To Mrs Pemble
No 92 Portland Street

This Epistle my dear Mother must be as laconic and enigmatical as possible, that it may take up but little of the Inspector General's time at the Post Office and disappoint the impertinent Curiosity of every insolent Caitiff that may think proper to break my Seal.

I arrived here on Christmas Day after a Passage of ten tedious Weeks, and am now a Prisoner on board the Packet, detained by Lord William Campbell the Governor, and my Letters and Papers taken from me, and no reasons given – How long I shall continue in this Situation I know not, but at present see no probability of my getting on Shore, as all Communication between the Town and Men of War has ceased, and Hostilities commenced – I have been allowed to write to my Father, (my Letter subject to the inspection of the Governor) but have not yet received an Answer, therefore I cannot be perfectly satisfied of his Health & Safety – these circumstances, you will conclude give me some Uneasiness – they are so – yet I often lose the Thoughts of the Prisoner in the Idea of the willing Captive – 'Tis rather discouraging to a young Soldier to be made a Prisoner without being allowed to strike a Blow or even to declare War – but I must meet with greater Difficulties before I despair of executing my Intentions – I think you will not doubt me after my late Effort – My Victory is not so great as I myself expected – I still bear with me an Image engraven on my Heart which whatever may be my Fate, will descend with me to my Grave – We know not the Value of our Friends but by their Loss.

If I should ever have an Opportunity of writing after I get on Shore, I most undoubtedly shall embrace it; if not, I must now entreat you to present me as I am and ever appeared unto my Friends, and particularly so – present me to all and God bless you all – this from Your dutiful Son and most affectionate Friend Will: Heywood

I have just received the Governor's permission to go on Shore – and no reason given – I have only time to say once more God be with you all, acquaint my particular Friends, and let it be my Excuse for not writing, commend one to – Adieu W.H.

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[1] PRO, Colonial Office, 5/40. An intercepted letter.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Argo*, CAPTAIN WILLIAM GARNIER [1]

January 1776	Moored at Plymo Road. Nevis
Monday 1st	A M ½ past 6. Saw His Majesty's Sloop *Lynx* in Chace of a Brigg, and Brought Her too. She Soon after took Her in tow for Bassetarre.[2]

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 51/19.

[2] The brig *America,* Jonathan Lambert, master, from Surinam, with a cargo of molasses. *Pennsylvania Gazette,* July 24, 1776.

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2 Jan.

COLONEL BENEDICT ARNOLD TO BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID WOOSTER [1]

Copy. General Hospital Jany 2d 1776.

Dear Sir I wrote You three Days since of our Defeat & the Death of General Montgomery & others, with all the Information I then had of the Matter, We have been in suspence, with Regard to my Detachment until this Afternoon when Major [Return Jonathan] Meigs was sent out with a Flag for the Officers Baggage who he says are all taken Prisoners, Except Captain [William] Hendricks – Lieut [William] Humphreys of the Rifle Men and Lieut [Samuel] Cooper who were killed in the Action – General Carleton says our Loss in killed & wounded is an hundred – Major Meigs thinks it does not exceed sixty and about three hundred taken prisoners who are treated very humanely – These brave Men sustained the Force of the whole Garrison, for three Hours but were finally obliged to yield to Numbers, and the advantageous Situation the Garrison had over them; several other Officers I am told are slightly wounded we had the Misfortune of losing one Brass six pounder in the Engagement and all our Mortars were taken from St Roche the Evening after the Engagement – This was the Fault of some of the Officers who commanded, as they might very easily have been brought away, agreeable to my positive Orders for that purpose our Force at this Time does not exceed eight hundred Men including Colo [James] Livingston's Regiment of two hundred Canadians, and some scattered Canadian Forces amounting to 200 more, many of the Troops are dejected and anxious to get Home and some have actually set off. I shall endeavour to continue the Blockade while there are any Hopes of Success – for God's Sake order as many Men down as you can possibly spare consistent with the Safety of Montreal, and all the Mortars Hoits [Howitzers] & Shells that you can possibly bring I hope you will stop every Rascal who has deserted from us and bring him back again Every possible Mark of Distinction was shewn to the Corpse of General Montgomery who was to be interred in Quebec this Day. – Had he been properly supported by his Troops I make no Doubt of our Success, We are short of Cash not more than 4 or 500 pounds and only twenty Barrels of salt pork If any can be spared from Montreal, I think best to bring it down and all the Butter. I beg you will transmit a Copy of this Letter to the Honorable Continental Congress and another to his Excellency General Washington I think it will be highly necessary with the Reinforcement which I make no Doubt the Congress will send, that they should order all the large Mortars and Hoits at Crown point Ticonderoga and Fort George on to this place – Monsieur Palliser who has a Furnace at three Rivers assures me that [he] can cast any Size and Number of Shells between this and the Beginning of April. – I hope the Honorable Continental Congress will not think of sending Less than eight or ten Thousand Men, to secure and form a lasting Connection with this Country – I am in such excessive pain from my Wound as the Bones of my Leg are effected I can only add that I am with the greatest Esteem Dear Sir [&c.]

B. Arnold Colo &c.

N.B. Many Officers here appear dispirited. Your presence will be absolutely necessary. I don't expect to be in a Capacity to act this two Months

B. Arnold.

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1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, I, 400–01, NA.

ISAAC SMITH, SR. TO JOHN ADAMS [1]

[Extract] Salem January the 2d. 1776

Mr. Adams I wrote you sometime Ago, desireing you to inquire of the So. Carolina Gentlemen whether they wanted to make Exchange of some money, I had in So. Carolina, but as itt is not very likely I Apprehend I have concluded, to send a Vessell to bring the Value in Rice, which I find is Allowed – so would not give you the trouble. . . .

Grain will be very much wanted the ensueing spring and Year – And am sending several fishing schooners to Virginia &c. for Corn &c. – but unless that Coast could be kept clear itt will be Attended with a great resque. As the Contineltal money we suppose will pass there I have sent and shall send more, and as the resque is great I have been thinking that iff Your Congress would pass some resolve simelar to an Act in former times when paper Currency past here, that were a person was possest of any sum of money which was lost by fire or by sea and could bring satisfactory proof, that in such cases itt was made good to the sufferers. And as grain will be greatly wanted and in case such a resolve could be past itt would be a means of incorageing people to send there Vessells, the Act to be binding, that the money so sent should be laid Out In the United provinces – and in faith that something simelar may be Acted upon, to Answer such a purpose I have been and Noted in a Noterary's office about seven hundred Dls., which I have sent by one Vessell having taken the Number's of the bills and [. . .] Names and then taken the Masters Oath that he received such money's to carry to Virginia, for the purchaseing of grain. And As the money should not fall into the Enemy's hands, I have Orderd the Master to throw itt Over board – for there is not the least doubt but sometime or Other, or even now in many places they could get friends to keep or transact such money's so as to be equal to them as silver or gold. Now, the supposition I go upon is, that by renewing those bills there can be no disadvantage to the Colony's as there will be no more money Isued, and, the person who may be the looser of itt cant be suppos'd but what would gladly pay the charge of haveing them renu'ed, indeed iff he did not he Ought not to be benifited by such an indulgency. I am aware there may be An Objection to such an Act and this may be said, that the money may be hid in the Vessell or by some means or Other securd, but, in that case there would [. . .] a possibillity of secreating itt by the people as they are generally made prisoners and would be found Out One way or Other and that no fraud of that kind should take place the Master should when returnd be upon Oath that the money was thrown Over board and destroyed. Should you think some such Act was legible doubt not you may think of some method to prove the satisfactoriness of the Loss. Some Others have and purpose takeing the steps I have mentioned in Confidence of something of this kind might take place.

As any News we have nothing very Material no prizes lately and am sorry the privateers are not Out which is Occasioned by there time being up but hope there will be new Men and Officers soon as now is the Only time and many Vessells must be on the Coast.[2] . . .

I suppose the Troops thought to be gone to Rd.Island are gone to joyn Ld.Dunmore. We suppose a New Admiral Arrived last saturday[3] with 2 or 3 M[en of] Warr who lay att Nantasket with 2 or 3 more. A number of ships is gone up within a few days so that itts likely they will have a supply.

They have taken a brigantine belonging to Newbury and a schooner belonging here the latter Very Valuable.

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1. L. H. Butterfield, ed., *The Adams Papers,* Series II, *Adams Family Correspondence* (Cambridge, 1963), I, 339–41. Hereafter cited as Butterfield, ed., *Adams Family Correspondence.*
2. Referring to Washington's five armed schooners, manned by men from the Continental Army.
3. Vice Admiral Molyneux Shuldham, who succeeded Vice Admiral Samuel Graves in command of the fleet on the American Station.

STEPHEN MOYLAN TO COLONEL JOSEPH REED[1]

[Extract] Camp [Cambridge] January 2d, 1776.

Manly is truly our hero of the sea; – poor —— [Sion Martindale] is gone to England – his vessel was not at all calculated for the service; she was fitted out at an enormous expense, did nothing, and struck without firing a gun.[2] [William] Coit I look upon to be a mere blubber, —— and —— [Broughton and Selman] are indolent and inactive souls. Their time was out yesterday, and from frequent rubs they got from me (under the General's wings) they feel sore, and decline serving longer. I hope we shall pick out some more active men. It will be possible to bombard Boston from Letchmore's Point; give us powder and authority, for that you know we want, as well as the other. I say give us these, and Boston can be set in flames.

I have heard of your fleet, and I have been much surprised that any of the difficulties you mention should occur in such a place as Philadelphia[3] How often have I exclaimed at the delays attending the fitting out our Beverly Fleet. How often have you descanted thereon in your letters; – but I find this country should not bear so much blame as both of us have laid at its door. I wish the scheme of fitting both fleets out was adopted some months earlier; it would have been of infinite advantage to the cause. I believe I told you that Broughton and Selman were returned; they never entered the River St.Lawrence; indeed, the quantity of provisions ordered to be put on board, was far short for such an expedition: – there is now no help for it. The accounts you give from Virginia are very agreeable, – though I cannot suppose that a want of provisions to support the motley army can be the reason of [Lord] Dunmore's going on board his vessel again. The letters by a sloop, from him bound to Boston,[4] spoke a very different language; he in some of them says he can spare a great deal to the army in Boston. I need not tell you that this sloop was taken by Manly; the Congress have all the letters, and of a very interesting nature they are.

I am just informed all the vessels are now in port, the officers and men quitted them;[5] what a pity, as vessels are every day arriving: indeed the chance of taking any, is pretty well over, as a man-of-war is stationed so as to command the entrance of Beverly, Salem, and Marblehead – we must have ships to cope with them. I shall set out to-morrow and try to get some of them to sea while the weather continues mild. . . .

1. William B. Reed, *Life and Correspondence of Joseph Reed* (Philadelphia, 1847), I, 137–40.
2. Washington's armed brig *Washington.*
3. The Continental Fleet being outfitted at Philadelphia.
4. The sloop *Betsey,* taken December 17, 1775.
5. The vessels were the five schooners of Washington's fleet in New England waters—*Hancock, Franklin, Lee, Warren,* and *Harrison.*

Journal of the Massachusetts House of Representatives [1]

[Watertown] Tuesday, January 2, 1776.

A Petition of Ivory Hovey, in Behalf of the Eastern Districts, lying between the River of Penobscot and Machias, praying the Court to establish a Court of Admiralty at Union-River, for Reasons set forth in said Petition.

Read and committed to Col. [Azor] Orne, and Mr.[Daniel] Hopkins, with such as the Hon. Board shall join.

1. Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch.

Vice Admiral Samuel Graves to Philip Stephens [1]

Sir *Preston* at Boston Janry 2d 1776

Rear Admiral Shuldham arrived at Nantasket in his Majesty's Ship *Chatham* the 30th. Ulto And I had the honour to receive their Lordships Orders hereafter mentioned, Vizt

Of Sepr 28, 1775 To intercept seize and bring into Port all Ships and Vessels whatever having on board Salt Petre, with Copies of the Kings Order in Council of the 27th September.

Octr 15 To station a small Ship at [New] Providence and one at the Bermuda Islands for the safety and preservation of his Majs Ordnance Stores at those places.

Octr 15 To send a Force to destroy the floating Batteries and to weigh up and render useless the Machines sunk in the River Delaware with a View to obstruct the Navigation.

Octr 23 To give the most positive Orders to the Captains of the Squadron to burn and destroy every Vessel fitted out from any of the Colonies in Support of the Rebellion.

I had also the Honour to receive their Lordships Orders dated the 29th of September to remove my Flag from the *Preston* to one of the three Guard Ships named in the Margin, and so soon as I shall have communicated to Rear Admiral Shuldham, who is to succeed me in the Command of his Majesty's Ships and Vessels in North America, such Intelligence of the State of Affairs in this Country as may be material for him to know, and have delivered to him Copies of such of their Lordships Orders and Instructions as remain unexecuted, either in the whole or part, and of which he has not already been furnished with Copies by their Lordships, to make the best of my Way to Plymouth Sound or Spithead.

The *Boyne* sailed for England the 5th of last month, The *Somerset* is at Halifax, The *Asia* at New York; so that altho' I would most readily obey their Lordship's Command and come to England in one of the two large Ships last mentioned, it will take up so much time, and it is such a Risque to attempt getting to either of them at this Season, that I think it better at once to proceed to England in the *Preston;* and as this Ship has not been cleaned since she left England, she may be docked and return again to Boston in nearly the same time it would take to careen her at Halifax.

The Business necessary to be done upon leaving the Station shall be finished as soon as possible, and I hope to get away the latter End of this Month. I am &c

Sam^{l} Graves.

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1. Graves's Conduct, II, 25–26, BM.

Nicholas Brown to Stephen Hopkins [1]

Hond Sir Provid[ence] Janry 2nd 1775[*sic* 1776].

I wrote you 25th Inst to wch Refer – Capt Nichs Power who went to Newport a 2nd Time to Enlist seamen as Mention in My last return'd last evening, after the Most Disagreeble perplexing Jobb in the very Seveer Wheather of last Week has bro't to this Town sixty four Seamen, Affected thro' his Grait Zeal And Indefaticable Industory I just now left him paying of[f] & Setling with the Seamen Sixty of wch he is Assur'd May be got onbord Messrs C[lark] & Night[in]g[al]e Sloop [2] tomorrow wheath[er] permitg. & will sail emediatly for Ph[iladelphi]a this has bin Something Expensive As well as Troublesome Jobb, but Conducted with as Much prudence as the Nature & Circumstances of things would admit, Capt Power out of Choice has Advanced the whole Money out of his Own Pocket, Supposing it May be less Trouble to settle the Affair, As I look upon it apice of singular Servis to the Grand Cause I have no doubt but the Honbl Congress will readily reimburse Capt Power with some future Notice of him Capt Wm Grinnal of Newport is now on the same Business Collecting what Seamen May be left had got Abot 9 or 10, & in Expectation of getg in All this Week Upwards of thirty, if so they will be forwarded as Soon As they Can be got way, but Hope before they get to Pha the fleet may be Saild sufficiently Man'd for Some Important expedition, in that Case they must follow, or Entr onbord Some Other Vessel wch May be fitg on the Same servis – These Seamen of Powers have some wages due & Some [things] advancd by the Commesary wch it was Impossable Could be got setled for Want of three Accots wch would have taken time, Therefore it was tho't Advis[able] to Dispach them & forward these Accts with this Govrmt As soon as may be, & whats found due to be Stoped out of there next Mos pay – There is no such thing as getg them Away with our Advanc[in]g for them – doubtless you'l Observe by our last weeks paper that Coll: Wanton &c was bro't here as they refus'd takeing the Oath Genl [Charles] Lee had Tender'd them, which being Alter'd And expunging the last paragraff, wch Obgd them to take up Arms in Defence of the Country Agt the Kings Troops if Call'd upon tho' Other ways as Strong as before, They took the Oath & Return'd To there Own Homes, I have not Copy [of] the Oath or wo'd forward it. Its tho't Adviseable that the Regmt now rais'd by the Governt Shod be Exchgd for One from the Camp near Cambridge wch will be of emenent servis As there is now no kind of Order amongst our Troops at Newport Its Also Absolutly Necessary The Genl Officer Commandg in this Colony Shod be from Some Other Governt If these regulations are not Come in to & no More Regements rais'd & station'd in the Colony, the Eneme will doubtless take possession of Rhode Isd in the spring – Every possable preperation for the Good of the Whole o[f] each Governt Ought to be forth with put in to execution As its found by experience to be A thing of Some [time] to raise Men & fortifie there minds Agst Cannon So as to be Usefull in Many Circumstances

Copy.

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1. Nicholas Brown Papers, JCBL
2. The sloop *Fly*.

Journal of H.M. Brig *Bolton*, Lieutenant Thomas Graves [1]

January 1776 Moored without Fort Island [off Newport]

Tuesday 2 at 6 A M veer'd away to ⅔ of a Cable Lighthouse SW½W. Flag Staff on Fort Island SBE ⅓ a Mile.

at ½ past 6 A M saw the Hospital and Outhouses on fire on Fort Island, our Boats going on shore drove the Rebels off found our Water Casks burnt by the Rebels at ½ past 7 unmoored & hove into ⅓ of a Cable on the smll Bower at 11 weighed and came to sail working out of the Harbour.

First parts little wind & Cloudy Wr latter Do with Rain.

P M sailed the *George* Sloop for Boston. at 2 P M standing towards James Town Ferry Cannanicutt Island, [a] Number of Rebels fired from thence at the Brigg with small Arms, returned it with Carriage Guns & Howitzers at 3 bore away for the [Newport] Harbour, at 4 Anchor'd with small Bower in 9 fm Water, veer'd away ⅓ of a Cable

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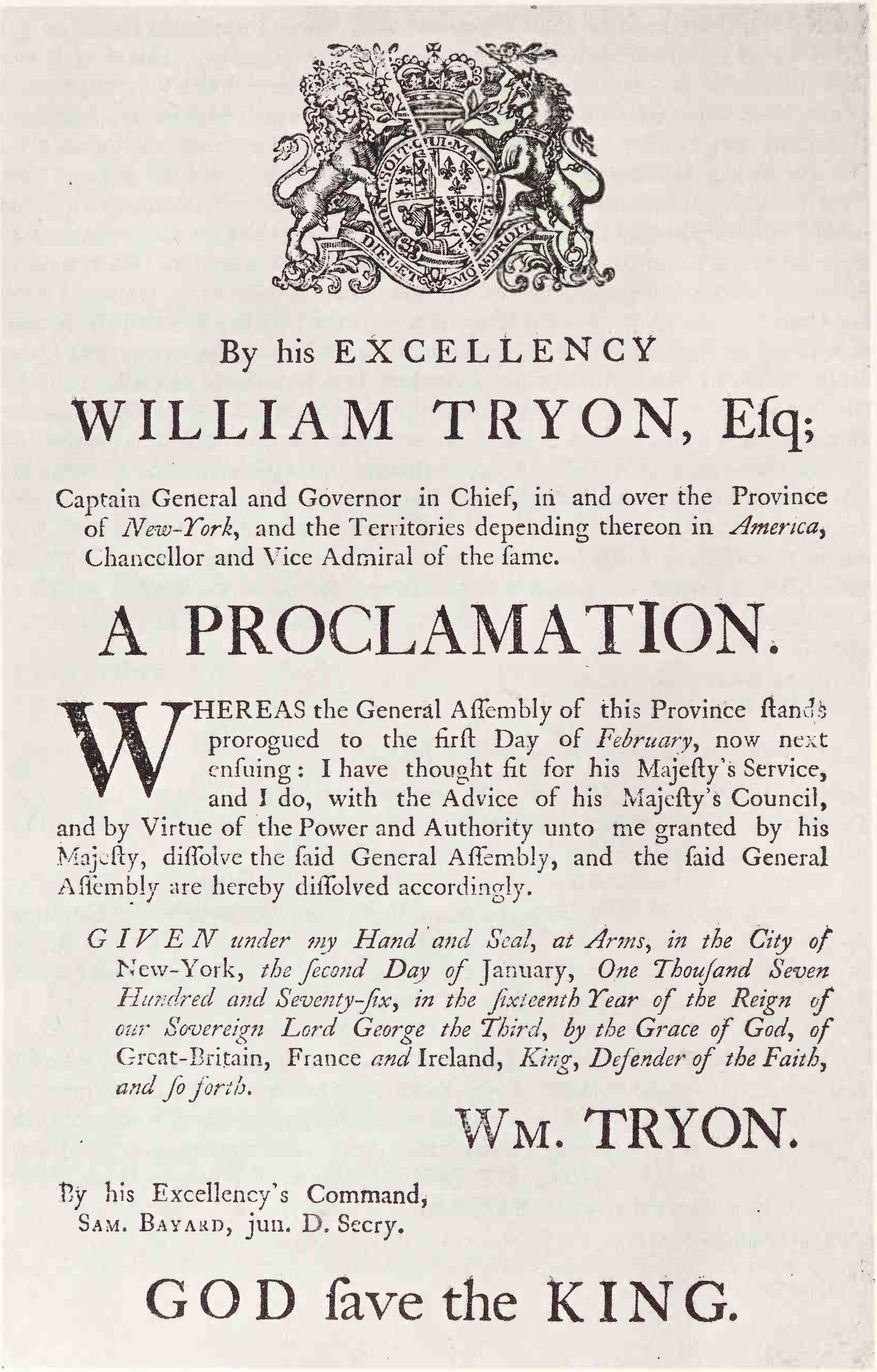
1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4127.



By his EXCELLENCY

WILLIAM TRYON, Eſq;

Captain General and Governor in Chief, in and over the Province of *New-York*, and the Territories depending thereon in *America*, Chancellor and Vice Admiral of the ſame.

A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS the General Aſſembly of this Province ſtands prorogued to the firſt Day of *February*, now next enſuing: I have thought fit for his Majeſty's Service, and I do, with the Advice of his Majeſty's Council, and by Virtue of the Power and Authority unto me granted by his Majeſty, diſſolve the ſaid General Aſſembly, and the ſaid General Aſſembly are hereby diſſolved accordingly.

GIVEN under my Hand and Seal, at Arms, in the City of New-York, *the ſecond Day of* January, *One Thouſand Seven Hundred and Seventy-ſix, in the ſixteenth Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Third, by the Grace of God, of* Great-Britain, France *and* Ireland, *King, Defender of the Faith, and ſo forth.*

WM. TRYON.

By his Excellency's Command,
SAM. BAYARD, jun. D. Secry.

GOD ſave the KING.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL CORNELIUS D. WYNKOOP [1]

[Copy] Albany January 2d 1775 [*sic* 1776].

Sir, Capt: [Andrew] Billings will deliver You the Officers that were made Prisoners in Canada. I do not hesitate a Moment to apply to You on this Occasion, as I have had Experience of your Attention to promote the service.

You will be so good as to forward the Officers & their Baggage to Trenton, together with the Baggage of the St Johns Garrison, the Officers Servants & four or five Men to take Care of the Baggage; All the Other Men, Women & Children, You will please to desire the Committee to Canton, agreeable to my request of the 13th Ult. –

Should the Snow fall when You arrive at Delaware And the River not be Navigable & No Possibility of going down on the Ice, You will leave the Baggage & proceed with the Officers & their Servants to Trenton, from whence You will please to repair to Congress & report what You have done in Execution of this Request. –

The Officers are now on their Parole of Honor, but when You take them in Charge, You will request them to renew their Parole agreeable to my former Orders. –

The Expences run so high, that the greatest Oeconomy is to be Used in Conveying these Troops. – I am Sir [&c.]

Ph: Schuyler

Colo: Wynkoop att Esopus.

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[1] Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, I, 380, NA.

MINUTES OF THE MONMOUTH COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, COMMITTEE OF OBSERVATION [1]

In Committee, Jan. 2d, 1776.

Whereas, on or about the seventh day of October last, a certain small sloop, said to be the tender of the *Viper* sloop of war, was taken with three persons on board, in Barnegat Bay, and is now detained in possession of the Committee of the county of Monmouth, in New-Jersey: Said Committee, in pursuance of the direction of the Provincial Congress, do publish the following descriptive advertisement, viz.

That the length of said small sloop from stem to stern is about thirty feet; depth of her hold three feet and an half; her quarter deck twelve, and her main deck eighteen feet long; three cloths in the head, and eight in the foot of her main sail; her bowsprit five feet over her stem, with a bar of iron up the same; her horse piece of iron, and her burthen about three cords. – The person, who says he is a midshipman, and had the command of her, informs, that she was taken from the Provincials at a place called Holme's Hole, laden with fruit, &c. and was sent by Admiral Greaves to the *Viper* for a tender. – If the original owner shall apply, prove property and pay charges, any time before the first of May next, he may have her again, in present condition.

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[1] *New-York Journal,* February 1, 1776.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS [1]

[Philadelphia] Tuesday, January 2, 1776

The Committee of claims reported, that there is due,

To Judah Alden 50 dollars, advanced on Account of expences in attending the French gentlemen.[2]

Resolved, That General Schuyler be directed to have Brigadier General Prescot, lately made prisoner by the continental forces in Canada, taken into custody, and him safely and securely kept until the further orders of this Congress.

Resolved, That a copy of the above be sent immediately to General Schuyler, and that the general be informed by letter of the reasons which induced the Congress to give such orders.[3]

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[1] Ford, ed., *JCC,* IV, 16.

[2] For accompanying Messrs. Penet and Pliarne from New England to Philadelphia.

[3] Occasioned by the brutal treatment accorded Ethan Allen when captured at Montreal.

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH [1]

[Philadelphia] Tuesday 2. Jany Agreed to write to Gen [Philip] Schuyler ordering Him to confine Brig. Gen Prescot [Richard Prescott] now at Kingston in Ulster County, till further Order, acquaintg Him, (Schuyler), of the reason viz the ill Usage of Col. Ethan Allen, We did not order the Prisoner into Irons because it is not quite certain how Allen is treated – . . . [Christopher] Gadsden moved to add a Friend of his to John Rutledge & [Henry] Middleton now in S. Carolina to whom the Dispatche of Congress relative to the Attack on St Augustine are to be directed, & he further moved for Leave to repair to S.Carolina he being Commander in Chief of the Militia there where an Attack is apprehended these Motions were opposed by his Colleagues [Thomas] Lynch & E[dward] Rutledge & others and were carried in the Negative

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[1] Richard Smith's Diary, LC.

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE CITY AND LIBERTIES OF PHILADELPHIA [1]

[Philadelphia] January 2, 1776.

Resolved, That no master or owner of any vessel or vessels, shall ship any provisions, goods or merchandize, *of any kind,* from this port, without first giving satisfaction to, or receiving the approbation of this Committee.

By Order of the Committee,
Robert Strettell Jones, Sec.

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[1] *Pennsylvania Packet,* January 8, 1776.

ARCHIBALD BUCHANAN TO THOMAS JOHNSON, JR., ANNAPOLIS [1]

Sir Baltimore Town 2 January 1776

Your orders by Mr Isaac Vanbibber I have followed the *Rachel* Cap [James] Tibbet will be full this day by 12 oClock the Invoices shall be sent you to morrow, the Frost setting in sooner than I Ex[pecte]d prevented the mills from Work, I took out of Capn [Thomas] Kell about 170 Blls to get Tibbet

Loaded as he might be ready in case the River Opend, I shall order her out of the way of the Ice this afternoon, the Brigg I first Loaded is at the Mouth of our River, the Owner is Calling upon me Every day for his orders, [Cornelius] Cornthwaits Brigg and Capt Kell will both be loaded in a few days if the weather Continues favourable, and [will] bring down the Invoices of their Cargoes I am Sir [&c.]

Arch^{d} Buchanan

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1. Executive Papers, Box 1, Md. Arch. Johnson was president of the Maryland Convention.

Journal of the Virginia Convention [1]

[Williamsburg] Tuesday, January 2, 1776

The President laid before the Convention a letter from Col. [Robert] Howe, and also a letter from Col. [William] Woodford, informing the Convention they had received petitions from several of the persons who had joined Lord *Dunmore,* and were on board the vessels in the harbour at Norfolk, desiring they might have leave to return, as their wives and children were greatly distressed; that they had given for answer, the women and children were at liberty to come on shore, and should receive assistance and protection, but not to be at liberty to return or give intelligence to our enemies; that the men should have no other violence offered them than to remain prisoners till they could be fairly and impartially tried by their country, for taking arms against it; which being read,

Resolved, That this Convention will immediately resolve into a committee on the said letter.

The Convention accordingly resolved itself into the said committee, and after some time spent therein, Mr. President resumed the chair; and Mr. [James] Mercer reported, that the committee had, according to order, had under their consideration the letter from col. Howe and col. Woodford, and had come to the following resolution thereupon; which he read in his place, and afterwards delivered in at the clerk's table, where the same was again twice read, and agreed to by the Convention.

Resolved, That this convention do highly approve of the offer made by col. Howe and his officers to the distressed women and children now on board the vessels in the harbour at Norfolk, and the terms offered to those who have taken up arms against this country; and that col. Howe be requested to repeat the same, in the name of the delegates and representatives of this colony.

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1. *Virginia Convention,* 80–81.

Colonel Robert Howe to the President of the Virginia Convention [1]

[Extract] Norfolk, January 2

The cannonade of the town began about a quarter after three yesterday, from upwards of one hundred pieces of cannon, and continued till near ten at night, without intermission; it then abated a little, and continued till two this morning. Under cover of their guns they landed and set fire to the town in several places near the water, though our men strove to prevent them all in their power; but the houses near the water being chiefly of wood, they took fire immediately, and the fire spread with amazing rapidity. It is now become general, and the whole town will, I doubt not, be consumed in a day or two. Expecting that the fire would throw us into confusion, they frequently landed, and were every time repulsed, I imagine with loss, but with what loss I cannot tell. The burning of the town has made several avenues, which yesterday they had [not], so that they may now fire with greater effect. The tide is now rising and we expect at high water another cannonade. I have only to wish it may be as ineffectual as the last; for we have not one man killed, and but a few wounded. I cannot enter into the melancholy consideration of the women and children running through a crowd of shot to get out of the town, some of them with children at their breasts; a few have, I hear, been killed.

Does it not call for vengeance both from God and man? It is but justice to inform you, that I had the pleasure to find every officer ready to execute orders at a moment's warning, and that the men behaved with steadiness and spirit. Col. [Adam] Stevens went down at my command, and headed some men near the water, where he engaged a party who had landed, with the spirit and conduct of a good officer. Of my friend Col. [William] Woodford it is almost needless to speak, but I cannot avoid expressing, that I received from him every assistance which conduct and spirit could give me.

1. *Pennsylvania Packet,* January 15, 1776, Supplement, January 16, 1776.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Liverpool,* CAPTAIN HENRY BELLEW [1]

Jany 1776 Off Norfolk in Virginia
Tuesday 2 at 7 [A.M.] the Rebels began to fire upon us with musketry which we returned with great Guns untill they Dispersed.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/548.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Kingsfisher,* CAPTAIN JAMES MONTAGU [1]

January 1776 Moored in Elizbth River Virginia
Abreast the Town of Norfolk
Tuesday 2 AM The Rebels Continuing firing at the Ship we Returning it with Great Guns Swivels & Musquetry
[P. M.] the Rebels as Before. retd it as Before.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/506.

MINUTES OF THE WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

[Wilmington] Tuesday Januy 2. 1776.

Capt Batchelder applied for Leave to clear out his Brig in Ballast for Newyork.

Resolved, That no vessel whatever in this Port Clear out for any other Port until further Orders from this Committee or a superior power, & that Capt Batchelder be served with a Copy of this Order.

1. Secretary of State Papers (Committees of Safety 1774–1776), NCDAH.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

In the Council of Safety,
[Charleston] Tuesday, Jan 2nd, 1776.

Stephen Drayton and William Ewen, esqs., the delegates from the Council of Safety in Georgia, attended, and received the answer of this board to their memorial or representation of the 30th ult., and also a copy of the following letter to the Council of Safety in Georgia:

In the Council of Safety,
Charles-Town, Jan. 2nd, 1776.

Gentlemen – We had the honour of your dispatch of the 19th past, presented to us by Stephen Drayton and William Ewen, esqs., with whom, as delegates from your board, we have conferred freely and fully upon the very momentous subject of preserving friendship and harmony between the other United Colonies and Georgia.

We have delivered to those gentlemen, in answer to their memorial or representation, our sentiments in writing, which we have desired them to lay before you; and we strongly confide in your inclination to co-operate with us, and your zeal for promoting the important interests of America, as to assure ourselves, that all ground for jealously will be speedily removed.

By order of the Council of Safety.

Henry Laurens, President.

Council of Savannah, Savannah.

Information being given to the board, that the ships of war now in our road, intend for Georgia, the following letters were written, and ordered to be sent by express:

Charles-Town, Jan. 2nd, 1776.

Sir – The inclosed paper had been sealed up and directed to you in form of a letter, which was opened for the perusal of the Council of Safety, who had some thoughts of writing in form to your board, but upon reflection, they determined to let it, with this addition, go to yourself, confiding in you and a few other friends to do all that shall appear needful with dispatch, and without alarming opposition. I am sir [&c.]

Henry Laurens, President
of the Council of Safety.

Charles-Town, South-Carolina,
Jan. 2nd, 1776.

Sir – I had the pleasure of receiving yours of the 25th December, by the hands of Mr. Sheftal, and immediately laid it before the Council of Safety. We had before heard too much of the deplorable state of affairs in your colony, particularly of the falling off of one whom I always believed to have been as sincere as he was zealous, and who I hope may still, by proper means, be brought back to his duty.

Our Council of Safety has written such a letter to yours by the hands of Mr. Drayton and Mr. Ewen, as I hope will animate all the friends of liberty on your side, to oppose face to face, those open, and to ferret out the secret enemies of whom you speak. Arduous struggles are before you, but not insuperable. Resolution and steadiness, without unnecessary violence, will carry you through, and I believe you may depend upon all the aid that we, in our weakness, can afford. We indeed have nothing to boast of, beyond the hearty endeavours of a few to save from slavery many very lukewarm, and many who even fight against us, some daringly, and many more under the covert of good wishes and affected neutrality.

But, sir, my principal business at present, for otherwise I should not have troubled you before Mr. Drayton's return, is to inform you that the *Tamar, Cherokee, Sandwich packet,* and an armed scooner made sail this morning in Rebellion Road, and attempted to go over the bar, but the wind failing, they all came to an anchor again. From undoubted intelligence, we learn they are intended for your river, in order to obtain provisions (of bread particularly) which since the practice of harbouring and protecting our negroes on board the *Cherokee,* we have refused to supply them with. Perhaps, too, there may be a concerted plan between the two great men, for covering the loading of all the ships which now are, and which may come into your river, for overawing the friends of liberty, and for giving energy to the projects of our enemies; in a word, for every mischievous, and no good purpose towards the former. These will receive the warning – enquire what quantity of bread and flour, beef and pork, is in the town, and act a part that we hope will do them honour. I have the honour to be, with great regard, Sir [&c.]

Henry Laurens.

Archd. Bulloch, esq.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society,* III, 139–41.

JOURNAL OF THE GEORGIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

At a meeting of the Council of Safety[Savannah] on Tuesday, Jan.2,1776.

The Committee appointed to propose expedients for supplying the Province with arms and ammunition brought in their report, which the Board proceeded to consider and came to the following resolutions.

Whereas, It has been resolved by the Continental Congress, that for the better furnishing these Colonies with the necessary means of defending their rights, every vessel importing gunpowder, saltpetre, sulphur, provided they bring with the sulphur four times as much saltpetre, brass field pieces of good muskets fitted with bayonets, within nine months from the date of this resolution, shall be permitted to load and export the produce of these Colonies, to the value of such powder and stores aforesaid, the non-exportation agreement nothwithstanding [2]

Resolved, Therefore, that a sum of money be provided for the purpose of obtaining arms and ammunition for this Province.

Resolved, That Saml. Elbert, Edwd. Telfair and Joseph Habersham be a committee to agree with a proper person to undertake to supply this Province with arms and ammunition.

Resolved, That such person shall have power to draw on the said committee for the sum necessary to be paid for such arms and ammunition, who are empowered and required to accept the same upon the faith of the public of this Province.

Resolved, That the holder of any such bills may send any vessel or vessels to any port of this Province which shall be permitted to load and carry off any produce of this Province to the amount thereof.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the committee to contract for the supply of 400 stand of arms with bayonets, as nearly to the size recommended by the Continental Congress as possible, 20,000 lbs. of gunpowder, 60,000 lbs. of ball, bullets, bar lead, grape, swan and goose shot, properly proportioned.

Resolved, That all the military stores at the Fort of Frederica be immediately secured and lodged in some place of security.

Resolved, That the President be empowered to issue orders by authority of the Board to some person willing to undertake the same.

Resolved, That the expense attending the taking and securing such stores be paid by the public of this province.

1. Candler, comp., *Georgia Records,* I, 82–86.
2. Resolution of July 15, 1775.

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3 Jan.

Elias Hunt and Zebedee Hunt to the Massachusetts Assembly [1]

States of Massachusetts Bay
To the Honourable the Council & the Hon. the House of Representatives of the State aforesaid

Humbly shew

Elias Hunt & Zebedee Hunt Traders all of Newbury Port in the County of Essex & State aforesaid that just before the embargo last made upon all the Vessels of this state they had a small sloop called the *Dove* lying in Sheepscut just ready to sail for the Island of Martinico or Gaudaloupe laden with lumber & fish to purchase molasses arms ammunition & other military stores that said schooner has all her hands already shipped who have been upon pay some time before said Embargo to this time wherefore your petitioners pray your honours that they may be relieved from said expence of paying those hands & that said Vessel may pursue her voyage aforesaid as her importing said Melasses arms ammunition & military stores into this state will be of great service thereto.

And your petitioners as in duty bound shall ever pray –

Elias hunt for Self
and Zebdee Hunt

Jany 3. 1776

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 180, 279.

Portage Bill for Washington's Armed Schooner *Franklin* [1]

when Ship	mens names	Stations	wages pr month	Advance Wages	when dischargd	wages due
octbr 6d	Jno Roundey	master	£4.0.0	£4.0.0	Janry 3d	£8.8.6¾
	Jno dinnes	mate	3.0.0	3.0.0		6.6.5
	Bjm Stevens	Seaman	2.8.0	2.8.0		5.1.1½
	hezy poor		2.8.0	2.8.0		5.1.1½
	Jno Redden		2.8.0	2.8.0		5.1.1½

[Endorsed] octbr 6d 1775 A portrage Bill For the Schooner *Franckling* in and upon a Cruse in Service of the Contenent to the year 1776
[On reverse] Reced Beverly 3 Jany 1775 [*sic* 1776] of William Bartlett Twenty Nine pounds 18/4¼ in full for the within

Jn° Roundey

1. Prizes and Captures, No. 19, LC.

Commitment of Moses Wayman and Samuel Webb [1]

Colony of the Massachusetts Bay } The major part of the Council –

To the Keeper of the Goal at Plymouth in the County of
Plymouth – Greeting

You are hereby ordered & directed to take into your Custody, Mos[es] Wayman & Samuel Webb both of Westchester in the Colony of New York, Mariners, lately taken Prisoners in the Sloop *Live-Po*[*i*]*nt,* attempting to pass into Boston & to supply our Enemies there with Provisions &c and them and each of them safely keep in close confinement, till the further Order of the Council – or they be otherwise discharged by due course of Law –

Given under our hands, at the Council Chamber in Watertown, the 3d day of January Anno Domini 1776

By their Honors' Command

Perez Morton Dpy Secry

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 164, 230.

Narrative of Vice Admiral Samuel Graves [1]

[Boston, January] 3.

The Admiral sent Captain [Andrew] Barkley of the *Scarborough* a Copy of his Letter to Captain [Henry] Bellew of the *Liverpool,* dated the 30th November 1775: and the *Scarborough, Hinchinbrook* and two Transports sailed from Nantasket. General [William] Howe by a Letter of Yesterday had requested of the Admiral that the *Scarborough,* when she had performed the important Service she was going upon, might be ordered to join Major General [Henry] Clinton at Cape Fear, or, if not there, to endeavour to find him on the Coast. And in another

Letter of this day his Excellency inclosed Extracts of a Dispatch from Lord Dartmouth, whereby the Admiral (as he observed) would be fully acquainted with every thing communicated to his Excellency, who in consequence desired that as Major General Clinton was to have the Execution of his Majesty's Commands therein mentioned, the Admiral would appoint some Ship of War, the best calculated for the Service proposed, and that her Captain might have Orders to put into such Places on the Coast as General Clinton should require for the purpose of procuring Intelligence for any other Publick Service.

1. Graves's Conduct, II, 26, BM.

MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HOWE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES [1]

Sir

Boston 3d Jany. 1776

I have the Honor to send you enclosed, Extracts from a Dispatch received from Lord Dartmouth, one of His Majesty's principal Secretary's of State, dated Whitehall 22d October 1775, whereby you will be fully acquainted with every thing communicated to me relative to His Majestys Intentions therein specified. Major Genl [Henry] Clinton will have the Execution of these His Majesty's Commands, and I am to request, that you will appoint a Ship of War, best calculated for the proposed Service, to receive him on Board, and convoy him to the Place of Destination

Your particular Instructions to the Officers Commanding His Majesty's Ships to the Southward will of Course coincide with His Majesty's Designs, and I humbly request in Addition to any Orders you may please to give the Officer with whom Genl Clinton may sail, that you will direct him to put into such Places on the Coast as the General shall require, to procure Intelligence, or for any other Consideration which Major Genl Clinton may recommend, to expedite or facilitate the General Service I have the Honor to be, Sir,

A true Copy signed/ W^{m} Howe

Robert Mackenzie Secretary

1. Clinton Papers, CL.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Chatham,* CAPTAIN JOHN RAYNOR [1]

1776 January Moor'd in Nantasket Road

Monday 1 AM do Wr bent the Sheet Cable & got Anchor over the side at ½ past 11 the light house fired 2 Guns and made a signal on which we Discover'd a boat belonging to the light house driveing out to Sea his Majts Schooner *hinchinbroke* Slipp'd & made sail after her, but could not pick her up, as She was seen to drive on Shore and the people taken by the rebels Came on board John Stebbins Pilot for Boston & took charge of the Ship. Fired Evening & Morning a Volley of small arms –

at 3 PM Sent a party of marines to the lighthouse at 5 Struck yards & top masts

Tuesday 2 A M Mode & Clear Wr at 9 got up Yards and topmast & set the rigging up fore & aft a large Quantity of Ice drifting down with the tide makes it very dangerous Lying in Nantasket road at 10 Unmoor'd & hove into ½ a Cable Mr Christopher Mason 1st Lieut was appointed to Command the *Nautilus* pr Order of vice Adml Graves –

Little Wind at 2 PM weigh'd & warp'd farther into the road to get out of the Ice at 4 the wind came to soward & made sail for Boston at 6 came too off Spectarcle Island in 7 fm Water & Veered to ½ Cable the Island S W ½ Mile the lighthouse E S E

Wednesday 3 at 8 AM weighd and made sail for Boston

at 9 Castle William Saluted with 13 Guns returned 13 More at 10 Saluted Vice Adml Graves with 13 Guns at 11 Came too in Boston Harbour in 6 fm water & veer'd to ⅓ of a Cable found riding here Vice Adml Graves in his Majs Ship *Preston* with his Majs Ships *Lively Falcon Adventure* Store Ship & Several transports & Victuallers. At Noon Weighed & Shifted our birth fired Evening and Morning a Volley of small Arms –

Do Wr at 1 Came too in 6 fms veer'd & moor'd a Cable each way the best bower to the S E the small bower to the N W Long Wharf S S W distance off Shore one Cable.

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1. PRO, Admiralty 51/192.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Niger*, CAPTAIN GEORGE TALBOT [1]

Janry 1776 Boston Light House N W b W 4 Leagues

Tuesday 2d at 9 A M got up do [lower Yards] empd Watering & getting ready for Sea –

Light Breezes & Cloudy Wr received from the *William* Brig & *Brothers* Snow [2] the Arms supplied them on the Passage – Anchd here two Arm'd Schooners & a Transport – empd as before

PM sailed for Boston His Majestys Ship[s] *Chatham* & *Renown*; anchord here the *Cancaux*

Wednesday 3rd At 8 AM unmoor'd – received fresh beef for the Company, at 10 AM weighd & came to Sail – set Steering sails –

First and Middle parts light Breezes & Calms, latter part moderate & Cloudy

at 1 PM Saw a Schooner to the S Wt fired two 12 pounders at do, but could not bring her too, as she got in shore at 9 PM being Calm came too with the best Bower in 28 fathoms Veer'd 2/3d of a Cable

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1. PRO, Admiralty 51/637.
2. The *Niger* had arrived from England on December 31, 1775 with these vessels under convoy.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

In Committee of Safety for the Colony of New-York,
during the recess of the Provincial Congress.
[New York] January 3d, 1776.

Die Mercurii, A.M.

Col.[Alexander] McDougall informed the Committee that some days ago he received a letter from Mr. Lewis Pintard informing him that a vessel from Hispaniola with gunpowder on board, was on this coast; that he apprehended Delaware river was so obstructed with ice that the vessel would not be able to enter there, and that therefore there is reason to expect her to attempt coming into this port; and that Mr. Pintard had farther informed him, that if this vessel succeeeded in her voyage, an armed vessel was ready at Hispaniola to follow her with a like cargo.

Col. McDougall, farther informed the Committee, that no proper pilot boat could be obtained to go to Sandy-Hook to look out for the said vessel, to navigate her to a place of safety; and that by the advice of the other members of the Committee then present he had purchased a whale boat, with oars, for $27, and had employed Capt. William Dobbs at 10s. per day, and four other men at 5s per day each, besides their necessary provisions and expenses, and given them proper directions and sent them to Sandy-Hook to watch and look out for the said vessel, there to remain 8 days, if the said vessel did not arrive sooner.

The Committee of Safety fully approved of and ratified the said agreement made by Col. McDougall, and direct him to return an account of the expenses to this Committee, as soon as he can ascertain the same.

Ordered, That Mr.Wm. Lowther be permitted to supply one hhd. of rum, or spirits, to the purser or officers of His Majesty's ship *Phoenix,* and to have the same conveyed on board of the said ship.

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[1] *New York Provincial Congress,* I, 235–36.

PIERRE VAN COURTLAND TO JOHN HANCOCK [1]

In Committee of Safety for the Colony of New York,
appointed by the Provincial Congress to act in their recess –
New York January 3d 1776.

Sir,

As it is an object of great Moment with us as well as the continental Congress to have the Important pass on Hudsons River properly secured & fortified, we think it our Duty to furnish them with all possible Information on the Subject. For this purpose we send Mr [Bernard] Romans the Engineer employed in that Department, who is prepared to lay before the Congress his Drafts with the necessary Information –

We beg Leave to Mention that the place at which the works are erected was fixed before Mr Romans was employed in the Service, and from his Ideas of the Matter that place cannot be rendered sufficiently Secure for a Lodgment of Troops, and to answer the End of a Fortified pass without more Expence than our Commissioners appointed to superintend that Business think prudent; besides which they observe, that his Scheme cannot be compleatly executed with that dispatch the Service may require.

Mr [Thomas] Palmer in Conjunction with the rest of the Committee appointed by our Congress to remove the Difficulties occasioned by a Difference of Opinion between the Commissioners and Engineer, has doubtless pointed out to Congress certain places on the River which would better answer the purpose of a Temporary Defence, and at much less Expence than will necessarily attend the Execution of Mr Romans Scheme – We are fully of Opinion that the places in Mr Palmers proposal ought by all Means to be covered with Fortifications that will cost but little; and command two considerable Reaches of the River. We at the same Time submit it to the Consideration of Congress how far the Completion of the Fortifications already begun ought to be carried on either upon Mr Romans plan or that which has doubtless been proposed by Mr Palmer, as the Sense of our Committee who were Sent to view the works –[2]

We hope that this Application while Mr Palmer is attending on the Congress will not be construed to his disadvantage. Had we been possessed of Mr Romans plan in its present compleat State, and had he been in Town at the Time of Mr Palmer's Departure, we should have required his accompanying that Gentleman. And as there is some prospect that Mr Romans may reach Philadia before the plan of Fortification is finally determined by Congress, we should think ourselves inexcusable in withholding from them any Means for enabling them to determine so important a Matter, on the best Lights in our power to furnish –

We are Sir [&c.]
By order of the Committee.

Pierre Van Cortland Chairman

To the Honble the President of
the Continental Congress
Philadelphia –

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1. Papers CC (New York State Papers), 67, I, 145, NA.
2. See Journal of the Continental Congress, January 13, 1776.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS [1]

[Philadelphia] Wednesday, January 3, 1776

The Congress, taking into consideration the report of the Secret Committee, and thereupon came to the following resolutions.

Resolved, That the following goods and stores ought to be imported as soon as possible, for the use of the United Colonies, viz.

60,000 striped blankets.
120,000 yards of 6–4 broad cloth, the colours to be brown and blue, from 3/ to 6/ ster. per yard.
10,000 yards of do. of different colours for facing, a 4/.
3,000 pieces of duffils, or some such cloth.
100 m. sorted needles.

50 m. do. none fine.
10 m. do. for sail cloth.
3,000 pieces of Raven's duck.
3,000 pieces Ticklenburghs.
1,500 pieces oznabrugs.
1,000 pieces vitrey.
4,000 pieces Hamburg dowlas.
20,000 stand of arms.
300 tons of lead.
1,000,000 flints.
1,500 boxes of tin, and iron wire properly sorted for it.
Medicines, surgeons' instruments, lint and bandages, to the amount of £2,000 sterling.
500 sheets of Copper of different sorts.

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be empowered and directed to pursue the most effectual measures for importing the above articles.

Resolved, That the farther consideration of this report be postponed.

A letter from the committee of Frederick, in Maryland, brought by the officer who had the charge of bringing down [Dr. John] Connolly and his associate, was laid before Congress and read.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the committee of safety of Pensylvania to carry into execution the resolution of Congress for confining said Connolly, and his associates, in the gaol of Philadelphia, and that they take their examinations.[2]

[1] Ford, ed., *JCC,* IV, 24, 25, 29.

[2] *Ibid.,* III, 415. A Congressional resolution, December 8, 1775, reads: "*Resolved,* That the said Allen Cameron, John Smith, and John Connolly, be confined in Prison in Philadelphia until the further order of Congress, at the continental Expence."

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH [1]

Wednesday 3d [January] In Congress the Report on the State of New York was considered – Col. Nat. Heard of the Minute Men at Woodbridge & Col. [David] Waterbury of Connecticut are ordered to take each a large Body of their Men & meet at a Day agreed on, in Queens County Long Island & there disarm the Tories & secure the Ringleaders who it is said are provided with Arms & Ammunition from the *Asia* Man of War,[2] & other Parts of the Report agreed to as was a Report from the Secret Comee implying that a large Quantity of Produce shall be exported for a Supply of Sail Cloth, other Cloth, Blankets, Needles, Military Stores & other Necessaries to fit out our Fleet and Army – . . . A Letter was received from Mr [John] Hanson Chairman of a Comee in Maryland with Conolly & Cameron Two Prisoners – Smith made his Escape the Comee of Safety here were desired to secure & take the Examination of these Criminals & a Letter was directed to be sent to the Comee of Frederick County to search a certain Saddle for Conollys Instructions, Intelligence of this Saddle had been recd from Gen Washtn . . . Application was made from the Comee of Philada asking Advice

Whether to secure Ld Drummond and Andrew Elliot now in Philada some Members gave them good political Characters & they remained unhurt –

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1. Richard Smith's Diary, LC.
2. Later orders to Waterbury were rescinded, and the expedition was undertaken by Heard and his men.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

In Committee of Safety
[Philadelphia] 3d January, 1776.

Upon application of the Naval Committee of Congress, an order was directed to Robert Towers, Commissary, to deliver to their order Eight hundred Swivel Shot.

Mr.Rob't Towers, Commiss'y, was directed to apply to Mr. Dunwick, Blacksmith, for 46 Firelocks made by him for Chester County, and 40 firelocks made by him for this County, and to deliver the same to Capt. Sam'l Nicholas, for the use of the Congress.

At a Special meeting of the Members of this Board,
3d January, 1776, in the evening.

Robert Morris, Esq'r, by direction of [the Continental] Congress, delivered the following Resolves to this Board, vizt:

"In Congress, 3d Jan'y, 1776.

"Resolved, That it be recommended to the Committee of Safety for Pennsylvania, to see the Resolution of Congress for confining [Dr.John] Conolly and his accomplices, in safe and close Prison, in Philadelphia, till the further orders of Congress be carried into execution.

"Extract from the minutes,
"Cha's Thomson, Sec'ry."

"Resolved, That it be recommended to the said Committee to take the examination of said Conolly and his associates.

"Cha's Thomson, Sec'ry."

John Conolly & Allen Cameron, and their Servants, having been brought to this City as persons inimical to the liberties of America, were ordered to be confined in close prison; agreeable thereto the following commitment was issued:

3 Jan'y, 1776.

> You are required to receive into your custody John Conolly and Allen Cameron, & their servants, charged with treasonable Practices against America, and keep them safely, without Pen, Ink or paper, and from all intercourse with other persons, until discharged by this Board or the orders of the Continental Congress, In which this shall be your sufficient warrant. Given under my hand, & by order of the Committee of Safety of the Province of Pennsylvania.
>
> Signed John Nixon, Chairman.
>
> To the Keeper of the Gaol of the City of Philadelphia.

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[1] *Pennsylvania Colonial Records,* X, 443–45.

GEORGE WOOLSEY TO GEORGE SALMON [1]

[Extract] [Baltimore] 1776 3 Jany

We wrote you the 8th Decr Since then have recd yr favour of the 10th Septr and note the contents. our last went by a Mr matt Gardiner for Belfast. & We find he is not yet gone from new York so its probable this may reach you as Soon as it. I intend this for the packett by a young man one mr Jones from this town who takes his passage in her and Shall not make it Long, as I only intend business in it I am still of opinion on the arrival of the Schooner [2] with you & you Cannot get her Sold, that you might venture her out here with woman Sarvants if to be got Early in the Spring Spinners would do but what keeps me of that opinion is I think you had better Come out. & I know you cannot do that untill you get Clear of her, & get your accts Settled. had you bu[t] been here this fall, one or the other of us Could have gon out to the west Indies to advantage, & I make no Doubt of Something of that sort offering if you was here now amongst the accts . . . I would wish to have Settled if in your power before you Come out as you well know ther will be no doing it after, and Should affairs be Settled here after, you may be assurd it would not hurt our Credit and I make no Doubt of your Complying if in your power. I am pleased to find the Sentiments of the people with you towards us. but no more of that. your Son is well and so is all the family, but you seem more Scared about us than we are our Selves. Wheat 4/ flour 13/ but little comes in at those prices. Ex[change] 10 pCt.

[1] Woolsey & Salmon Letter Book, LC.

[2] Schooner *Industry*.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA CONVENTION [1]

[Williamsburg] Wednesday, January 3, 1776.

Mr. [Thomas] Blackburn, from the committee to whom the petition of Stephen Pierce was referred, reported, that it appeared to the said committee, that the sloop whereof the petitioner was master cleared out at the port of North Potomack, in the province of Maryland, for Antigua, on the 25th day of September last, with 300 barrels of flour, 200 bushels of corn, and some live-stock; that she arrived at Antigua the 16th of November following, and on the 28th cleared out from Turk's island with 800 bushels of salt, for the county of St. Mary's, in Maryland; that, by means of the late storm, she was driven into Hampton, and taken by captain [James] Barron; that the said Stephen Pierce alledges, in his justification for exporting the flour and other articles after the 10th of September, that the gust on the 6th of that month retarded his sailing, and he was permitted to sail at the same time he did; but no evidence of those facts appears to your committee, nor can any be produced at this time; and that they had come to the following resolution thereupon, which he read in his place, and then delivered in at the clerk's table, where the same was again twice read, and agreed to.

Resolved, That there is probable cause to suspect that the said Stephen Pierce hath, in the first instance, been guilty of a breach of the continental association; but, as our friends in Maryland may be in want of the salt, it is the opinion of this committee that the said vessel be permitted to proceed on her voyage, and that the committee of the said county of St.Mary's ought to be informed of that transaction, that they may take such measures as to them may appear necessary.

1. *Virginia Convention,* 84.

Colonel Robert Howe to the President of the Virginia Convention [1]

Sir I inclose you a Letter from the President of the Provincial Council of [North] Carolina which just now came inclosed to me by express. I am so happy as to have my conduct approved by that Honorable body & to receive their orders to continue here while my assistance shall be thought necessary to your Colony which I assure you Sir gives me real pleasure. Things here remain much in the way as when I wrote last only that at least seven eighths of the Town is reduced to Ashes, by which means we are more exposed to their shot than formerly, we however are dispos'd of in such a manner as to be least liable to accident & most likely to prevent their Landing should they attempt it; They keep up a pretty smart fire every now & then and seem now taking post where they can fire with the greatest probability of annoying us; this induces me to think we shall have warm work presently. We had several men wounded yesterday & last night, a Corporal of the Carolina Troops I fear mortally. I must beg of you Sir, to excuse the inaccuracies of this Letter for I am not only exceedingly fatigued, but a good deal indispos'd. Two Companys of the Amelia people are come in good season, for many of the men are sick. I have the Honour to be Sir [&c.]

Robert Howe

Norfolk Jany 3d 1775 [*sic* 1776].

1. Misc. Mss., Robert Howe, NYHS.

"Extract of a letter from the *Otter* sloop of war, dated off the ruins of Norfolk, 3d of January, 1776" [1]

I have the pleasure to assure you that this rebel town of Norfolk is in ashes. It is glorious to see the blaze of the town and shipping. I exult in the carnage of these rebels. The signal was given from the *Liverpool* and in an instant the place was in flames. We are now proceeding on this business, and will burn every port on the sea shore.

1. *Morning Chronicle and London Advertiser,* March 5, 1776.

Minutes of the South Carolina Council of Safety [1]

In the Council of Safety,
[Charleston] Wednesday, Jan. 3rd, 1776.

Mr. President laid before the Council the following letters which he had written by their direction:

Charles-Town, South Carolina,
Jan. 2nd, 1776.

Gentlemen – Your several letters of the 20th and 25th Nov., and 9th Dec., and one of the 5th Dec., from the Committee of Safety for the District of Wilmington, are before this board. . . .

We wish it was in our power to assist you with the article of gunpowder. But as we are ordered by the continental representatives to defend Charles-Town to the last extremity; and as we have undoubted intelligence that a formidable attack is very soon to be made upon this capital – we considered our store very scanty, even for the purpose of defence – and we trust our people will exert themselves to such effect, as to make, if we are to be overpowered, the want of ammunition the last extremity.

We have various voyages in motion for procuring that article; and if your wants continue, you may depend upon sharing in our success, if one half of our vessels return agreeable to our expectations.

The *Scorpion* man-of-war has been here, and sailed again about a fortnight ago, with two Bermuda sloops and a coasting scooner, together with, as we are informed, thirty or forty negroes which Capt. [John] Tollemache was pleased to seize while he was in Rebellion Road. From the time of such seizures, we resolved to supply the men-of-war with no more provision, nightly maraudings and robberies on our sea-coast immediately followed; but those being soon well guarded, and a descent made upon Sullivan's Island, where the house thereon was burnt, and some important prisoners taken, the *Tamar* and *Cherokee,* together with the *Sandwich packet* and an armed scooner, have been reduced to a very small stock; these vessels, therefore, are now to remove from out of this harbour in search of provision, and would have gone over the bar yesterday if the wind had not failed. We are told they are bound to the river Savannah – and we fear they have more mischievous schemes a foot than merely to obtain bread and beef – probably to protect ships loading there in violation of the General Association, and to over-awe the friends of liberty.

We have been frequently spurred on to preparations for defence, by such reports as you had received of ships and fleets on our coast. Hitherto, however, we have remained quiet from the sea board. But no doubt the day will come; the longer it is postponed the better, we shall be provided against it. We have no great powers, and, therefore, make no boast – such as we have we trust will be fully and properly exerted.

The bearer of this Capt. Alex Wylly, is the owner of the scooner which Capt. Tollemache conducted from hence, as Mr. Wylly learns for North-Carolina, in order to obtain a condemnation in admiralty. He is satisfied in himself, that there is no foundation for condemning the vessel, and, therefore, intends to lay a claim, and hopes for success. He has procured recommendations from some of his friends here to merchants in your colony. We beg leave to recommend him to your countenance and such protection as you can afford to an unfortunate man brought to poverty by one common enemy.[2]

By order of the Council of Safety.

Henry Laurens, President.

Provincial Council of Wilmington, N. C.

Charles-Town, Jan. 3rd, 1776.

Gentlemen – Your favour of the 28th Dec. did not reach us till yesterday. We are sorry to learn that the New-England vessel had sailed before you received our letter; but are nevertheless well satisfied with your proceedings.

Your informations of the illicit practices by Ellis, Findlay and Tidyman, we hope will produce good effects. We have committed particular examinations to be taken by the General Committee. Last night Mr. Ellis was called before the Committee, and after much prevarication and many improbable excuses, he acknowledged the cargo of rice in question was shipped by Mr. Todd (of this town) without his knowledge and consent; said, that the master's going with the scooner into Santee was also contrary to his order. Mr. Todd said the cargo was the property of Mr. Ellis one half, himself one quarter, the master one quarter, and intended for Cape Nicola; and both acquitted Mr. Tidyman, from whom they had purchased the rice, from having any interest or concern in the exportation.

The General Committee have ordered a special messenger to summon and cause to appear before them on Wednesday, the 10th instant, Mr. Tidyman and Mr. Philips on the second information; and we request you to transmit, either to the General Committee or this board, such further evidence in these cases as may or shall have in the mean time come to your knowledge.

We shall write to the Committee for St. James, Santee, by this opportunity, and hope that committee will be more active hereafter than they appear to have been hitherto.

Mr. Scott will probably obtain permission, this day, to load his vessel on public account, agreeable to order of the continental resolutions.

By order of the Council of Safety

Henry Laurens, President.

Committee of George-Town.

Charles-Town, Jan. 3rd, 1776.

Gentlemen – In order to prevent the increase of an illicit practice of loading vessels in this colony, contrary to the resolutions of the Continental Congress, we have found it necessary to write to the Committees of George-Town and Beaufort, to be watchful against all attempts to contravene the said resolutions. We have just received advice from the Committee at George-Town, of a scooner loaded in South Santee river, within your district, the master's name is Findlay, the owners Messrs. Ellis and Todd, and that Mr. Philip Tidyman was concerned in the cargo. We desire you will collect and transmit to us all the information you can in this affair and that for the future you will be watchful to guard against such violations of the continental orders, and also that you will suffer no vessel to load in any river, creek, or other water within your district, without special permission from this board; and that, if necessary, you will use force against any person who may attempt to resist or condemn your orders, and give, upon every occasion, the earliest notice to this board; or to the [Provincial] Congress if sitting.

By order of the Council of Safety.

Henry Laurens, President.

The Committee for St. James, Santee.

Upon information that the armed scooner in Rebellion Road had put to sea this morning, full manned, the following letter was written.

Charles-Town Jan. 3rd, 1776.

Sir – This morning early the armed scooner from Rebellion Road sailed, and as the wind is at S.W. 'tis probable she is gone up Santee river, in order to rescue and bring off Findlay's scooner, which was stopt by the Committee of George-Town. We give you this immediate notice thereof, and desire you will, without delay, cause the said scooner to be run up the river into some place of greater security than where she now lies – to land the cargo if possible – or even to scuttle and sink the vessel, if you can by no other means save her from falling into the enemy's hands. We know not the names of the Committee for Santee, but presume you are one of them. Be that as it may, we are persuaded you will do, and cause to be done what may be needful in this case. If the armed scooner is intended for Santee, you may expect her to arrive by 10 o'clock to-morrow, or perhaps earlier, therefore not a moment should be lost.

By order of the Council of Safety.

Henry Laurens, President.

Elias Horry, Sampson Negle, esqs. or any of the Committee for St. James, Santee.

The following was also written:

In the Council of Safety, Jan. 3rd, 1776.

Gentlemen – We desire you will be particularly attentive to prevent any vessel whatever from loading any of the produce or commodities of this colony in any of the rivers, creeks, or other waters within your district, without special permission from this board, or the [Provincial] Congress when sitting.

By order of the Council of Safety.

Committee of Ponpon. Henry Laurens, President.

In the Council of Safety,
Wednesday Evening, Jan. 3rd, 1776.

Mr. Samways attended, and acquainted the board, that he had come to town express to inform them, that the armed pilot boats in the service of the colony, having conducted a snow and a brigt. into Stono this morning, the armed scooner (late Stone & Duall's) had followed in and taken possession of both vessels.

Read a letter from Capt. John Wigfall, dated Cainhoy, 26th Dec, 1775.

Capt. Joseph Vesey, of the armed pilot boat *Hawke,* attended the Council and reported, that he with Capt. Smith in the other boat, had this afternoon [*sic* morning], about 11 o'clock, conducted a brigantine from the Mediterranean, belonging to Mr. Scott of this town, laden with salt and some brandy, and also a snow from Jamaica, homeward bound, having lost her bowsprit, into Stono. But that the armed scooner (late Stone & Duvall's) full of men, had followed them in, and about three o'clock this afternoon, taken possession of both vessels.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society,* III, 142–47.
2. Wylly's schooner, the *George Town* packet, foundered at sea according to Shuldham's prize list of April 24, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

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4 Jan.

COLONEL BENEDICT ARNOLD TO BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID WOOSTER [1]

Holland House 4 Jany 1776.
[Near Quebec]

Dear Gen

A person going to three Rivers presents an Oppertunity of informing you that Nothing of Consequence has happened since I wrote you Yesterday Morning. We have a Number of Canadians joined us, most of them without Arms – which are much wanted, I make no Doubt you will send all you possibly can with three or four hundred pair of Snow Shoes, A few Barrels of Sugar for the Hospital and fifty light Shovels – our Cash is nearly expended – Inclosed is a Letter I received this Minute from Montreal; I have sent back Lieutenant [William] Hull but detained his party at point Aux Trembles, he has in Charge Capt Belat the Villain who destroyed the powder, he has behaved exceeding ill here. I think it necessary to confine him in Montreal or send him into the Colonies – I must also beg Leave to observe the Lenity shewn to our prisoners heretofore in Montreal and places adjacent – it may be justified by principles of Humanity at the [same] Time, under our present Circumstances would be highly imprudent and dangerous – It is my Opinion that every Soul who were in Office at the Reduction of the Country and others who are looked upon inimical should be immediately sent over the Lake without Respect of persons. If they are suffered to remain in the Country and [were] we defeated the Consequence will probably be the Loss of the whole Country. – You will be good enough to excuse the Incorrectness of my Letter which I am obliged to write lying on my Back – If there is any absent officers belonging to the Regiments here – perhaps it may further the Service to order them to join immediately – Col Nicholas went from this yesterday Morning for Montreal without Liberty or taking Leave I am Dear General [&c.]

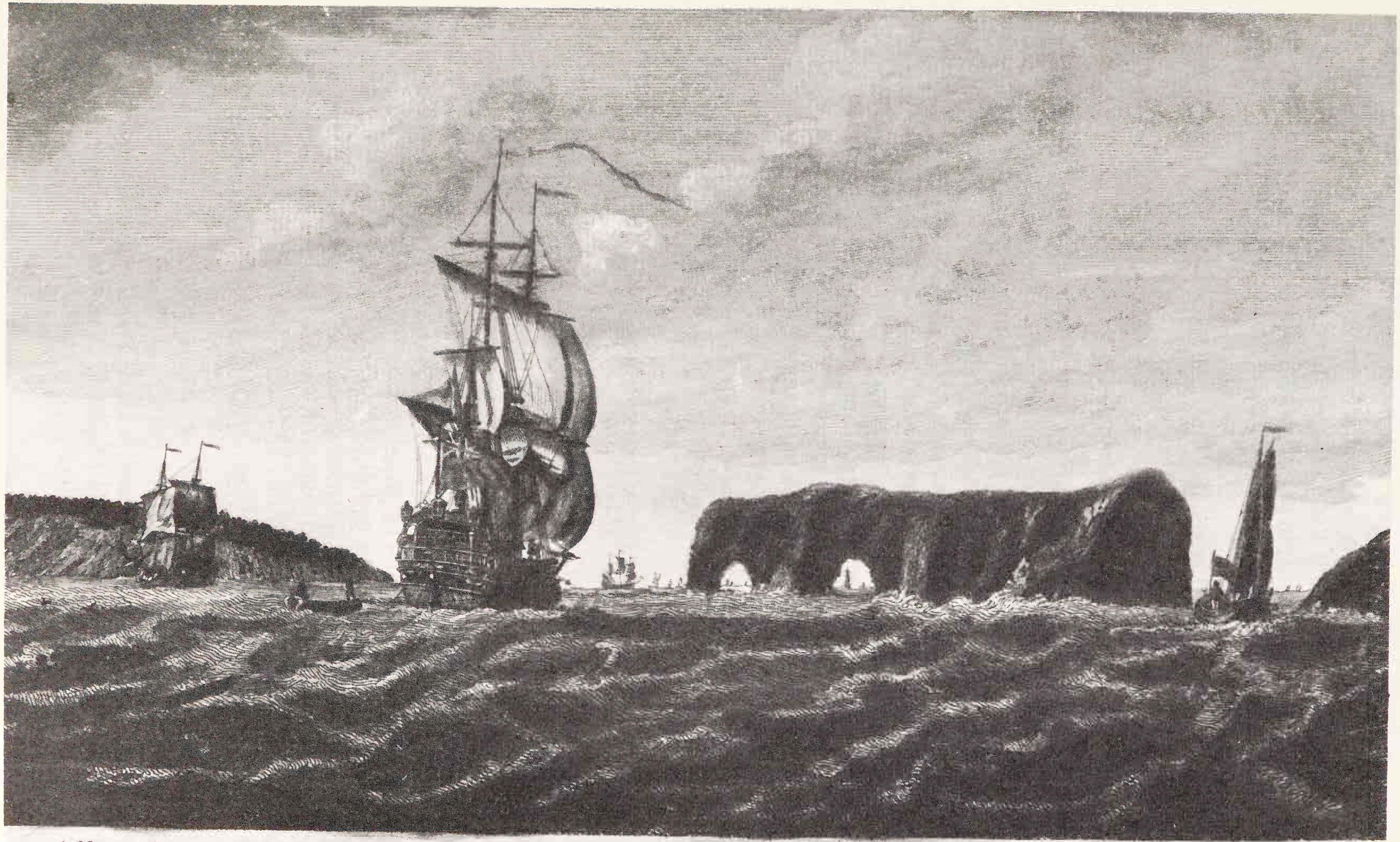
B. Arnold Col &c

P.S. I hope you will think it necessary to send back every Soldier who has deserted from us under pretence of his Time being out.

B.A.

Copy

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, I, 458–59, NA.



A View of the Pierced Iſland, *a remarkable Rock in the Gulf of St. Laurence, two Leagues Southward of Gaspee Bay.* –

Printed for Carington Bowles, *at his* Map & Print Warehouſe, *Nº 69 in St. Pauls Church Yard,* London

CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES [1]

Sir – *Roebuck* at Halifax 4th Janry 1776

By his Majesty's Ship the *Cerberus,* which Arrived here yesterday, I had the honor to receive your Orders of the 25th December directing me to proceed in the Ship I command to Virginia, to take the command of his Majesty's Ships and vessels on that Station, and employ them as I shall find best for the Kings Service, which I shall lose no time to obey.

Enclosed is a list of the Letters and Orders I received at the same time. I am [&c.]

A S Hamond

[Enclosures]

List of orders and letters received from Vice Admiral Graves commander in chief &ca &ca &ca

An order dated 25th December 1775 to put myself under his command: General and additional Codes of Orders and instructions of the same date.

Four press Warrants; Two restraining Acts of parliament past last Session, with an order to put them in execution, dated the 25th december; Letter of the same date, enclosing his Majesty's Proclamation of the 23d August last, an Order dated 25th December not to proceed to England upon the requisition of the Governor of any of his Majesty's Provinces; A Letter of the 25th december enclosing one from Lt Mowat of the 9th of the same Month containing intelligence to be communicated to the Captains serving to the Southward, Memdum concerning the Masters being allowed whole Pilotage; a form of a Weekly account: Given under my hand on board his Majesty's Ship the *Roebuck* at Halifax the 4th January 1776.

A S Hamond

[1] Hamond Letter Book, 1771–1777, UVL.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS [1]

[Exeter] Janry 4th 1776

Voted that Capt Long, Capt Wait & Ichabod Rawlins, Esqr be a Committee to Lay a plan for orders & Restrictions to be Laid on Capt Eliphalett Ladd before he sail to the Foreign West Indias according to a Vote of the 26th December last and lay such plan before this Congress.[2]

[1] Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire,* VII, 708.

[2] A different committee had been appointed on December 26, 1775 for the same purpose. It evidently had not complied with the directions given at that time. Ladd was sailing at his own risk, and presumably would return with powder and arms.

DR. EDWARD A. HOLYOKE'S BILL FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES [1]

The Colony of the M. Bay to E.A.Holyoke			Dr
1775 [Salem]			
Dec	17	Jno Marble soldier on board Capn.[Winborn] Adams	
	18	To phlebot. 1–4 To Meds – 8 visit 1–4	3–4

Dec. 28 to Jany 4	Ralph Taylor a captive (carpentr of the store ship) [*Concord*]		
	To 8 visits 10–8	per order of Mr Felt	13–10
1776	To meds at 6 several times 3–2		
Jany 3	Jno Sinclair (captive) of the ordnance stor Brige [*Nancy*]		
Jany 4	To phlebot. 1–4		
	To visit 1–4 meds–8		3–4

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1. *Essex Institute Historical Collections* (Salem, 1877), XIII, 234–35.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO THE CONTINENTAL AGENTS [1]

Sir Cambridge [4 Jany] 1776

You have annex'd a Copy of the Resolves of the Continental Congress respecting Captures made, or to be made, by Armed Vessels fitted out at the Charge of the united Colonies & others in Compliance With the Resolution of the 20th Ultimo you must on receipt hereof Libel such Vessels as have been taken by the *Lee* shooner or any other of the Continental Arm'd Vessels, which may be now under your Care, in the Court of Admiralty established in this Colony, you mus[t] use all your diligence that the trial be brought to as Speedy an issue, as possible, in order that a distribution be made to the Captors, Conformable to the Resolves of the 30 of Novembr

Jonthan Glover Esquire Marble Head
William Bartlett Esquire Beverly
William Watson Esquire Plymouth

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1. Washington Papers, LC.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO COLONEL JOSEPH REED [1]

[Extract] Cambridge, January 4, 1776

We are at length favored with a sight of his Majesty's most gracious speech, breathing sentiments of tenderness and compassion for his deluded American subjects; the echo is not yet come to hand; but we know what it must be, and as Lord North said, and we ought to have believed (and acted accordingly), we now know the ultimatum of British justice. The speech I send you.[2] A volume of them was sent out by the Boston gentry, and, farcical enough, we gave great joy to them, (the red coats I mean,) without knowing or intending it; for on that day, the day which gave being to the new army, (but before the proclamation came to hand,) we had hoisted the union flag in compliment to the United Colonies. But, behold, it was received in Boston as a token of the deep impression the speech had made upon us, and as a signal of submission. So we learn by a person out of Boston last night. By this time I presume they begin to think it strange, that we have not made a formal surrender of our lines. Admiral Shuldham is arrived at Boston . . .

I fear your fleet has been so long in fitting, and the destination of it so well known, that the end will be defeated, if the vessels escape.[3] How is the arrival of French troops in the West Indies, and the hostile appearance there, to be reconciled with that part of the King's speech, wherein he assures Parliament, "that as well from the assurances I have received, as from the general appearance of affairs in Europe, I see no probability that the measures, which you may adopt, will be interrupted by disputes with any foreign power"? I hope the Congress will not think of adjourning at so important and critical a juncture as this. I wish they would keep a watchful eye to New York. From Captain [Isaac] Sears' account, (now here,) much is to be apprehended from that quarter.

A fleet is now fitting out at Boston, consisting of five transports and two bomb-vessels, under convoy of the *Scarborough* and *Fowey* men-of-war. Three hundred, some say, others more, troops are on board, with flat-bottomed boats. It is whispered, as if designedly, that they are intended for Newport; but it is generally believed that they are bound either to Long Island or Virginia; the other transports are taking in water and a good deal of bisquet is baking, some say for the shipping to lay in Nantasket Road, to be out of the way of ice, whilst others think a more important move is in agitation. All, however, is conjecture.

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1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington,* IV, 210–12.
2. George III's speech to both houses of Parliament on October 26, 1775.
3. Washington's reference was to the Continental fleet under Commodore Esek Hopkins.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO JOHN HANCOCK [1]

Sir Cambridge January 4. 1776

Since my last of the 31st Ult., I have been honoured with your favour of the 22d Inclosing sundry resolves, which shall, in matters they respect, be made the rule of my conduct.

The resolution relative to the Troops in Boston,[2] I beg the favour of you Sir, to assure Congress, shall be attempted to be put in execution, the first moment I see a probability of success, and in such a way, as a Council of Officers shall think most likely to produce it; but if this should not happen as soon as you may expect, or my wishes prompt to, I request that Congress will be pleased to advert to my situation, and do me the justice to beleive, that circumstances, & not want of inclination, are the cause of delay.

It is not in the pages of History perhaps, to furnish a case like ours; to maintain a Post within Musket Shot of the Enemy for Six months together, without [powder] and at the same time to disband one Army and recruit another, within that distance, of Twenty odd British regiments, is more probably than ever was attempted, But if we succeed as well in the last, as we have heretofore in the first, I shall think it the most fortunate event of my whole life.

By a very intelligent Gentleman, a Mr Hutchinson from Boston, I learn that it was Admiral Shuldham that came into the harbour on Saturday last – that two of the five regiments from Cork are arrived at Halifax; two others had sailed for Quebec (but what was become of them could not be told), and the other, the 55th has just got into Boston Certain it is also that the greatest part of the 17 Regiment is arrived there, whether we are to conclude from hence, that more than five Regiments have been sent out, or that the Companies of the 17 arrived at Boston, are part of the Regiments destined for Hallifax & Quebec, I know not – We also learn from this Gentlemen & others, that the Troops embarked for Hallifax, as mentioned in my Letter of the 16 – were really designed for that place, but recalled from Nantasket road, upon advice being received, of the arrival of the above Regiments there — I am also informed of a Fleet now getting ready under the Convoy of the *Scarborough* & *Fowey* Men of War, consisting of 5 Transports, & 2 Bomb Vessels, with about 300 Marines & Several Flat bottom'd Boats — It is whispered that they are designed for Newport, but generally thought in Boston, that it is meant for Long-Island, and It is probable It will be followed by more Troops, as the other Transports are taking in Water, to lye as others say in Nantasket road, to be out of the Ice — a large quantity of Biscuit is also baking.

As the real design cannot with certainty be known, I submit it with all due deference to the superior Judgement of Congress, Whether It would not be consistent with prudence, to have some of the Jersey Troops thrown into New York, to prevent an evil, which may be almost irremediable, should It happen: I mean the landing of Troops at that place, or upon Long Island near it.

As it is possible you may not yet have received his Majesties most gracious speech, I do myself the honour to Inclose one, of many, which were sent out of Boston yesterday. It is full of rancour & resentment, and explicitly holds forth his Royal will to be, that vigorous measures must be pursued to deprive us of our constitutional rights & liberties — These measures whatever they be, I hope will be opposed by more vigorous ones, and rendered unavailing and fruitless, tho san[c]tified and authorized by the name of Majesty, a Name which ought to promote the Blessings of his people & not their oppression. I am Sir [&c.]

[Copy]

1. Papers CC (Letters from George Washington), 152, I, 407–09, NA.
2. The resolution of December 22, reading: "*Resolved,* That if General Washington and his council of war should be of opinion, that a successful attack may be made on the troops in Boston, he do it in any manner he may think expedient, notwithstanding the town and the property in it may thereby be destroyed." Ford, ed., *JCC,* III, 444–45.

BRIGADIER GENERAL HORATIO GATES TO SPEAKER OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES [1]

Sir Head Quarters 4th Janry 1776 –

I send by Order of the Commander in Chief The Prisoners undernam'd, which The General desires you will Order to be Secured in some Inland Goal, Worcester we are told has no Prisoners of War, & there is a Secure Goal if you Approve of their being sent to it

Soldiers

John Guilderoy
Will: Collins
John Smith
Benj: Ward
George Morrison
Alexr Garden

Seamen

William Beard
George Mitchel
James Richardson
Francis Ossy
Anth[ony Simons]
Jacob [Wilson]
Joseph [Mason]

By the enclosed from [Colonel John] Glover, I dare say you will think [with me, that John Thomer,] William Clark, William Wallis & Thomas [Gorthrop,] Seamen of the Ship *Jenny,* Capt. [William] Forster, ought also [to be confined –]

The Men [named upon this] side were Seamen, belonging to a [Ship, Brigantine and] a Sloop, taken by the Continental [armed Vessels If you] see no Material Objection to [their being discharged they] may be Dismissed upon their Arrival at Worcester; and be at Liberty to Work for their Living in the Country, or seek their Fortunes as they like. I am sir [&c.]

Horatio Gates Adjt General

P.S.

William Beard [2] appears to be an Impress'd Man, on board of a Man of War, at Hampton in Virginia; he may also have his Liberty at Worcester. There are Reasons, why the General [does not] think proper to discharge [him here.]

Seamen belonging to the Brigg *Hanah*
John Gallard
Will: Middeldith
John Jenkins
James Gray
Thomas Riley

belonging to the Ship *Jenny*
John Morgan
Francis Spunier
Henry Baldwin
John Waterstone
Will: Clark
Thos Gothorp
John Thornhill
Will: Wallace
} attempted to get on board the Man of War off Cape Ann
James Donaldson

Belonging to the Sloop *Betsey* [3]
George Bennet
Robert Younger
Daniel Malony
William Harris

[Endorsed]

In Council Jany 5 1776 Read & ord[ered that the] Prisoners be disposed of in the same [manner as] hinted in the foregoing Letter – And [that a mitti]mus go to the Keeper of the Goal at W[orcester] And that a Letter be wrote to the Selectmen of [Worcester] directing them to dispose of those Prisoners [there] to be confined in the manner herein s[et forth].

Perez [Morton Dpy Secry]

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 182–84.
2. Beard was taken on board the sloop *Betsey,* which had been sent by Lord Dunmore from Norfolk for Boston, and had been intercepted by John Manley, in Washington's schooner *Lee,* December 1775.
3. The brig *Hannah,* ship *Jenny* and sloop *Betsey* were prizes of John Manley in December 1775.

BOND OF CORBAN BARNES, CAPTAIN OF THE MASSACHUSETTS PRIVATEER SLOOP *Yankee* [1]

Know all men by these presents that I Corban Barnes of Plymouth in the Colony of the Massachusetts Bay as principal (Mariner) & Samuel Jackson Merchant of the Town & Colony aforesaid as Surety are holden & stand firmly bound & obligd unto Henry Gardner Esqr of Stow in the County of Middlesex & province aforesaid Treasurer & Receiver General of said Colony or his successor in said office in the full & just sum of Five Thousand pounds Law[fu]l money to be paid unto the said Treasurer or Receiver General or to his Successor in said office, to the true payment whereof we bind ourselves, our heirs, executors & administrators, jointly & severally firmly by these presents: seald with our Seals the fourth Day of January Anno Domini 1776 –

The Condition of the above obligation is such, that whereas, the said Corban Barnes did on the seventeenth day of December 1775 Receive a Commission to command an armed Vessel called the *Yankee* burthen about seventy five Tons (a Sloop) to make Reprisals of all armed & other Vessels, that shall be found supplying the Enemy or acting counter to a Law of this Colony entitled "an act for encourageing the fixing out of armed Vessels to defend the Sea Coasts of America & for erecting a Court to try & condemn all Vessels, that shall be found infesting the same" If therefore the sd Corban Barnes shall, and, and do, in & by all things, well & truly observe, and fulfil such Instructions, as he shall receive from the Council of this Colony, & shall in all respects conform himself to the Directions given in & by the act aforesaid, then the above written obligation to be paid otherwise to remain in full force & affect

Corban Barnes
Saml Jackson

Signd Sealed & deliverd
in presence of us
Jas: Warren
W^m^ Watson

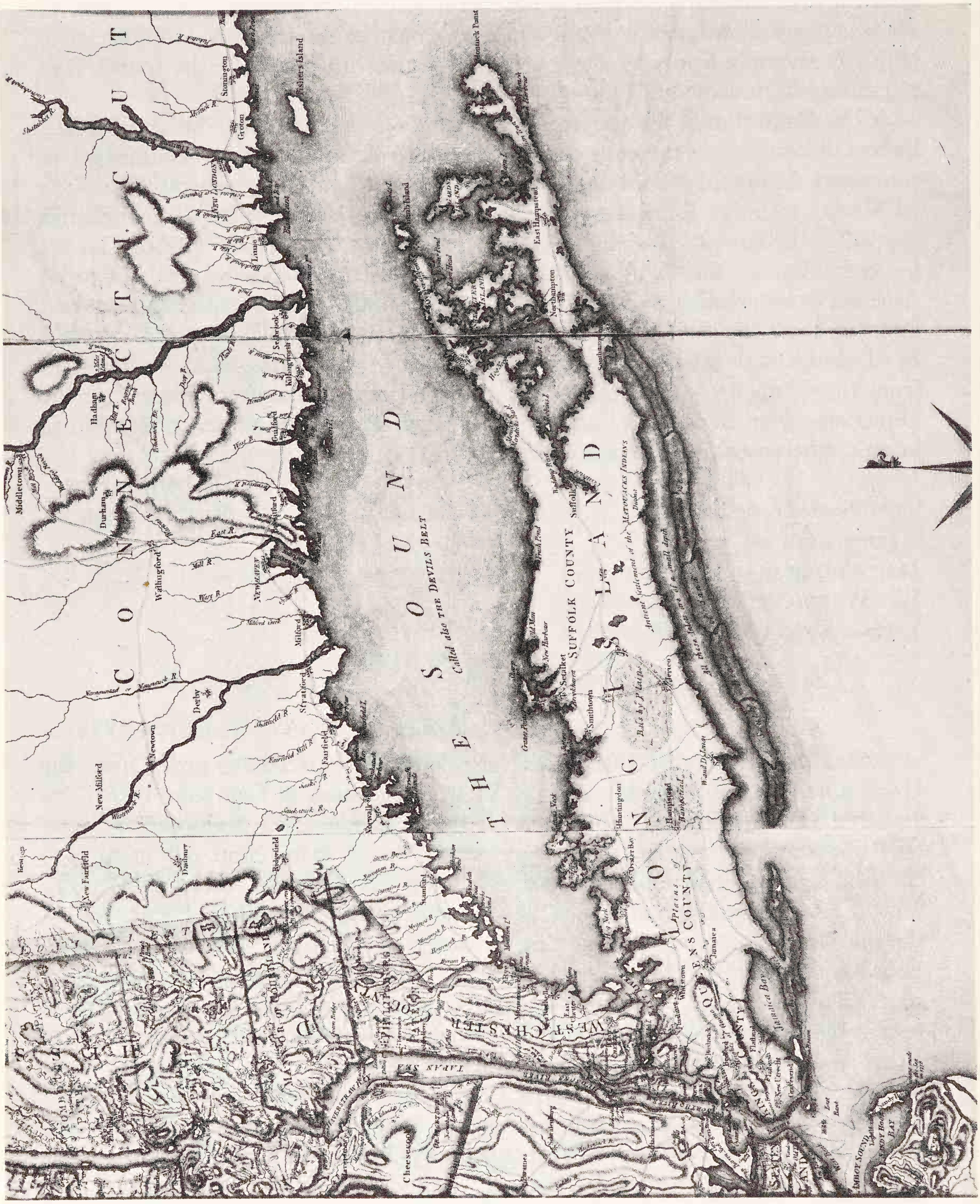
[1] Mass. Arch., vol. 139, 118.

Colonel David Waterbury's Account with Connecticut [1]

[December 17,1775–January 4,1776]

Stamford December 17th. 1776 [*sic* 1775] Then Recd An order from the Honorable General Assembly to go & View Briggontion in Company with Capt Isaac Sears belonging to Capt. John Griggs of Greenwich. In order to See if [sd] Briggont[ee]n was Suitable for an Armd Vessel, & to report our opinion to the [sd] General Assembly then setting at New Haven, we according to order Viewd Sd Brigonteen then Lying at Greenwich & on the 19th of Inst, waited on the General Assembly according to orders & Reported Sd Briggonteen to be a Suitable well built Vessel for the Purpose on the 20th Inst I recd orders from sd General Assembly to return to sd Greenwich & Purchase Sd Briggonteen & take a bill of sale in the name of the Governor & Company of Connecticut & to Bring sd. Briggonteen & set about as quick as possible To Rig & Ballace sd Briggonteen as soon as possible & Likewise I had orders from his honour the Governor to Bring some Artilery, Stores from Greenwich – The Whole cost of my Proceeding from the first till arrived at New Haven with the Briggonteen is as Follows –

Sept [*sic*]. [Dec] 18	To My Horse hire from Stamford to New Haven	8 . . 5
	To my Expences while lying in New Haven	2 . . –
	To my Expences while lying in New Haven	4 . . 9
	To my Expenses in Returning home	3 . . 9


CONNECTICUT
THE SOUND
Called also THE DEVILS BELT
LONG ISLAND
SUFFOLK COUNTY
QUEENS COUNTY
WEST CHESTER
Fishers Island
Montauck Point
Stonington
Groton
New London
Lime
Seabrook
Killingsworth
Guilford
New Haven
Wallingford
Durham
Middletown
Hadham
Milford
Stratford
Fairfield
Norwalk
Stamford
Derby
Newtown
New Milford
New Fairfield
Danbury
Ridgefield
East Hampton
Northampton
Southampton
Gardiners Island
Shelter Island
Matowacks Indians
Smithtown
Brookhaven
Setauket
Huntington
Oyster Bay
Hampstead
Plains of Hampstead
Jamaica
Jamaica Bay
Flatbush
New Utrecht
Gravesend
Tapan Sea
Haverstraw Bay
Cheesecock
Amboy Sound
Sandy Hook Bay

An acct of the Mens Wages while on board –

To Abraham Shays 12 days on board & two allowed to Return home to Greenwich at ⅔ pr Day	1 . 11 . . 6
Alexander Stewart 12 days at ⅔ pr Day	1 . . 7 . . –
Joseph Eldon 12 days at ⅔ pr day	1 . . 7 . . –
Patrick Canada 12 Days at ⅔ pr Day	1 . . 7 . . –
Obadiah Shu[ ]n 12 Days on board & two Days allowd to Return home to Greenwich	1 . .11 . . 6
To Silvr Waterbury as Pilote & hand on board 8 days & two days to return home	2 . . – . . –

To Stores put on board the *Lilly* [2]

To 83½ lb of Salt Pork at 4d pr lb	1 . . 7 . 10
To 50 lbs Beef at 2½d pr lb	10 . . 1
To 1 Bushels of Potatoes	1 . . 6
To 1 Barrel full of Cider	7 . . 6
To 1½ Galls Rum	6 . . –
To ¼ 1 Bread	4 . . 6
To 12 q Rum at N Haven	1 . . –
To 12 lb Bread	2 . . 6
To 2 lbs Candles	1 . . 6
To Diating ashore	10 . . –
To Carting the Artillery Stores on board the Brigg	11 . . 3
To 12 lb Beef	2 . . 3

To my own time from the first order Recd on the 17th Day of December 1775 till the 4th Day of Janry 1776 which was the time of my returning home from Delivering Sd Brigg, at New Haven which in the Whole Was 18 days

To the Expenses of my horse from New Haven	9 . . –

The foregoing a Count is Payed to me

David Waterbury

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[1] Account Book of Col. David Waterbury No. 2, US Revolution, LC.

[2] Subsequently the Connecticut State brig *Defence*.

Minutes of the New York Committee of Safety [1]

[New York] Jany. 4th, 1776.

Die Jovis, 10 HO. A.M.

Mr. Thomas McFarren attending was called in. The Committee conversed with him on the subject of shipping flaxseed to Ireland, to obtain gunpowder.

Thereupon, a draft of a letter to the Continental Congress was read and approved of, and is in the words following, to wit:

In Committee of Safety for the Colony of New-York,
During the recess of Congress.

January 4th, 1776

Gentlemen –

We have engaged two vessels to despatch with produce to Europe, for the purpose of procuring arms and ammunition, but the season of the year has prevented wheat from coming to market to expedite them

> so early as we could wish, to have a return in a proper time. In these difficulties we are unable to get bills of exchange, or gold or silver to despatch those vessels, which we fear will totally defeat our design. We have therefore been led to cast our attention on flaxseed, as the only commodity in our power which will rid us of our difficulties, but find that the resolution of Congress permitting the exportation of produce for ammunition, is confined to the foreign islands. As our safety depends upon the country being well supplied with powder, we submit it to you whether the sense of Congress, should not be taken without delay, on our exporting two cargoes of flaxseed to purchase powder. The measure recommends itself by several considerations; there is the highest probability of procuring powder in Ireland at a moderate rate. If this should not be the case, the flaxseed will sell at an advanced price there, and be a fund upon which he can draw from any quarter of the world. And if the enemy should take the vessels, the supply will not be so prejudical to us, or beneficial to them, as the loss of provision vessels. We request you to get a speedy answer on this point, and transmit it to us by express for our government.
>
> We are, with great truth and regard, Gentlemen [&c.]
>
> By order of the Committee of Safety.
>
> To the President of the Continental Congress, Philadelphia [2]

Ordered, That a copy thereof be engrossed, and signed by the Chairman, and transmitted.

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1. *New York Provincial Congress,* I, 236–37.
2. There is no record in the Journal of the Continental Congress of the receipt of this letter, nor was there any action upon the subject matter recorded in the Journal.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS [1]

[Philadelphia] Thursday, January 4,1775

The Committee of Claims report, that there is due,

To James Whitehead, for provisions for the prisoners taken on board the *Rebecca and Mary,* the sum of 64 dollars.[2]

To the committee of Frederick Town, Maryland, for the expences incurred by [John] Connolly, [Allen] Cameron and [John] Smith, during their confinement, the sum of 74 dollars, and that the same be paid to the delegates of Maryland.

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1. Ford, ed., *JCC,* IV, 29–32.
2. The *Rebecca and Francis* (not *Mary*) went ashore on the New Jersey coast in October 1775 with a British recruiting party under Captain Duncan Campbell.

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH [1]

[Philadelphia] Thursday 4 Jany Comee of Claims allowed the Accots for keeping Conolly & his Associates & bringing them from Maryland to Philada . . . Debates on the Report of the State of N York, great Fault found with the Fort now constructing in the Highlands under the Auspices of Bernard Romans the Engineer, as too large and expensive and ill calculated to annoy the Enemy – Maps produced and Proceedings of the N York Convention thereon read. Mr [Thomas]

Palmer attending on their Behalf, ordered that he be heard To Morrow Morng – a Vessel or Two of War are now fitting out in Maryland on Acct of the Congress –[2]

[1] Richard Smith's Diary, LC.

[2] The Continental sloop *Hornet* and schooner *Wasp*.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

In Committee of Safety
[Philadelphia] – 4th Jan'y, 1776.

Resolved, That Capt. Henry Dougherty order a proper guard from the Boat's Crews, to be fixed at the State House, over the Artillery & Military Stores, and at the Powder House.

On motion,

Resolved, that Colo. [John] Cadwalader, Mr. Wilson [*sic* Alexander Wilcocks] & Mr. [Joseph] Reed, wait upon Mr. Andrew Ellicot [Elliot], Esq. & Lord Drummond, and take their parole of Honour that they will not give any intelligence of, or correspond with any persons whatever, on public affairs, during their stay in this City. And when they shall leave this place, they will give no information of any facts which may have come to their knowledge while here of public nature, and be prejudicial to the interests of the United Colonies.

[1] *Pennsylvania Colonial Records,* X, 445.

Pennsylvania Gazette, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10,1776

Ship Timber, Wanted Immediately

Philadelphia, January 4,1776.

A large quantity, consisting of rising timbers, floor timbers and knees; the rising timbers to be from eight to nine feet long in each arm; the floor timbers from 17 to 19 feet long, to rise from 20 to 30 inches in 14 feet; and to be left deep in the throat; the knees to be about 5 feet long in the arm and 6 in the body; the whole of the timber to be very large. Any person having a quantity of the above articles, may apply to David Thomson, or Francis Grice, Ship carpenters, who will pay ready money for the same.[1]

[1] The advertisement was repeated in the *Pennsylvania Gazette,* January 17, 1776. David Thomson and Francis Grice, along with William Pollard and Samuel Penrose, had been appointed Timber Commissioners for the four frigates to be built in Philadelphia. See memorandum on building the Philadelphia Frigates, January 1, 1776.

COST OF OUTFITTING THE CONTINENTAL SHIP *Alfred* [1]

Philadelphia Decemr 30: 1775

Stephen Hopkins Esqr For the Ship *Alfred* Dr

Fitted as a Ship of War

To John Turner for	38	days work
" Jos: Bowers	41	
Thom. Thomson	42	
James Reynolds	19	
Will: Beaty	34	

Will: White	19		
Jerea Much	12		
John Christian	2		
Alexr Brown	18½		
James Singleton	15		
John Coats	37½		
Will: Coats	13		
Warwick Coats	19		
Chas Laurence	27		
Patk Hamilton	22		
Reynold Wharton	34		
Will: Toy	18		
Francis Holton	2		
Charles Bradley	23		
Andrew Smiley	12		
James Carr	15		
Zacariah Feariss	10		
Henry Rail	16		
Francis Tussey	9		
Will: Murray	10		
Will: Edmondson	11		
David Edmondson	5		
	——	524 days a 8/	209.12..–
James Day 13 a	7/6	13 a 7/6	4.17..6
Roger Herle 37 a	7/	37 a 7/	12.19..–
Abel Lee	11		
Norman McLeod	7		
Saml Harman	9		
	——	is 27 a 6/	8..2..–
John Cohoon 5 a	5/		1..5..–
Alexr Craig & Mate Sawyers		11 a 11/	6..1..–
5 Stages each 2 days		a 13/6	1..5..–
4 Potts & Ladle 2 do		7/6	..15..–
Wharfage Heaving down & Capston			1..5..–
			£ 246..1..6

[Second page]

Amount brought over			246..1..6
To 133 feet of 1 Inch boards a 2d		£ 1..2..2	
1056 feet of 2 Inch planks a 4d		17.12..0	
914 do 2½ Inch do a 5d		19..0.10	
463 do 3 Inch do a 6d		11..11..6	
288 do 3½ Inch do a 7d		8..8..–	
186 do 4 Inch do a 8d		6..4..0	
24 do 4½ Inch do a 9d		18..–	
62 do 6 Inch do for Combings	12d	3..2..–	
54 lb of Oakum	a 4d	..18..–	
8 Tar bbls a 2/ & 10 poles a 9d		1..3..6	
1 Ps in the Keel		2..6	
6 Knees a 10/ & 8 Knees a 4/		4.12..–	
Bellfree Top and Cheeks		1.15..–	
Axeltree for Bell		..2..–	
Partners for the Capston		2.10..–	
Whelps for ditto 30/ & barrel for do 10/		2..–..–	
Sweep for the Tiller		..15..–	

Blocks for the Tiller Rope	..8..–	
2 bitts and Cross Pieces	3.10..–	
1 pr of Gallows bitts & Top	2.15..–	
1 pr of Bitts abaft the Main Mast	..15..–	
2 head Ledges a 7/6	..15..–	
20 Staunchions in the Waist a 5/	5..–..–	
2 Catheads a 22/6	2..5..–	
10 feet of Anchor Stocks 2/	1..–..–	
2 Boat Chocks a 10/	1..–..–	
2 ps of Stuff for Bow Chaise ports on deck	..5..–	
Sundry Augurs	..14..–	
paid Portage of Capston & Sundrys	..2..6	
To Joshua Humphreys Attendance	15..–..–	114..16..0
		£ 360..17..6

bill deliver'd Dated Jany 4: 1776.

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1. Joshua Humphreys, Ship Yard Accounts (Ledger D), HSP.

Cost of Outfitting the Continental Ship *Columbus*[1]

Philadelphia Decemr 30, 1775

Stephen Hopkins Esqr for Ship *Columbus* Dr

Fitted for a Ship of War in the Continental Service

To John Christian for	11 days work a 8/		
Natl Jackson	12 do		
Joseph Goven	15 do		
Abraham Nelson	12½ do		
Zacariah Feariss	15 do		
Hugh Edmondson	13 do		
Will: Edmondson	8 do		
John Raworth	8½ do		
John Molloy	12 do		
Will:Murray	11½ do		
James Carr	23 do		
Charles Bradley	10 do		
Robt Biddison	20 do		
David Edmondson	10½ do		
Reynold Wharton	9 do		
Will: Toy	13 do		
Patk Hamilton	23½ do		
Will: Hays	17½ do		
Will: Garwood	23 do		
Will: Donaldson	22 do		
James Miller	20 do		
Henry Rail	26 do		
Richard Shephard	9½ do		
Will: Coats	14½ do		
Warwick Coats	10½ do		
Francis Tussey	7 do		
Thos Havens	6½ do		
John Turner	16 do		
Will: White	4 do	is 410 a 8/	164

James Day			7 a 7/6	2..12..6
Abel Lee	13 do			
Norman McLeod	14 do			
Saml Harman	5 do	is	32 a 6/	9..12..–
Thomas Linwell	22 do			
John Cohoon	7 do	is	29 a 5/	7..5..–
Alexr Craig & Mate Sawyers			16 a 11/	8..16..–
5 Stages each 2 days a 2/6 p Stage				1..5..–
4 Potts & Ladle 2 do a 18d p Pot				..12..–
				£ 194..2..6

[Second page]

Amount brought Over		194..2..6
To 2 days Wharfage heaving down and use of Capston	1..5..–	
2 bitts & Cross ps	3..10..–	
Bellfree Top & Ch[ec]ks	1..15..–	
Axeltree for the Bell	..2..–	
Partners for the Capston	1..15..–	
Whelps for do 30/ barrel for ditto 10/	2..–..–	
Sweep for the Tiller	15..–	
Blocks for Tiller Rope	8..–	
2 head Ledges a 7/6	15..–	
18 Staunchions in the Waist a 5/	4..10..–	
2 Boat Chocks a 10/	1..–..–	
1 ps of Scantline 7/6 & 6 poles a 9d	..12..–	
122 feet of 1½ Inch Plank a 3d	1..10..6	
980 do 2 do do a 4d	16..6..8	
844 do 2½ do do a 5d	17..11..8	
386 do 3 do do a 6d	9..13..–	
63 do 4 do do a [8]d	2..2..–	
181 do 4½ do do a 9d	6..15..9	
96 do 6 do for combing 12d	4..16..–	
14 do 7 do 14d	..16..4	
sundry Augurs	..12..–	
paid Portage of Capston & sundrys	2..6	
Joshua Humphreys for his Attendance	13..0..0	91..13..5
		£ 285..15..11

bill deliver'd dated Jany 4, 1776

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1. Joshua Humphreys, Ship Yard Accounts (Ledger D), HSP.

COST OF OUTFITTING THE CONTINENTAL BRIG *Andrew Doria* [1]

Philadelphia Decemr 30: 1775

Stephen Hopkins Esqr for Brigt *Andrew Doria* Dr

fitted for a Vessell of War

To John Christian for	16 days work a 8/–			
Jerea Much	34	Thomas Havens	9	
Frans Holton	29	Will: Mahoney	8	
Nathl Jackson	16	Zaca: Feariss	9½	
James Shillingford	12	Hugh Edmondson	6½	
Richard Shephard	17	Will: Edmondson	5	
Joseph Goven	10	John Raworth	6½	
William Hays	13	Joseph Hulings	29½	
Francis Martin	11	Abra: Williams	12½	
John Stuart	6	John Molloy	14	
Thomas Davis	14	James Singleton	18	
William Flood	28	Patk Heany	6	
Jacob Slack	7	Thos Hood	7	
Reynold Wharton	6½	Alexr Brown	12½	
William Toy	7	Abra Nelson	8	
Charles Bradley	7	Will:Murray	2	
Andrew Smiley	7	Francis Judson	1	
James Carr	5½			
	is 401 days a 8/–			160..8..–
James Day	4 do a 7/6			1..10..–
Abel Lee	14			
Norman McLeod	19			
James Shillingsford junr	2 is 35 do a 6/			10..10..–
Alexander Craig & Mate Sawyers 8 do a 11/–				4..8..–
2 Stages 2 days & 1 ditto 10 days a 2/6 pr Stage				1..15..–
2 Potts & Ladle 2 days & 1 Pott 10 days a 18d pr pot				1..1..–
2 days Wharfage heaving down & Capston				1..5..–
				£ 180..17..–

[Second page]

Amount brought Over		180..17..–
To 154 lb of Oakum a 4d	£ 2..11..4	
" 1 pr of Scantline	..10..–	
1 Knee for Catheads	..5..–	
45 Timbers a 5/	11..5..–	
2989 feet of 2 Inch Plank a 4d	49..16..4	
951 do 2½ Inch do a 5d	19..6..3	
270 do 3 Inch do a 6d	6..15..–	
55 do 3½ Inch do a 7d	1..12..1	
58 do 4 Inch do a 8d	1..18..8	
198 do 4½ Inch do a 9d	7..8..6	
116 Trenels a 2d	..19..4	
sundry Augurs	..10..–	
Joshua Humphreys for his Attendance 24 days a 10/	12..–..–	115..7..6
		£ 296..4..6

bill delivered dated Jany 4.1776

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[1] Joshua Humphreys, Ship Yard Accounts (Ledger D), HSP.

PARTIAL COST OF OUTFITTING THE CONTINENTAL BRIG *Cabot*[1]

Philadelphia Decemr 30: 1775

Stephen Hopkins Esqr	for Brigt *Cabot*	Dr
To 26 feet of 3 Inch Planks a 6d		..13..–
1 ps of Scantline a [2d]		..10..–
1 boat Chock 10/ & 25 Trenels 4/2		..14..2
		£ 1..17..2

bill deliver'd dated Janry 4. 1776

[1] Joshua Humphreys, Ship Yard Accounts (Ledger D), HSP. It is apparent that the *Cabot* was outfitted in some other shipyard, and that this bill represents only a few items supplied her.

COST OF OUTFITTING THE CONTINENTAL SLOOP *Providence*[1]

Philadelphia Decemr 30: 1775

Stephen Hopkins Esqr for Sloop *Providence* Dr

To Francis Williams for 4 days work a 8/

Thos Hood	1	William Edmondson	1
James Carr	2½	Alexander Brown	6
William Toy	1	Zaca: Feariss	2
Andrew Smiley	1	William Coats	1
Thomas Havens	5½	Charles Bradley	1
Natl Jackson	1½	Patk Hamilton	4
John Tuner	1½	Joseph Bowers	1
Henry Rail	1	Francis Holton	1
James Miller	1	Richard Shephard	2

is 39 days a 8/	15..12..–
2 Stages 1 day & 1 ditto 3 days a 2/6 p Stage	..12..6
2 Potts & Ladle 1 day a 18d p Pot	..3..–
Heaving down Wharfage & Capston	1..5..–
4 Poles a 9d	..3..–
12 feet of 1½ Inch Plank a 3d	..3..–
36 do 2 Inch do a 4d	..12..–
56 do 2½ Inch do a 5d	1..3..4
Joshua Humphreys for his Attendance	1..–..–
	£ 20.13.10

[1] Joshua Humphreys, Ship Yard Accounts (Ledger D), HSP. The *Providence*, having been delivered to the Naval Committee as the armed sloop *Katy*, required less overhauling than the converted merchantmen, *Alfred* and *Columbus*.

CONTINENTAL NAVAL COMMITTEE RESOLUTION[1]

Naval Committee [Philadelphia] January 4th. 1776 –

This Committee are of Opinion that all the Officers and Men employed in the Service of the United Colonies by sea who do their duty properly but who notwithstanding their utmost efforts are taken Prisoners, are properly entitled to the same Wages that they Received before they were made prisoners, until they are Released from Captivity – And the Commander in Chief is hereby desired to signify the same to the Officers and Men under his Command

Sign'd Step Hopkins Silas Deane
Christ Gadsden Joseph Hewes

The above is a true Copy
Esek Hopkins Comr in Cheff

1. Charles Roberts Autograph Collection, HCL.

Continental Naval Committee Order [1]

Copy./

The Naval Committee give possitive Orders, that every Officer in the Sea and Marine Service, and all the Common men belonging to each, who have enlisted into the Service of the United Colonies on board the Ships now fiting out, that they immediately repair on board their respective Ships as they would avoid being deemed deserters, and all those who have undertaken to be Security for any of them are hereby called upon to procure and deliver up the men they have engaged for, or they will be immediately called upon in a proper and effectual Way.

Boats will constantly attend at Messrs. Willing and Morris's Wharf to carry all people on board the Ships.

Philadelphia Jany 4th 1776.

By order of the Committee
T^y^ Maltack Secy

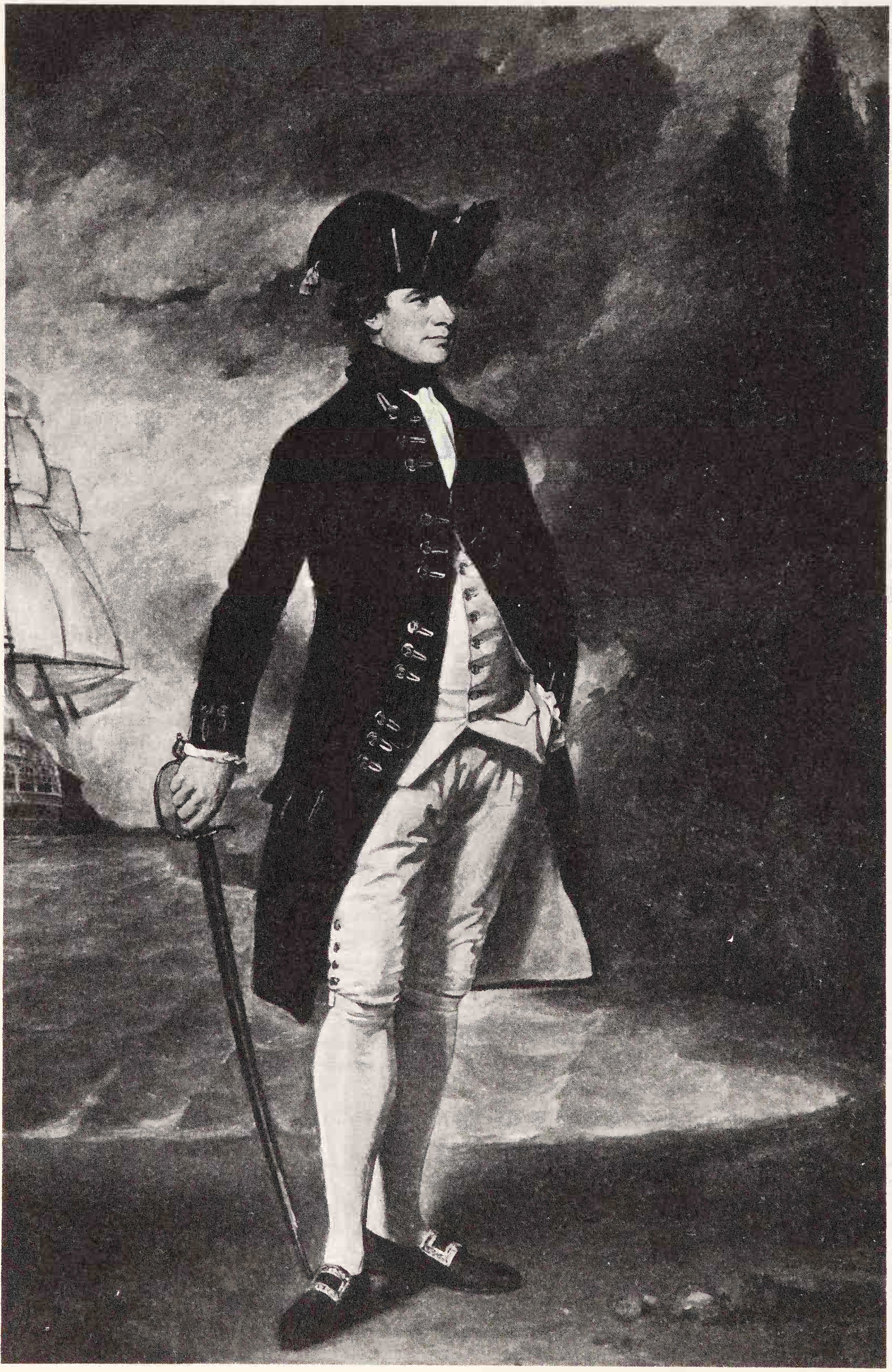
1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484. This order was copied by James Brattle, valet of James Duane, and supplied to Governor William Tryon. In copying, the name of the secretary of the Continental Naval Committee, Timothy Matlack, was erroneously spelled "Maltack."

Assignment of Marines in the Continental Fleet [1]

[January 4, 1776]

Arrangement of Officers and Men, of the Marines, on board the American Fleet

On board the ship *Alfred*
Capt [Samuel] Nicholas
Lieuts [Matthew] Parke & [John] Fitzpatrick
and the whole company –
On board the ship *Columbus*
Capt [Joseph] Shoemaker
Lieuts Miller [2] & [Robert] Cummings
and the whole company –
On board the *Andrea Doria* Brigg
Lieutenant [Isaac] Craig and thirty six of the
Men he raised –



Captain Hyde Parker, Jr.

On board the *Cabot* Brigg
Captain [John] Welsh
Lieut [James Hood] Wilson
and the forty men raised by the Capt
On board the sloop *Providence*
Lieutenant [Henry] Dayton
and the fourteen men raised by Lieut Wilson and six of Lieut Craigs men
Extract from the Minutes
Ty Matlack secy

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1. Hopkins Papers, RIHS. The date is suggested as the list was probably compiled at the time the fleet was ready to depart from Philadelphia.
2. There is no Lieutenant Miller on the muster roll of the *Columbus*. According to that roll, John Trevett on February 13, 1776, was promoted from Midshipman to First Lieutenant of Marines, an indication that Miller either failed to accept his commission, or left the service prior to the fleet's departure from the Delaware capes.

"A JOURNAL OF A CRUSE IN THE BRIG *Andrew Doria* NICHOLAS BIDDLE ESQR COMMANDER FROM THE PORT OF PHILADELPHIA, BEGUN JANUARY 4TH 1776 –"[1]

Thursday January 4th — At 2 PM Cast off from the Warf In Company with the Comodore Ship *Alfred, Columbus* & *Cabot,* Light airs from the Westward & much Ice in the River, At 6 Do Came to at the Pierse at Liberty Island, & was there Detain'd by the Ice till the 17th

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1. Enclosure A, Shuldham to Stephens, July 8, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484. This journal, kept by First Lieutenant James Josiah, *Andrew Doria,* was found in his possession when the transport *Crawford* in which he was prize master was taken by H.M.S. *Cerberus,* June 12, 1776. Hereafter cited as *Andrew Doria* Journal.

INTELLIGENCE FROM PHILADELPHIA, TRANSMITTED BY CAPTAIN HYDE PARKER, JR., R.N.[1]

Copy/ Thursday, 4th January 1776.

This day about one o'Clock sailed the Ship *Alfred* and the Ship *Columbus* with Two Brigs,[2] the *Alfred* Carries 36 Guns 9 and 12 pounders, 60 Marines, and about 200 Sailors. *Columbus* about the same number of Men, and 32 Guns, the Two Brigs carries 16 Guns, they sailed with 5 or 6 Merchant Ships Loaded with Flour from the Congress. [Esek] Hopkins Commands the *Alfred,* she has Yellow sides, her Head the figure of a Man, English Colours but more Striped, – The *Columbus* is all Black, except white bottom, with no Head, Commanded by one [Abraham] Whipple.

Hopkins says he will board after a few Shot at all events, they have got a Number of Grapnels, Spikes &ca for boarding, with Cohorns on the Main top. A Sloop of 12 Guns [3] is to sail this Evening, she is a Sloop that came from Rhode-Island. I don't know whether or not these Vessels are going but it is probable they will Convoy these Merchantmen off the Coast as they are going for Powder &ca to Spain, Portugal and Holland and to France but I cannot understand

INTELLIGENCE ON CONTINENTAL NAVY [JANUARY 4, 1776][1]

Ships or Vessels Name		Commanders Names	Guns Pounders					Number of Swivels		Men	Remarks
			32	24	18	9	6				
Alfred	(Ship)	" Hopkins	"	"	"	20	10	....	Lower Deck Upper Deck	Philadelphia 220 Including 60 Marines	Figure head, Yellow sides, her lower Deck Ports not above 18 inches from the Water.
Columbus	(Ship)	" Whipple	"	"	"	18	10		Lower Deck Upper Deck	220 Including 60 Marines	Black sides without a Head
Annodora[2]	(Brig)	" Dunn[4]	"	"	"	"	16	12		130 Including 30 Marines	Black sides without a Head.
Cabinet[3]	(Brig)	" Hopkins Junr	"	"	"	"	14	12		120 Including 30 Marines	Figure Head and Yellow sides
Providence	(Sloop)	" Hazard	"	"	"	"	12	10		90 Including 28 Marines	....
Row Gallies Thirteen No Vizt		One Mounting	1	"	"	"	"	"		50 each	
		Some	"	1	"	"	"	"			
		and some	"	"	1	"	"	"			
One Floating Battery 120 feet long, 20 feet wide, the Parapet of which is only Plank.											
Thirty Fire Rafts, Built like a Scough 18 feet long and 12 feet Wide.											
Two Ships Twenty Guns each										Baltimore	Fitting out.
Two Brigs 14 and 16 Guns each										New Haven	Fitting out.

Thirteen Frigates, ordered to be Built by the Continental Congress from 28 to 36 Guns, Two Allotted to be built at this Port.[5]

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1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484. Enclosure No. 4 in Shuldham's letter of March 8, 1776, to Philip Stephens. This status summary was probably compiled about January 4, 1776.
2. The *Andrew Doria.*
3. The *Cabot.*
4. Nicholas Biddle. Benjamin Dunn was the Sailing Master.
5. Four, not two of the frigates, were built in Philadelphia.

they have any particular Alliances as yet. by some words as I heard I believe they will pay Lord Dunmore a Visit soon, he is on board and is fallen down Ten Miles below Newport [*sic*] he has lost many Men. Three Companies is going to March from here very soon Captain Williams Alens, Dawson and Jenkenses all for Virginia.[4] The *Neptune* and the *Aurora* is Two of the Above Merchantmen, there Names is in their Sterns, they are certainly going for Powder and Ammunition let their pretence be what they will [5] very bad News from Canada Arnolds Regiment have lost great numbers of Men Starved to Death and Perished with Hunger and Cold. Governor Carlton has great Numbers in Quebec. Long Faces in the Congress because they are Almost out of hopes of taking it: the head of the Tories on Long-Island are to be taken and Secured in Goal and the Others to be disarmed; more Vessels are loading here with Flour none of them Cleared out at the Custom House, they are all Freighted by the Congress.

N.B. The first part of this Information was a Mistake, The Privateers having only fell down the River and did not sail.

(Sign'd) H. Parker

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 1/484. Information supplied by James Brattle.

[2] The *Andrew Doria* and the *Cabot*.

[3] The sloop *Providence*, formerly the Rhode Island sloop *Katy*.

[4] Captains William Allen, Samuel Dawson and William Jenkins, of the 1st Pennsylvania Battalion.

[5] The *Neptune* and the *Aurora*, two of seven vessels owned by Willing, Morris & Co., were freighted on account of the Secret Committee of the Continental Congress, Morris Papers, HUL.

COLONEL WILLIAM WOODFORD TO COLONEL THOMAS ELLIOTT [1]

Norfolk, January 4, 1776, 3 o'clock P.M.

About a quarter past 3 on Monday afternoon [January 1] the whole fleet began a heavy cannonade, which lasted 7 hours, without any intermission, and indeed continued, off and on, till last night, since which we have been tolerably quiet. Under the fire of their ships, they landed in many places, and set fire to the houses on the wharves. In these attempts, many of them, we are certain, were killed, and never failed being repulsed by our people. We had not a man killed, and only 5 or 6 wounded, one supposed mortally, and two or three women and children are said to be killed. Providence certainly interfered in our favour, or more lives must have been lost. They once landed and got into the streets with field pieces, but were beat back with loss, and no execution done by their fire. Nine tenths of the town are destroyed, but the fire is now out.

[1] *Pennsylvania Gazette*, January 17, 1776.

LORD DUNMORE TO LORD DARTMOUTH [1]

[Extract]
[No. 34]

[On board the Ship *Dunmore* off Norfolk]
January 4th. 1776

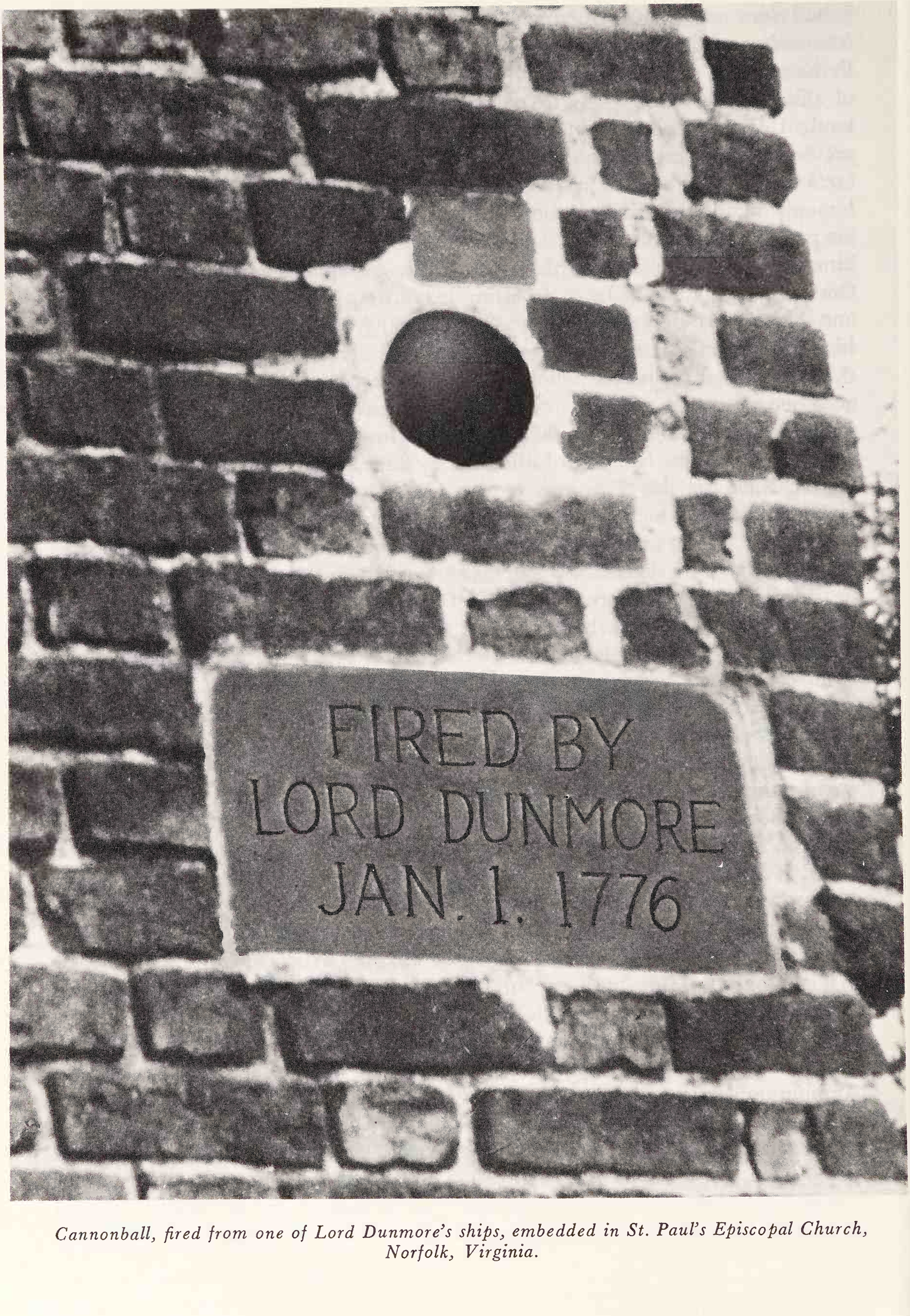
On the 19th Ulto I was most agreeably surprised by the Arrival of an Officer from Captain [Henry] Bellew, who informed me that the *Liverpool*, and the Brig *Maria* were in the Bay; next Morning I went down to the *Liverpool* with a Pilot who brought her up the day following. After reading your Lordships' dispatches Nos. 21,22 & 23, which were the first I had received from the 30th of May, I then informed Captain Bellew (who now Commands His Majesty's Ships here) of part of their Contents, and of the Situation of Affairs in this Colony, and of this place in particular; I was so fortunate as [to] concur with him in opinion, and in consequence thereof, he immediately ordered the *King Fisher* to the upper end of the Town, the *Otter* a little below her, and Captain Bellew lay with the *Liverpool* pretty near the middle of the Town, and I lay with the Ship I am on board of a little below him; Captain Bellew unwilling to Shed the blood of any of His Majesty's Subjects, and much more so that of the innocent, sent a Flag of Truce on Shore with a Note (Copies of which with the Answers is inclosed (No. 5).

On the first Instant Captain Bellew discovering the Rebels parading in the Streets, sent a few Cannon Shot amongst them, his example was immediately followed by all of us, and under Cover of the Cannon, I sent some boats on Shore to burn some detached Warehouses on the lower part of the Wharfs (from whence they used to annoy our boats as they passed) I, at the same time hailed Captain Bellew to beg he would send his boats to burn the Brig with the Salt, which he did immediately, the Vessels from the Fleet to shew their Zeal for His Majesty's Service, sent great Numbers of Boats on Shore, by which means the fire soon became general on the Wharfs, the wind rather blowing off Shore would have prevented the fire from reaching any farther than the Wharfs, but the Rebels so soon as the Men of War ceased fireing, and our People came off, put the finishing Stroke to it, by Setting fire to every House, which has given them employment for these two days past, they have also burnt many houses on both sides of the River, the property of individuals who have never taken any part in this contest, in Short from every transaction they appear to me to have nothing more at heart, than the utter destruction of this once most flourishing Country, Conscious I suppose that they cannot long enjoy it themselves, they wish to make it of as little use as possible to others; We had only one man killed and two or three Wounded, the loss of the Enemy, as they say, are eighteen killed, and between forty and fifty wounded, but from other Accounts I think their loss must be much more considerable, they still keep constantly firing upon us when ever an opportunity offers, they are imprisoning every Man that they even suppose wishes well to Government, nay the Ladies who have dared to write or Speake disrespectfully of them, have not been exempted by them.

Your Lordship will see by the inclosed Paper (No 6) the correspondance that has passed relative to the exchange of Prisoners, but I am persuaded from all I can learn, or see, that they mean to adopt Adams's plan of securing as many Prisoners as possible, and Setteling no Cartel.

In my letter No 32 I informed your Lordship of Several Vessels being sent by the Rebells to the West Indias for Gun Powder, and it being reported that a certain John Goodrich of this place, had sent out a Vessel of his, with his Son William in her on that errand, and having also intercepted the inclosed letter (No 7) from a Mr [Robert]Sheddon, Son in Law of the said Goodrich, I had him and John Goodrich junr another son immediately apprehended, from whom I learn that their brother William Goodrich was arrived in their Fathers Vessel in Ockrocock in North Carolina, with Powder, for the Rebels of this Colony, which was to be brought from thence to Williamsburg over land; I took every Step in my power to intercept it, but my want of force prevented my effecting it. Mr Sheddon having exculpated himself to my Satisfaction, from having any concern in this affair or of being privy to it, and that his only motive for writing the inclosed letter, was to prevent as far as lay in his power the ruin his friends had involved themselves in, I therefore discharged him; A few days afterwards Mr Sheddon brought me a letter from John Goodrich, his father in Law, declaring his Sincere repentance of what was past, and his earnest desire of returning to his duty, and begging I would permit him to see me. I accordingly appointed a time and place to meet him, he then discovered to me the whole affair, and declared that he and his Son had no other motive for engaging in this business but the prospect of a good freight for their Vessel; and if I would permit him, he would himself go to St Eustatia and bring me the balance of the Money they had received from Mr Robert Carter Nicholas, the Treasurer of this Colony, for the purpose of purchasing of Gun Powder, which his Son had lodged in the hands of a Certain Van Dam a Merchant there, and that he would either bring it to me in Bills or Powder, as might be most agreeable, and as a Security for the performance thereof, he desired I would apprehend his Son William, whom he would order to be at a place fixed upon, where I should send for him, which I accordingly did, and as soon as I had him in Custody, took his Deposition (a Copy of which is inclosed (No 8) as is also a Copy of his Account with the Colony (No 9). I then granted his father the inclosed Pass (No.10) who Set out immediately on his Voyage, but hapning to fall in with a Tender belonging to the *Kingsfisher,* Commanded by a Mr Jones Master of the above Ship, he did, without paying the least regard to my Pass, for which he says he had his Captains orders, Seize Mr Goodrich and his Vessel and after detaining them many days brought them in here; I made not the least doubt but from this detention the Rebels would have got information of the matter and have sent a Vessel out to have procured the Powder, however I was determined nothing should be wanting on my part, and being fully Satisfied that this poor family had been drawn into this from their ignorance of the Consequences, I sent the Son William on the same business (in a Tender belonging to the *Otter* Sloop of War) who has orders from me to purchase what Powder and Arms he can (both of which were much wanted here) and to bring the Surplus in Cash, if any; Your Lordship will see how the Rebels are supplied with Arms and Ammunition by the inclosed papers which is the principal reason for my sending them, and that your Lordship might also see how little confidence can be put in the Assertion of our Allies the Dutch.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/1353.


FIRED BY
LORD DUNMORE
JAN. 1. 1776

Cannonball, fired from one of Lord Dunmore's ships, embedded in St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Norfolk, Virginia.

"A LETTER FROM A MIDSHIPMAN ON BOARD THE *Liverpool,* OFF NORFOLK IN VIRGINIA, DATED JAN.[4]" [1]

We arrived here the 18th ult. after a very long and disagreeable Passage of fourteen Weeks continued bad Weather, with a Brig under Convoy, that obliged us to be continually bearing away, lying too, or shortening Sail; when at length we arrived here, promising ourselves every Good, but instead of that we had every Ill to encounter with. The Rebels have been in Possession of Norfolk three Weeks, when Lord Dunmore was forced to retire afloat, with all the Inhabitants that were well affected to Government, after an Engagement with the Loss of very few. The *Otter,* Capt. Squire, and *King's Fisher,* Capt. Montagu (Sloops) are stationed here, with 160 Men belonging to the 14th Regiment. The Negroes, by Lord Dunmore's declaring them free, left their Rebel Masters, and joined his Lordship, to the Number of Three Hundred, with about fifty Volunteers, which was the whole Force before our Arrival, of the Government Party. A Week before our Arrival, the 11th ult. his Lordship landed with this Force, but was obliged to retire, as they fought in their Intrenchments, and had the Superiority of Numbers; they galled our Men much, who came off with the Loss of 65 killed and wounded. Lord Dunmore was quiet till the Night before we came to Lynhaven Bay, when he had formed a Plan to burn the Town; but on the News of our Arrival, he desisted, on our coming up the River: Nothing could equal the Acclamations of Joy from near 200 Sail, large and small; the Rafts on which were poor Families, were not the least to welcome us. From the time of our Arrival till the 31st, was spent in Flags of Truce, to try if they would supply us with fresh Provisions; but they were equally as treacherous as rebellious. On the 29th at Night, they fired into our Guard-boat, which was returned with a few Nine Pounders from us, and Six's from the Sloops: They were quiet the Remainder of the Night, but the next Morning their Centinels were parading before us with their Hats fixed on their Bayonets, and every other menacing Action they could think of. At Four o'Clock we fired a Shot at them, which was immediately seconded by his Lordship, the *Otter* and *King's Fisher,* Tenders and Merchantmen: The Cannonade lasted Half an Hour, when a Boat was sent from us, to set fire to a Brig they had taken, laden with Salt. His Lordship sent his Boats in also, and in less than eight Minutes the Brig and Town was in Flames: It burnt with great Rapidity all Night; we kept firing occasionally, to silence their rifle-barrelled Musquetry. The only Damage we received, was one Man losing his Arm; a Man from the *Otter* was wounded in the Groin, and a Carpenter killed belonging to the *Dunmore.* Their Loss must be very great. The next Day, Jan. 2, was ushered in with a dismal Sight of Ruins, and the Town still in Flames. As soon as the Shirtmen could see, they peppered us with their Rifle barrels; and as they have every Advantage over us, they do not fail to make use of it, which renders our Firing useless, as we cannot see one of them; let them fire ever so thick, as soon as they have fired, directly they fire they tumble down flat on their Bellies, load again, and then rise up and fire. The Town is still burning, as it will be for three or four Days.

The Rebels are called Shirtmen from their Uniforms, being a long Shirt down to their Heels, with a Leaden Medal at their Breasts, in the Shape of an old English Shield, on which is inscribed, "Liberty or Death."

[1] *Public Advertiser,* London, March 13, 1776. Date of letter is approximated.

JOURNAL OF H.M.SLOOP *Otter,* CAPTAIN MATTHEW SQUIRE [1]

January 1776 Elizabeth River [Virginia]

Thursday 4 at 7 A M unmoor'd at 8 weighed and dropt down abreast of the Mills in order to guard the watering place. Moor'd a Cable each way. the Best Bower to the N W. the small to the S E. distance off shore two Cable length. fired several times at Parties of Rebels. Open'd a Cask of Beef.

Mostly moderate & fair [P.M.] Fired several times at the Rebel Sentinels at the Mills on Norfolk side.

[1] PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Syren,* CAPTAIN TOBIAS FURNEAUX [1]

January 1776 Cape Fear E N E

Tuesday 2nd A M at 6 Shoal'd to 9 Fath's TKd: at 7 Wore and Stood in, saw the Land from the Mast head W N W 6 Leagues: bore up for the Frying pan Shoal, Sounded from 7 to 5 Fath's then to 7 Fath's round the So end of the Shoal & then regular Soundings, from 7 to 10 Fath's Sandy Bottom, at 9 hauld in for the Land, at Noon Working up for Cape Fear River – Found the Bottom in general Grey Sand with brown Specks. –

Light breezes & fair, regular Soundings from 7½ to 9 Fath's sandy bottom. P M saw 2 Sail in Shore, at 3 hoisted the Coulars & fired a Gun which was Answered, at 4 fired another Gun which was answered by 2; Working up for the mouth of Cape Fear River, after Dark heard the Report of several Guns & fired One in Answer. at ½ past 7 came on board a Pilot at 8 Anchored with the small Bower in 8 Fath's sandy Bottom the Rivers Mouth E N E½Et, 4 or 5 miles;

Wednesday 3d A M at 10 weighted & Run in for the Bar, at 12 dropt the small Bower in 6 Fath's –

Light Airs & Cloudy – P M at 2 weighed & fired a Gun, Sigl for Assistance, at 5 Anchor'd with the small Bowr in 4½ Fath's & Moor'd a Cable each way; Found riding here His Majesty's Sloops *Cruizer* & *Scorpion,* with 3 Ships & 2 Sloops –

Thursday 4th A M Saluted Govr [Josiah] Martin with 13 Guns on his coming on board – Calm Wear; Empd: Occasionally.[2]

[1] PRO, Admiralty 51/930.

[2] The *Syren,* 28 guns and 160 men, had sailed from Plymouth at the beginning of November 1775 with dispatches for the governors of North and South Carolina, and with instructions to collect information in advance of the arrival of a fleet under Commodore Sir Peter Parker. See Stephens to Furneaux, November 6 and 7, 1775.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY[1]

In the Council of Safety,
[Charleston] Thursday, Jan. 4th, 1776.

John Rutledge, esq., was chosen by the Council, to be their president, during the absence of Col. Henry Laurens.

Read a proposal of Mr. Isaac Caton for importing ammunition

Ordered, That the consideration thereof be postponed.

The Council issued orders on the treasury for the following payments:

Capt. Robert Cochran, for his voyage, [£]350 0 0

Ordered, That Capt. [George Gabriel] Powell do immediately proceed, in the brigantine *Comet,* through Wappoo, into Stono river, and there fit her for service with all possible expedition, and wait for further orders; that her guns and stores be sent after her by Capt. [Edward] Blake; and that Capt. [Simon] Tufts and Capt. [William Henry] Drayton do afford Capt. Powell all possible assistance in removing the *Comet* thither.

Ordered, That Col. [William] Moultrie be desired to order the soldiers now serving as marines on board the *Hawke* pilot boat, to be removed on board the brigantine *Comet,* and there remain for her defence.

Ordered, That Capt. Blake do enquire and report to this board the particulars and value of the cargo on board the Jamaica ship, now lying at Hobcaw.

John Campbell applied for, and obtained leave to depart the colony, in the *Sandwich packet.*

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[1] *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society,* III 148, 149.

JOURNAL OF H.M.SLOOP *Viper,* CAPTAIN SAMUEL GRAVES[1]

Jany 1776 Dominica No end West 5 or 6 Leags

Wednesday 3 at 6 AM Made sail Set Studding sails at 8 Made the Land of Dominica bearing W B S 10 or 12 Leags Marrigallanta N E 6 or 7 Leags

Fresh breezes & Squally P M Empd working into Prince Ruperts Bay at ½ past 2 Fired 2 Shot to make a ship shew her Colours at ½ past 5 Anchord with the best bower in 8 fm Moord with the small bower ½ a Cable When Moord the Customhouse E B N½N Prince Ruperts head W NW the So part of the bay S S W[2] Found Rideing here his Majs Sloop *Pomona*

Thursday 4th Moord in Prince Ruperts Bay Dominica.

AM Empd Clearing the Hold and Sending empty Casks on shore Fresh breezes & Squally heeld ship Starboard side out and hogd her to the keel people Empd filling water Cooper Repairing the casks detained the brig *Mary* from Gaspee for Dominica belonging to Rhode Island Thomas Stacy Master.

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 51/1039.

[2] *Ibid.*, while not mentioned in the journal, the prize ship *Peggy,* taken December 10, 1775, was brought in by the *Viper.* The *Peggy* was mentioned in journal of the previous day, January 2, *"Peggy* in Compy," and again on January 11, when en route to Antigua, *"Peggy* in Company."

5 Jan.

COLONEL BENEDICT ARNOLD TO BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID WOOSTER [1]

Copy Holland House Jany 5th 1776.
Dear General. [Near Quebec]

Last Night a faithful Accadian belonging to our Train of Artillery, and who was taken prisoner in the unhappy Affair of the 31st was sent out of Town by [Guy] Carleton and Lenaudere with the inclosed Note and Seal, previous to which he was terrified with Threats of being hanged & when thought a true Convert he was told to carry the Note to one Mange at Verrenne who was to raise two hundred Men &c the Seal was to be delivered to Mr Jacob Jordan the King's Commissary at Montreal,[2] this the Man seemed to consent to, when they promised him his Fortune should be made, He was further ordered to call on the Captains of Militia on his Way up and endeavour to prevail on them, to raise their parishes against us, the Needful to be done in Consequence of this Intelligence I have no Occasion to mention, I make no Doubt of your sending those people out of the Way of Danger & Mischief – Every Thing remains quiet here at present, I believe the Enemy dare not Venture out tho' they threaten it, I pray God they may not, for we are in a miserable Condition to receive them – We have brought three peices of Cannon from our Battery I intend getting the whole here as soon as possible for defending our Magazine – As there was several French prisoners in Town who will doubtless be tampered with and may not be proof against their Artifice, I have thought proper to send an Express on purpose that you may guard against their plots – I find by our exact Return made the 2d Instant we have not quite eight hundred Men including Col: [James] Livingston's Regiment of about 200 – Some of the Country people have come in to our Assistance in general they appear friendly & concerned for us, many offer to join us who have no Arms I have given out several Commissions to the Inhabitants who are raising Men we are entirely out of Lead – Inclosed is a List of sundry Articles, much wanted which with such as have been wrote for before, I make no Doubt you will order as soon as may be – I am very anxious to see you here – The Burthen lies very heavy on me considering my present Circumstances – I find myself unequal to the Task, my Wound is in a fair Way and less painful – I hope The Express will meet you on your Way down and am very respectfully Dr General [&c.]

B. Arnold Coll: &c

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1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, I, 460–61, NA.
2. *Ibid.*, Lanaudiere's note read: "We have drubbed the Rebels We have taken seven hundred kill'd wounded & Prisoners, & their General Montgomery, It remains with You to compleatly drive away our Enemies, We fear Nothing here, & Will soon give You Proofs My Dear Fellow Citizens Signalize Yourselves, to retrieve the Honor of the Canadians & to gain every Happiness to Your Parish the Others will all follow Your Example, two hundred Men will destroy the Remains of these Miserable Wretches for You will raise all the Other Parishes coming down. – Lanaudiere Junr Maje the 4th in the Evening."

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Hunter*, CAPTAIN THOMAS MACKENZIE [1]

Jany 1776	Remarks &c in Quebec
Mondy 1st	a m came in some deserters from the Rebels the thanks from his Excellency Major General Carelton was read in the Barracks for their spirit and behavior Yesterday –
Tuesdy 2nd	p m went out of Town the Generals aid de Camp with a Rebel Officer to get the Prisoners Baggage but were stopped by their advanced Guard and returned into Town –
Wednesdy 3	Light Breezes with Snow Enterd with Military Honours the Body of Captain Anderson killed the 31st of last Month sent out on his Parole of Honour until the 5th the rebel Major to get the Prisoners Baggage [2]
Thursdy 4	Light breezes with Snow p m departed this Life one of the Navy Battalion who was wounded on the 31st of December last fired a Number of Shells & Shotes at the Enemy & into St Roques –
Friday 5	Little Wind with thick fogg a m went out a Forageing party with a party to cover them came in the Rebel Officer with the Prisoners Baggage firing Guns at times.

[1] PRO, Admiralty 51/466.

[2] Major Return Jonathan Meigs.

COMMODORE MARRIOT ARBUTHNOT TO CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, R.N.[1]

Pursuant to orders from Vice Adml Graves. You are hereby required and directed to put yourself under his command, to use the utmost dispatch in getting His Majesty's Ship under your command ready for Sea, to complete your Sea Stores to Twelve Months, and your provisions of all Species to Six, and follow his orders for your further proceedings, for which this shall be your order: Given under my hand at Halifax the 5th January 1776.

M Arbuthnot

Captain Hamond
Roebuck
By Commd of the Commodore J White

[1] Hamond, Orders received 1775–1776, UVL.

PHILLIP CALLBECK TO LORD DARTMOUTH [1]

My Lord Halifax 5th January 1776.

I did myself the Honor by My dispatch dated, as well as I can recollect, the 3d of August last, to inform Your Lordship of Governor Paterson's having sailed, the day before, from the Island of St John for England, & that I had, as the eldest Councellor, in his absence, taken upon me the Command of the Island. – Shortly after, General Gage sent a recruiting Party to the Island, & I thought, my Zeal Could not be more usefully Exerted, than by Promoting His Majesty's Service at a time, when Rebellion was taking such hasty Strides.

For this purpose, I publickly forwarded, & assisted the Recruiting Service, and even in our little Island had the Pleasure of Meeting with Success. – In consequence of an Express, I received from Lieutenant Governor [Hector T.] Cramahe, the People that had been collected, were sent up to the assistance of Quebec, & in order to be of as much use as I possibly Could, I forwarded Copy's of Mr. Cramahe's Letter, to General Howe and Governor Legge, also kept a Corporal to carry on the Recruiting Service, with an Intention of sending up to Quebec, whatever Force I raised.

By this I would not be misunderstood to claim any merit, as the Part I acted was no more than the Duty I owe my Sovereign, & what My Inclination strongly prompted me to; however, I had the Misfortune to feel the effects of the Rebels disapprobation of My Conduct.

On the Seventeenth November last, two Privateer Schooners belonging to Beverly in New England, one of them Armed with Six Six Pounders, the other four Six Pounders; & each of them with a number of Swivels, & Seventy-five Men, Arrived at Charlotte Town, the Capital of His Majesty's Island of St John, where I resided. They immediately made Preparations to fire on the Town, at the same time their Commanders, with Armed Party's landed. Not having heard that the Rebellious Colony's had fitted out Privateers, I Judged them to be Pirates, by their Conduct they were actually such.

In order to preserve the Town from being burn'd, I determin'd (not having force of any Kind to make Resistance:) to face them singly. – Upon their landing, they made me Prisoner, & instantly Convey'd me on board one of the Privateers, after which they proceeded to Commit the most Wanton & flagrant outrages on Governor Paterson's & My House – I may say they possess'd themselves of whole of my Property, to the amount of upwards of Two Thousand Pounds Sterling, & then sail'd with me and a Mr [Thomas] Wright, one of the Council & Surveyor General whom they also made Prisoner. – Prior to their attacking the Island, they had remained in the Gut of Canso upwards of three Weeks, for the purpose of intercepting Vessells coming from, or going to Quebec, during which time they took five Vessels, loaded with Fish, & on their Return, they took three more, without meeting with the least opposition.

Armed with that boldness, My Lord, which your well known humanity inspires, aided by an approving Heart, and persecuted allmost to ruin in the Service of my Sovereign, I shall take the liberty to trouble Your Lordship with a tale of woe, which can best be felt by a Heart like Yours. –

These unfeeling Monsters, not satiated with their flagitious Depredations on the whole of my Property, & the common Rights of Mankind, blood-thirstily sought Mrs Callbeck for the purpose (to use their own Words:) of cuting her throat, because she is the Daughter of a Mr Coffin at Boston, who is remarkable for his attatchment to Government. – Fortunately she was at my farm, four miles distant, Else it is likely her treatment wou'd have been equal to their savage Declarations – It is true she Escaped their diabolical machinations, yet she is left in so wretched a situation, that I am to suppose she is barely breathing the breath of life, without a neighbour, or person, capable of soothing the Affliction Natural to a young Wife in the absence of her Husband, Father & Friend, who has been torn from her; & to add to all, in a situation, that demanded every attention, she being with Child. These brutal Violators of domestic felicity, have left her, without a single glass of Wine, without a Candle to burn, or a sufficiency of Provisions of the bread-Kind; most of the furniture of her house taken away, & for what I know all her Cloaths. They certainly have taken away her best things, together with her Rings, Bracelets &c, none of which have been restored, altho' some of them have been seen wearing by the Connections of these Villains. – Mr Wright has thought proper to goe to Britain, to make a personal application for redress – I declin'd such a step, & intend as soon as possible, tho' at the risk of my life, to attempt geting to the Island, to attend my Duty; also to relieve a most distressed Woman, whose anxiety must be great, by her not having heard, what is to become of me. – If I am fortunate enough to get to her, I present myself beggar'd & undone, & have only the consolation to reflect, that I have lost my all in the Service of my King & Country. – Even in this favorable View my situation is peculiarly distressing.

I have had the Honor, My Lord, of His Majesty's Warrant Appointing me His Attorney General for said Island, upwards of Six years. Immediately after obtaining it, I repaired to the discharge of my Duty and in that Office, as well as others, also in my last, that of Commander in Chief, I flatter myself I have met with approbation. Yet tho' so long in His Majesty's Service, I have received but a single year's Sallary. This has arisen from the failure of the Fund, His Majesty was graciously pleased to appropriate for the Payment of His Servants Sallarys in that Government. On my arrival, I was obliged at a Considerable Expence to build an Habitation, to shelter myself from the Inclemency of the Weather. Every year since, I have been in Expectation, under the auspices of Your Lordship that there wou'd be a change, so as to bring the Sallarys to a certain Payment; In the mean time to support myself, and the Service, I have been Employ'd in, I have exhausted the whole of my private fortune, as well as every aid I cou'd get from my Connections or friends, so that what I have lost of my Property has been acquired without the aid of the Payment of My Sallary. –

Pardon me, My Lord, for this long digression; to apologize wou'd occasion me to be more troublesome – All I shall offer in my Vindication is, that I was desirous to make you in part Acquainted with the distress of a man, whose hopes of Independence were crushed just as they began to dawn. These Sufferings, My Lord, related without Exaggeration, will, I flatter myself, interest Your Sympathy on my behalf, so as that you will be pleased to lay me, and my distress, with all Humility, before My Royall Master.

After a Passage of fourteen days, I arrived at Winter-Harbour East of Cambridge One hundred & ten Miles. – On my Arrival I was received by Mr Washington very politely. The Relation of the many Acts of Cruelty that accompanied the seizing of my Person, affected those in Power so much, as shortly after to liberate me. Had I been taken without so much accumulated Barbarity, I suppose I should have been detained, until their ungrateful Chimeras were at an end. Fearing a change in their favourable Resolutions, which I had a right to expect, the Corporal I before mentioned being a Prisoner with me, and having Accounts in his Pocket of Money I advanced to carry on the Service, I hastened away after three days stay, & at a considerable Expence have fortunately got thus far, having been brought in a state of Captivity Six hundred Miles by sea, & travelled one hundred & twenty miles by land all which I have repeated on my return.

The Accounts of the Enemy that I can give Your Lordship are but very imperfect, My Situation, & time being so short, I had an opportunity of gaining but very little Knowledge Either from View or hearsay. The Strength & Extent of their Works Surprised me. The Hill named Prospect Hill is by far the best fortifyed, so much that it appears to me as if intended for the dernier resource. There lie behind the Lines, considerable Quantity of Spears, which they call Harpoons, but they are exactly resemblant to what We read of the Romans using in battle. These they have prepared under the direction of Mr [Charles] Lee, who at that time (: because there was a Scarcity of Gun Powder:) declared Powder was totally useless; that it was not what they ought to depend on. Now that they have got a little more, I believe he changes his note; however the Javelins remain, as I was told, to defend the Lines in case of any attempt to force them. They said they had in Camp twenty-two thousand men, I suppose they had sixteen thousand. Their Pay is forty Shillings lawfull money p month – Provisions Excellent. At the time I was there, they were recruiting, but went on with little success. The Connecticut People had all most to a man declin'd staying. The Hampshire People appear'd the most forward; A Mr [John] Sullivan, who Acts as a General, held forth a Declamation for an hour to them, afterwards near two thirds of the Forces of that Province inlisted. – I was detained at Salem seven days: the People Employed in recruiting were there four days before; during this whole time they got but three men. It appears to me, as if Mr Washington and their other Generals, suspected a failure in their recruiting for they shortly before the time Elapsed, that the Soldiers had been inlisted for, addressed them, representing how much they were indebted to the Southern Colonys for their liberal Supplys, for their rejecting what they called Lord North's proposals, & the Unreasonableness, on account of their distance of Expecting any of their People to assist in the field. – After using every Argument to stimulate the People in Camp to inlist, they reduced their Army from thirty-Six thousand to Twenty-Six thousand. – As far, as I could collect from the Southern People's Conversation, they Zealously wished for an Accomodation & by no means an Independency. The Northern Sentiments were in general otherwise; I heard they intended to push for opening a free Trade to their Ports in the Spring. If they do, I shou'd imagine that it will be the quickest means of a disunion, the Southerns being averse to any measure that bears the least resemblance to an Independency. They seem aware of the Consequence, that would Ensue, that of a Civil War among themselves, They talk with great freedom against the Northern Colony & take every opportunity of ridiculing them; Some say they are made tools of, that the Massachusetts Quota of the Supplys Amount to but fifteen p Cent, that by the Seat of War being with them, there is above forty p Cent Spent with them. In this manner they goe on in measuring many other Jealousies, & Grievances. In short they have Every Suspicion of the deceit & baseness of the New England Provinces. I believe they are sorry they even connected themselves with them, & continue only to Act upon the Apprehension, that, what they deem'd, their honor wou'd be called in Question, were they now to withdraw. Cou'd I venture to give my Opinion, it wou'd be, that if We keep possession of Boston, before next Campaign wou'd be over, there wou'd be a disunion among them; If that shou'd fortunately happen, the New England Provinces, notwithstanding their Numbers cou'd not hold it out. – In my Circuit I observed a Shyness in taking Paper Money, tho' they have Nominated it Cash; what we call so, goes under the Denomination of hard Money, which the People give the preference to & are greedy after. – They talked as if determined to burn Boston and that they only waited for the severe Weather to Sett in, to Answer two purposes, first that the fire Engines wou'd be impeded in their playing, & that at the same time they wou'd be accomodated with a bridge of Ice to attack the Town. I am inclined to think they are serious, at least in burning the Town; I form my opinion on the Conversation of the People at the Camp, from the Inquirys and Declarations of some of the better sort of People. As I travelled the road Eastward on my return, they seem'd desirous for the Accomplishment of it, as they formed to themselves the hope that His Majesty's Forces wou'd be obliged to abandon the Town – There was another reason struck me, that at the time I came away, agreeable to an order, the Militia were coming in very fast which I conjectured to be for the purpose of maning the Lines &c. However it might be on a Surmise that recruiting wou'd goe on but slow, & that they had provided the Militia to supply the Defect. They also talk'd that on their geting Quebec, they wou'd attack this Province: I suppose they will & if not sooner, very early in the Spring. – All that I cou'd collect came from themselves; It wou'd have been imprudent to me to have appear'd inquisitive. I did not hear a conjecture that His Majesty's Forces were to be any way distributed, nor the Scene of war to be changed to any other part of the Continent. They mentioned they had heard it was intended to take Long Island, & that some of the King's Forces were to Encamp there, for the purpose of getting fodder &c. But in their own mind, they make no scruple of defeating us. They were so self sufficient, that I had no way of bringing them down, but dinging in their Ears that Twenty thousand Russians wou'd be landed amongst them next Spring. The name of Russians seem'd to scare them much. What surpris'd me exceedingly, was the trade they carried on at most of the Ports East of Boston, while I passed and repassed, there were daily arrivals from the West Indies, but most from St. Eustatia, every one of which brings more or less of Gun Powder – Some Vessells had sailed, numbers were fitting out, loaded with Fish & Lumber, & some with Specie, all I believe bound for the West Indies. At Portsmouth, Province of New Hampshire, there were four ready to sail. – At Sacho, Province of Massachusets, two Brigs. I suppose they will be on their Return in March, & most of them will bring Gun-Powder. – At Cape Anne, Marblehead & Berverly they have Forts, & now some Powder: the Second is a strong one. – Salem & Newberry have Vessells sunk, so as to Confine the Channel to a narrow Pass. – Portsmouth has same, besides a Boom & three strong Forts.–From Portsmouth to Casco, every harbour & Creek has some insignificant Redoubt, Logg Wall or other Defence, & upon the least Alarm, the Country People come in. But from their Appearance & Preparation, I shou'd imagine they wou'd be but of a short duration. Shou'd it [be] judg'd proper to attack the Enemy, I am confident Lyne, which lies between Salem and Cambridge, wou'd be the best place to make a Landing. That part of the Coast is naked of Defence, the Country is clear & has every convenience for forming &c of these particulars I thought it my duty to inform General Howe, by Letter. If any Account or Hint, that I have given shou'd be of the least Service, I shall look on my distresses to be much Alleviated, & the Event in some measure fortunate. – I neglect now, My Lord, to apologize for this Intrusion on your time, which at this distressfull period, must be precious to my Sovereign & to the British Nation. But from my unparalell'd Suffering and Your Lordship's Magnanimity I draw my Security from censure. I have the Honor to be [&c.]

Phillp Callbeck

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1. DAC, copy from PRO, Colonial Office, 226/6.

Brigadier General Jedediah Preble to Jeremiah Powell [1]

Falmo the 5th Jany 1776

Sir. The Receipt of your favor of the 20 ulto. we acknowledge & observe the contents. Your Anxious Concern for the credit of Falmo afords us great Pleasure, But are Very Sorry so many of the Members of The Honbl Court (as you Intimate) should be prejudiced against the Town for not throwing up a Bullwork the Night Preceding the conflagration, when that Night was the only time we had allow'd by that Villain (Mowatt [Henry Mowat]) to secure our wives, children & Effects. Besides, if Cannon had been mounted we had not powder enough to have serv'd propperly half an hour, it is Impossible any Person can with any propriety condemn the conduct of Falmo in that respect. If the town is to blame, it is for not being provided with Stock of Powder. It is Cruel as well as unjust to charge the Town of Falmo with Captn Noyes Cowardice – we wish sincerely that the officers & soldiers behaviour on that day had been such as to have justified their Conduct

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1. Willis Mss., MeHS. Powell would have been a likely recipient of the letter, but it is only a surmise that it was written to him.

Journal of the New Hampshire Provincial Congress [1]

[Exeter] Friday Jany 5th 1776.

Voted. That Capt. Titus Salter & Capt. Eliphalet Daniel be appointed to go over to the Isles of Shoals and Inform all the Inhabitants there that it is the opinion of this Congress that the situation of said Islands are such that the Inhabitants are expos'd to our enemies in the Present unhappy controversie and may be obliged (by their weak Defenceless circumstances & Inability to Defend themselves) to assist our enemies, and that for said reasons it is absolutely Necessary that they should Imediately remove with their effects to the main Land to such place or places as they shall chuse & to tarry During the present Dispute – and provided they neglect to comply herewith for the Term of ten days after this Notice That they be Informed that they must be bro't off by authority.

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1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire,* VII, 709.

WILLIAM BARTLETT TO COLONEL STEPHEN MOYLAN [1]

Dear Sir

Beverly 5 Decer [*sic* January] 1776

A few minutes after I tu[c]k my Leave off you Capt John Derby of Salem came to me and made a demand of the Guns Belonging to the *Lee* Schr which Collr [John] Glover borrow'd of him I interceeded with him as much as Lay in my Power to have them only for one Cruse more but he Utterly Refused and insists upon having off them imediately upon Receiving the demand I togeather with Collr Glover Pursued you to Give the information but Could not Over take you what Can be done about this matter must be Left to you in Hast I am Sir [&c.]

William Bartlett

Sir I would remind you of the Cash wanting

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1. Washington Papers, LC.

COUNCIL OF MASSACHUSETTS TO KEEPER OF WORCESTER JAIL [1]

Colony of the
Massachusetts Bay } The Major part of the Council –

To the Keeper of the Goal in Worcester in the County of Worcester – Greeting –

You are hereby order'd & directed to take into your Custody, John Guilderoy, Wm Collins, John Smith, Benja Ward, George Morrison Alexr Gordon Soldiers; George Mitchell, James Richardson, Francis Ossy, Anthy Simmins, Jacob Wilson, Joseph Mason Seamen, all prisoners of War sent here by his Excelly Genl Washington to be confin'd – also John Thorner, Wm Clark, Willm Wallis & Thomas Gorthorp Seamen of the Ship *Jenny,* Capt Foster; likewise sent here by his Excelly Genl Washington to be confin'd, they having attempted to desert from sd Ship & go on board his Majestys Ship *Foye* – and them and each of them safely keep in Close Confinement 'till the further Order of this Council, his Excelly Genl Washington or they be otherwise dischargd by due Coarse of Law –

Given under Our hands at the Council Chamber in Watertown the fifth day of Jany AD 1776 –

By their Honor's Commd –

Eldad Taylor

W Spooner
Caleb Cushing
B Chadbourn
John Whitcomb
James Prescott
Cha Chauncy
Michael Farley

Saml. Holten
Jabez Fisher
B White
B Lincoln
John Taylor
John Adams
G Palmer

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1. Mass. Arch., vol. 164, 231.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES [1]

[Watertown] Friday, January 5, 1776.

A Petition of John Bunker, of Mount Desert, representing that in Nov. last he took and carried into Goldsborough, a Schooner between fifty and sixty Tons, bound from Nova-Scotia to Boston, and laden with Cattle, Butter, Cheese, &c. and praying that he may have Orders from the Court to remove her to some secure place for his benefit and that of his Country.

Read and committed to Mr. [James] Ingalls, Col. [Daniel] Thurston, and Mr. [Isaac] Low.

Afternoon.

The Committee appointed to report what Sum is necessary to be put into the Hands of the Committee who are impowered to fit out Vessels for Powder, reported.

Read and recommitted.

[1] Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HOWE [1]

Sir *Preston* Boston 5th Janry 1776

I have had the Honour to receive your Letters of the 2d and 3d instant, the last inclosing Extracts from a Dispatch from Lord Dartmouth, one of his Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State to your Excellency, fully acquainting me with the Scope of his Majesty's Intentions respecting the present War with the Rebels. The *Mercury* is the Ship with me best calculated for the Service proposed to the Southward; Captain [Alexander] Graeme shall have Orders to receive General Clinton on Board and convey him to the Place of his destination. Your Excellency may depend that my Orders and Instructions to the Commanders of his Majesty's Ships and Vessels shall exactly coincide with his Majesty's Designs; and that the Ships of the Squadron shall be directed to give every possible Assistance to the Land Force on every occasion.

With respect to General Clinton in particular, one of his Majesty's Ships shall attend him, whose Captain shall have such Directions as you have desired, and I am satisfied he will facilitate the Kings Service, agreeable to General Clintons wishes, with the utmost Alacrity and Readiness.

As I imagine the bringing a Cargo of Rice for the use of this Garrison is what your Excellency wishes to have effected with as little risque as possible, I have not ventured to alter my first Order to Captain Barkley on that head, being firmly persuaded that whichever of his Majesty's Ships may be with General Clinton her Captain will zealously cooperate with and assist him to the utmost of his Power. I hope to stand excused with your Excellency for so long delaying to answer your Letters, and that you will believe me to be with the greatest Respect Sir &c

Sam. Graves.

[1] Graves's Conduct, II, 26–27, BM.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES [1]

[Boston] 1776 Janry 5.

Lieutenant [Christopher] Mason, who now commanded the *Nautilus* by Order,[2] received directions of the accustomed kind to proceed to Sea and cruize in Boston Bay and about Cape Anne and Marblehead; to be careful not to be blown off; in bad Weather to anchor off Cat Island, in Cape Cod Harbour, Nantasket Road, or any other Place he should think best, and put to Sea again as soon as Weather would permit, to sink, burn and destroy the Rebels, assist and protect all Vessels coming to Boston, and see them safe within the Lighthouse: and to remain on this Service till further Order.

The *Renown* was ordered to continue in Nantasket Road for the protection of every thing below, and in particular of Georges Island whereon was a Well of the best Water in the whole Harbour and from which all the Ships in Nantasket were supplied. And the *Canceaux* armed Ship was ordered to be surveyed, her Captain having reported her unfit to keep the Sea.

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[1] Graves's Conduct, II, 27, BM.

[2] Extract from Master's log of the *Nautilus,* Wednesday, January 3, 1776: "P M came on board Lieut Ch: Masson of the *Chatham* and took Command of the ship." PRO, Admiralty 52/1884.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Scarborough,* CAPTAIN ANDREW BARKLEY [1]

Jany '76 Moored in Boston Harbour

Friday 5th at 10 AM fired a Gun and made the Signal to Unmoor, Unmoor'd & hove short on the Small Br at ½ past 11 fired a Gun & made the Signal to weigh, at noon weigh'd & made sail, with H. Majys Schooner *Hinchinbrook,* the *Symetry, Hatfield, Diana* & *Whitby* Transports, Running out of the Light House Channell: Ships draught of water abaft, 16 foot: 8 Inches.

First & Middle parts fresh Breezes & Squally, Latter fresh Gales & Squally with rain. at 3 P M Boston Light House Wt ½N disce 4 Leagues the Convoy in Co Handed Topgallt sails & Got the yards down, at 5 double reefd the TS, at ½ past Handed the Mizn & made the *Hinchinbrooks* Signal to keep in the Rear, the Convoy in Co [2]

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 51/867.

[2] The *Scarborough* and most of her convoy were en route to Georgia for rice.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR CONTINENTAL NAVY DESERTERS [1]

DESERTED from the Continental Navy, the following Persons, viz. Daniel Collier, a short thick Fellow, about 23 or 24 Years of Age, has a red Face, Pock-broken stutters very much, supposed to be gone to the Eastward. – An Indian Fellow named Ben Hazard, about 23 or 24 years of Age, about 5 Feet, 5 or 6 Inches high, supposed to be gone to Hoosack. – John Young, about 5 Feet 3 Inches high, about 35 Years of Age, been in Newport, had on a light coloured Jacket and

Breeches – Elijah Simmons, 48 Years of Age, 5 Feet 10 Inches high, pitted with the Small-Pox, stoops when he walks, wears his Hair, which is somewhat grey – Richard Springer, a middle sized Man, of a middle Age, supposed to be gone to the Westward. – Whoever will take up and secure either of the said Deserters, and bring them, or give Information to the Subscriber, shall receive Thirty Shillings Lawful Money Reward for either of them, and all necessary Charges, paid by

Providence, January 5, 1776 Nicholas Power.[2]

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[1] *Providence Gazette,* January 13 and 20, 1776.

[2] These five deserters were from the group recruited by Nicholas Power for the Continental navy. Nicholas Brown wrote to Stephen Hopkins about the contingent on January 2, 1776.

Minutes of the Connecticut Council of Safety [1]

At a meeting of the Governor and Council of Safety at
Lebanon, Friday 5th January, 1776.

Moved to conclude where the 4 row-gallies lately ordered by the Assembly under the direction of said committee shall be built, and on consideration resolved, that one of them be built at Norwich, and one at East Haddam, and tho't proper not now to determine as to the other two.

On a letter and request from Mr. Dean [Silas Deane] in behalf of the Naval Committee at Congress, requesting that Cap. [Robert] Niles of the *Spy* be sent to carry recruits from N. London to Philadelphia, for the navy it was consider'd, concluded and voted, that we cannot properly and safely permit him to be absent so long, and do not agree to the proposal.

Being informed by letter from Mr. [Nathaniel] Shaw, that Capt. [Elisha] Hinman has bro't in about two tons of powder for the Colony, procured by him, and landed the same at Bedford near or in Dartmouth: Voted, that said Shaw be desired to cause said powder to be bro't to Providence and committed to the care of Gov. Cook; and that the Governor be desired to write to Govr Cook, to take care of the same till further order. And letter wrote &c. And Mr. Shaw came in and received his directions &c.

On motion that the men on board Cap. Niles have served out the term for which they engaged, at the 1st of December, and have since been continued by order &c. and that they appear desirous to be released &c.: Voted and ordered, that said Cap. Niles be directed to raise and inlist 20 men such as he can confide in, to serve on board the schooner *Spy* for the term of one year, unless sooner discharged, on the following wages, *viz.* for able seamen forty-eight shillings, and for seamen forty shillings per kalendar month. *And copy sent him.*

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[1] Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut Records,* XV, 222–23.

JAMES RICE'S BILL FOR SUNDRIES SUPPLIED THE CONNECTICUT BRIG *Defence* [1]

[New Haven, January 5, 1776] [2]

Colony of Connecticut	To James Rice	Dr
Jany 5th To 16 Four pound Carriages	a 35/	28..–..–
To 0.2.q 3 lb Iron		19..8
To Caleb Fords Bill For mending a Gun		1..4..–
To Hamblin Dwight for Carting Guns		18..–
To Stephen Herrick For painting Carriages		15..–
To Hezekiah Sabins Bill For Paints & Oil		19..7½
To 16 Cartridge boxes for Cannon	a 3/	2..8..–
To 24 Ram[me]rs & Spung Staff	a 1/	1..4..–
To 20 ditto ditto Heads	a 9d	18..–
To 16 match staffs	9d	12..–
To 16 Tompkins	6d	8..–
To 8 days work boring & knocking Rust of[f] the Cannon	3/	1..4..–
To Charles Prindles Bill for Iron Work		15..0.10
		£ 54..11..1½

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[1] Conn. Arch., 1st Series, IX (*Defence*), 54, ConnSL.

[2] *Ibid.*, date given in Summary of the *Defence* Accounts.

GOVERNOR WILLIAM FRANKLIN TO LORD DARTMOUTH [1]

[Extract] Perth Amboy, Janry 5. 1776

Enclosed is a Copy of a Paper said to be wrote in New England, and sent to all the Sea Coasts in North America, to persuade the People to suffer their Towns to be destroyed rather than supply the King's Ships with Provisions. . . .

The Provincial Congress here have given Leave to some Persons to export Country Produce, on Condition of importing the Value in Powder, and other military Stores. A Copy of one of their Resolves for that Purpose is enclosed. – I have no Doubt but a great Quantity will be smuggled into some of the Harbours on the New Jersey Shore from Sandy-Hook to Cape May, particularly into Barnegat, Little and Great Egg-Harbour, unless prevented by the King's Ships.

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[1] W. A. Whitehead, *et al.*, eds., *Documents Relating to the Colonial History of the State of New Jersey* (Newark, 1880–86), X, 676–81.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS [1]

[Philadelphia] Friday, January 5, 1776

The Committee of claims reported, that there is due to Adam Fischer, for expences attending his conducting [John] Connolly and [Allen] Cameron from Frederick, in Maryland to Philadelphia, and his charges back again for himself and men, the sum of 156 dollars.

Ordered, That the same be paid.

The Congress having conferred with the gentlemen sent to Congress by the Convention of New York,[2] resumed the consideration of the report of the committee on the state of that Colony, and the same was agreed to; and is as follows:

Resolved, That for the reasons contained in the papers hereunto annexed, this Committee are of opinion, that no farther fortifications be erected at Martler's

Rock, on Hudson's river, and that a point of land at Puplopen's kill, on the said river, ought without delay to be effectually fortified.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the Convention, or in their recess, to the committee of safety, of New York, to carry into execution the above resolution,

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1. Ford, ed., *JCC,* IV, 32–35.
2. Colonel Abraham Brasher, Thomas Palmer, and Captain John Grenell were sent by the New York Provincial Congress on December 20, 1775 to confer with the Continental Congress regarding Hudson fortifications.

Diary of Richard Smith [1]

[Philadelphia] Friday 5 [January]. Mr [Thomas] Palmer & Capt [John Grenell] from New York called in & examined as to the Fortifications to be built on Hudsons River, this affair took up several Hours & was at last, after passing a Resoln to abandon the Works at Martilers Rock with [Bernard] Romans the Projector of them & to fortify at Poplopens Hill, referred back to the N. York Convention or Commee of Safety to execute this Resolve as they may think fit . . . A long Memorial from the Town of Newport was presented prayg Leave to continue to supply the British Men of War with Provisions otherwise they fear immediate Destruction, this was postponed . . . An application from the Wife of Lieut. Tylee [2] of Connectt now a Prisoner on Board the Man of War near N York requesting Means may be used for exchanging Him – Deferred – Our Secret Comee have sent to Europe for some able Engineers much wanted now in America –

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1. Richard Smith's Diary, LC.
2. Ensign Edward Tilley. See Journal of the Continental Congress, January 11, 1776, and footnote.

Naval Committee to Commodore Esek Hopkins [1]

In the Naval Committee
[Philadelphia] Jany 5th 1776.

Orders and Directions for the Commander in Chief of the Fleet of the United Colonies

You are to take care that proper discipline good order and peace be preserved amongst all the Ships, and their companies, under your command

You are to direct the Several Captains to make out and deliver monthly or oftner, an exact return of the officers seamen and marines on board of each respective vessel noteing their particular condition and circumstance – also the quantity and quality of Provisions and stores of every kind together with the State of the respective ships – which returns or copies of them you are to transmit to Congress, or a Committee by them appointed, to receive such returns, as often as opportunity offers

You are by every means in your power to keep up an exact correspondence with the Congress or Committee of Congress aforesaid, and with the Commander in chief of the Continental forces in America –

As by your instructions you are impowered to equip Such Vessels as may fall into your power, and to appoint officers for Such Vessels – As often as this shall happen you are by the very first opportunity to transmit to Congress or the Committee aforesaid, the burthen, force and manner of equipment of such Vessels, together with an exact list of such officers as you may appoint, in order that their appointment may be confirmed by Congress or others be appointed in their Stead –

You will be particularly careful to give Such orders and instructions in writing, to the Officers under your command as the good of the Service may in every Case require – to devise or adopt and give out to the Commanding Officer of every ship, such signals and other marks and distinctions as may be necessary for their direction –

You are to take very particular care that all the men under your command be properly fed and taken care of when they are in health, as well as when they are sick or wounded You will also very carefully attend to all the just complaints which may be made by any of the People under your command and see that they are speedily and effectually redressed – for on a careful attention to these important subjects the good of the service essentially depends –

You are always to be exceedingly careful that your Arms, as well great as small, be kept in the very best condition for service and that all your cartridges, Powder shott and every accoutrement whatsoever belonging to them be kept in the most exact order: always fit for immediate service

You will carefully attend to such Prisoners as may fall into your hands – see that they be well and humanely treated – You may also send your Prisoners on shore in such convenient places where they may be delivered to the Conventions, Committee's of safety or inspection in order to their being taken care of and properly provided for

You will also give proper orders and directions to the Captains or Commanders of the ships or Vessels under your command in case they should be seperated by stress of weather or any other accident in what manner [2] and at what places they shall again join the Fleet.

Step Hopkins　　Silas Deane
Christ Gadsden　　Joseph Hewes

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1. Hopkins Papers, RIHS. These were general orders for management of the fleet. Specific cruising orders follow in the next entry.
2. The manuscript is torn beyond this point. However, it is published in full in Edward Field, *Esek Hopkins* (Providence, 1898), 84–87.

Naval Committee to Commodore Esek Hopkins [1]

America　　[Philadelphia, January 5, 1776]

To Esek Hopkins Esquire
Commander in Chief of the Fleet of the United Colonies

Sir

The United Colonies directed by principles of just and necessary preservation against the oppressive and cruel System of the British Administration whose violent and hostile proceedings by Sea and land against these unoffending Colonies, have rendered it an indespensible duty to God, their Country and Posterity to prevent by all means in their Power the ravage, desolation and ruin that is intended to be fixed on North America – As a part and a most important part of defence, the Continental Congress have judged it necessary to fit out several

Armed Vessels which they have put under your Command having the strongest reliance on your Virtuous Attachment to the great cause of America and that by your Valour, Skill and diligence, seconded by the Officers and Men under your Command our unnatural Enemies may meet with all possible distress on the Sea – For that purpose you are instructed with the utmost diligence to proceed with the said Fleet to Sea and if the Winds and Weather will possibly admit of it to proceed directly for Chessepeak Bay in Virginia and when nearly arrived there you will send forward a small swift sailing Vessel to gain intelligence of the Enemies Situation and Strength – If by such intelligence you find they are not greatly superiour to your own you are immediately to Enter the said bay, search out and attack, take or destroy all the Naval force of our Enemies that you may find there – If you should be so fortunate as to execute this business successfully in Virginia you are then to proceed immediately to the Southward and make yourself Master of such forces as the Enemy may have both in North and South Carolina in such manner as you may think prudent from the intelligence you shall receive; either by dividing your Fleet or keeping it together –

Having compleated your Business in the Carolina's you are without delay to proceed Northward directly to Rhode Island, and attack, take and destroy all the Enemies Naval force that you may find there. You are also to seize and make prize of all such Transport Ships and other Vessels as may be found carrying Supplies of any kind to or any way aiding or assisting our Enemies –

You will dispose of all the Men you make prisoners in such manner as you may judge most safe for North America and will least Retard the Service you are upon – If you should take any Ships or other Vessels that are fit to be Armed and Manned for the Service of the United Colonies you will make use of every method for procuring them to be thus equipped – You will also appoint proper Officers for carrying this Matter into execution and to Command said Ships as soon as they can be made ready for the Sea – For this purpose you will apply to the several Assemblies, Conventions and Committees of Safety and desire them in the name of the Congress to aid and assist you by every way and means in their power for the execution of this whole Service –

Notwithstanding these particular Orders, which 'tis hoped you will be able to execute, if bad Winds, or Stormy Weather, or any other unforseen accident or disaster disable you so to do You are then to follow such Courses as your best Judgment shall Suggest to you as most useful to the American Cause and to distress the Enemy by all means in your power –

You are to consider these as your instructions until you shall receive further or other Orders from the Continental Congress or Committee of Congress appointed for such purpose

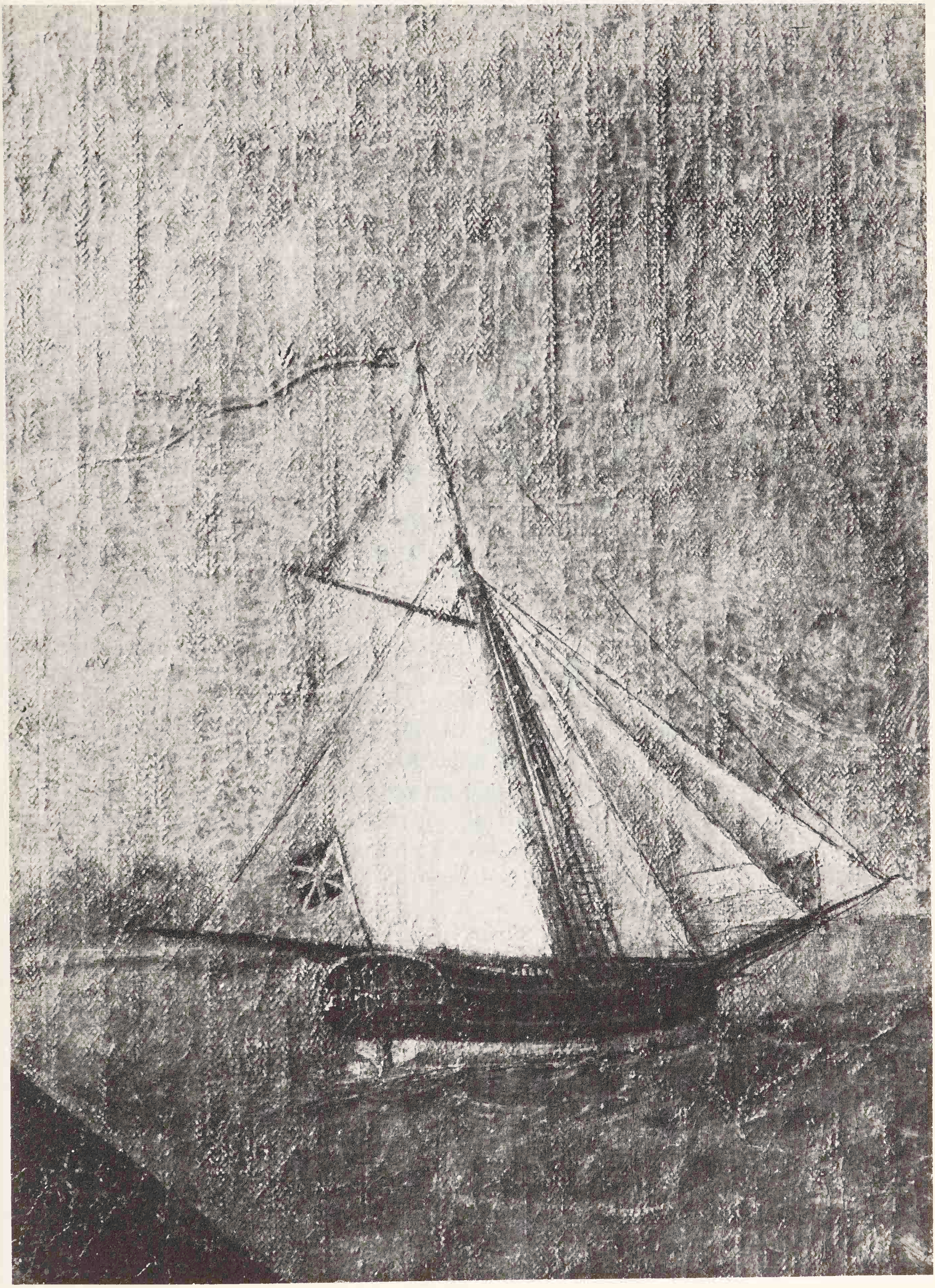
You are also authorized to draw on the Continental Treasurers wherever you may be for such Sums as are absolutely necessary for the use of the Fleet under your Command, and such drafts shall be duly honored –

Given under our hands at Philadelphia, Jany 5th, 1776. –

A true Copy p Saml Lyon Secy
to the Commr in Chief

Step Hopkins Silas Deane
Chris Gadsden Joseph Hewes

1. Papers CC (Letters of John Hancock and Miscellaneous), 58, 239–40, NA.



Continental Sloop Hornet.

NAVAL COMMITTEE TO CAPTAIN WILLIAM STONE [1]

Sir, Philadelphia [January 5, 1776] [2]

You being Commander of the Sloop *Hornet* in the service of the United Colonies, are instructed as soon as the said Sloop shall be armed and manned, to proceed down the Bay of Chesapeak so far as to be certain of not being interrupted by the ice, and choose some safe and convenient Station for annoying the Enemy in every way you can. You are also to order the Schooner *Wasp* to follow or accompany you, and to keep with you in the service. You are to hold yourself in continual readiness to join the Fleet of the United Colonies soon to sail for Chesapeak Bay. And as soon as you shall have joined them you are to follow such directions and instructions as you may receive from the Commander in chief of the said Fleet

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1. Hopkins Papers, II, 18, RIHS.
2. The date is approximated. Definite orders to Stone to join the Continental fleet were issued on January 10, 1776, but as will be seen from the Naval Committee's letter of about January 5 to the Virginia Convention, there seemed to be some doubt as to just when Stone's juncture with the fleet was to take place.

NAVAL COMMITTEE TO THE VIRGINIA CONVENTION [1]

Gentlemen Philadelphia [January 5, 1776]

The Congress attentive to the safety and security of every part of the united Colonies, and observing the peculiar distresses that the Colony of Virginia is liable to from a Marine enemy, have with all possible expedition fitted out a small fleet of Armed Vessels, which they have ordered in the first place to the Bay of Chesapeak, if the winds and weather permit, there to seize and destroy as many of the Enemies ships and Vessels as they can. As the best information of the Enemies strength and situation is of the utmost importance to the execution of this service, the Naval Committee request of your Gentlemen to station at Cape Henry a Person of unquestioned honor, understanding, and secrecy, for the purpose of boarding the Fleet when it appears off the Capes of Virginia, and furnish the Commander in Chief with the most accurate information of the then Strength and situation of Lord Dunmores fleet and Land forces. This Fleet will consist of Two Ships, two Brigantines, and one Sloop, with perhaps some smaller Vessel or Vessels – And for still greater certainty, as soon as the Fleet comes within proper distance and until they pass Cape Henry the largest Ship will carry at her Mizen Peak a Jack with the Union flag, and striped red and white in the field – The Person upon the Cape on his part is to fire a Musket, and hoist a white Flag on the most conspicious part of the Cape–A Boat will then be sent on shore to get the intelligence–It is judged of the utmost consequence to the Success of this enterprise that you contrive to place 200 expert Rifle Men on such part of the Shore as that they may be taken on board the fleet before they come in sight of the Enemy, and of this, the Gentleman first at Cape Henry must be able to inform the Commander. You will discern Gentlemen, that the greatest dispatch will be necessary as the Fleet will sail from this Port in [blank]

In contriving the Rifle Men as before mentioned, your judgement will point out the propriety of doing it in such a manner as not to awaken the apprehensions of the Enemy, the success of the Stroke being more sure as it [may] be most sudden and unexpected.

[1] Hopkins Papers, RIHS. The date is approximated, based upon the contents of the letter. From the fact that it is a rough draft and was in Hopkins' possession, it was probably given to him at the time he was supplied with the two sets of orders of January 5, 1776.

CAPTAIN BENJAMIN THOMPSON, PENNSYLVANIA NAVY, TO COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS [1]

sir Philadelphia 5th Jany 1776

I am Informed that Barney Mullen [2] a young man belonging to the *Experiment* Arm'd Boat under my Command is Now Confined on board the Ship under your Command Should be much Obliged to you to order him out of Confinement and let him Returne to his duty onboard the Sd arm'd Boat I am sir [&c.]

Benj^{a} Thompson

To John [*sic* Esek] Hopkins Esqr
Commander of the Ship *Alford*

[1] Hopkins Papers, RIHS.

[2] Barnabas Mullen, seaman, had enrolled on board the *Alfred* on January 2, 1776. As he deserted the ship at Reedy Island, it is apparent that Thompson's request was not granted.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

In Committee of Safety
[Philadelphia], 5th Jan'y, 1776.

Robert Towers, Commissary, Reports his having deliver'd the following Articles on account of the Continental Congress, vizt.:

2400	lbs. Grape shot, d'd Capt. [Nathaniel] Falconer.[2]	
758	lbs. Musket Ball.	
242	6 pound Canon Ball.	
200	4 pound do.	
26	Cross Barr, Sliding & Starr Shot.	
13	Swivel Shot.	
1000	ditto small.	
38	Barrels,	Gunpowder weight 6500 lbs.
18	half Barrels,	
72	q'r barrels,	
36	pounds Salt petre, d'd Doct'r [Joseph] Harrison.[3]	
37	Provincial Muskets & 136 Bayonets, d'd Capt. [Isaac] Craig.[4]	
46	Chester County Muskets, with Bayonets.	
50	Provincial Muskets, Bayonets, & Scabbards, d'd Capt. Lt. [Samuel] Nicholas.[5]	
10	New Muskets & Bayonets, rec'd from Colo. Jno. Cadwalader, & deliver'd to Capt. Sam'l Nicholas.	

7	Province Muskets, d'd Capt. Nicholas.
200	lbs. Musket Ball, d'd Capt. Nicholas.

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1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records,* X, 446, 447.
2. Employed by the Naval Committee to deliver supplies to the fleet.
3. Senior Surgeon on board the *Alfred.*
4. Captain of Marines on board the *Andrew Doria.*
5. Senior Captain of Marines on board the *Alfred.*

SAMUEL PURVIANCE, JR. TO JOHN HANCOCK [1]

Sir

Baltimore Janury 5th 1776

Inclosed I send you the Deposition of a certain Capt John Horn of Providence in Rhode Island who arrived here this day. By said Deposition it appears, That there is the greatest Reason to believe the Ships of War have fired upon & destroyed the Town of Norfolk in Virginia. I thought it a matter of so much Importance that the Congress should have the earliest Advice of this important Transaction, that I have dispatched the Bearer Express therewith. – Mr [William] Wall of Providence a Gentleman of Character Owner of Captn Horn, who is now here, assures me I may depend on the truth of his Deposition. I am with the greatest Respect Sir [&c.]

Sam^{l} Purviance Junr

P.S. This moment a Young man is arrived from Annapolis, who informs me there was a Boat arrivd there from Hampton who brings the same Advice of the Ships being left firing against the Town of Norfolk. —

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1. Papers CC (Letters addressed to Congress), 78, XVIII, 21, NA. Purviance was chairman of the Baltimore Committee.

DEPOSITION OF JOHN HORN, MASTER OF THE SLOOP *Snow Bird* [1]

Baltimore Town Sst

This day came before Me the Subscriber One of the Lord Proprietor's Justices of the Peace for the County of Baltimore, John Horn, Master of the Sloop *Snow Bird* lately arrived from Sea, who did depose as follows. – That he the said John Horn being at Hampton in Virginia on Monday the 1st Instant, did hear a continued Firing of Great Guns the whole day; supposed to be at the Town of Norfolk That a Boat (as he was inform'd) was sent the same day from Hampton to know the Cause of said firing, which he was inform'd by Captn [James] Barron Commander of a Cruizer belonging to Hampton, brought Advice, that the Vessels of War were firing upon the Town of Norfolk. That about 4 OClock in the Afternoon of the same day, a great Flame & Smoak was perceived at Hampton, supposed to proceed from the Town of Norfolk being on fire: – That this Deponent sailed from Hampton on Monday the same Evening; during which, & the whole Night following he heard a continued firing of great Guns, & observed a great Flame towards Norfolk: – That on Tuesday, all [day] till about the middle of the

Afternoon he heard a continual firing of great Guns, and observed a great Smoak ascending from the same Quarter, And further this Deponent sayeth not.

John Horn

Sworne before Me at Baltimore Janury 5th 1776 —
Her^s Courtenay

1. Papers CC (Letters addressed to Congress), 78, XVIII, 25, NA.

Matthew Tilghman to John Hancock [1]

Sir, Annapolis 5 Jany 1776.

Several Vessels being nearly ready to sail for the foreign West Indies agreeable to the Resolutions of Congress, on the Account of this Province, our Convention sent two Gentlemen Express to Williamsburg and Hampton, to gain Intelligence of the Situation of Affairs in Virginia; they have just returned, and the inclosed Copies will inform of the Strength of Lord Dunmore and his present Situation and Circumstances. Our Convention think it imprudent to hazard the probable Seizure of their Vessels and Cargoes by the numerous Tenders & cutters employed to make Captures; but the Loss of Property to this Province from such an Incident appears to them trivial when compared to the Consequences in the Relief of a distressed Enemy. Therefore the Sailing of the Vessels is suspended, and the Convention request the Orders of Congress, if not incompatible with any destined Service, that the *Hornet* and *Wasp* said now to be ready, may convoy the Vessels through the Capes; it is apprehended they will be an Overmatch for Stewart's Sloop or any of the Tenders. Our Convention likewise submit to the Consideration of Congress whether it may not be less dangerous and more for the general Service that the *Hornet* and *Wasp* should push to Delaware then return again up this Bay. The Convention are very desirous of a speedy Answer. I am, Sir [&c.]

Mat. Tilghman

1. Papers CC (Letters addressed to Congress), 78, XXII, 5, NA.

Journal of the Virginia Convention [1]

[Williamsburg] Friday, January 5, 1776.

Mr. [Archibald] Cary, from the committee to whom it was referred to inquire whether the salt, and other goods, lately taken on board several vessels at Hampton,[2] were imported agreeably to the terms of the continental association, and whether the same were the property of friends to America, or of those who have been in arms, or have taken an active part against this colony, reported that the committee had, according to order, had the same under consideration; and that it appeared to them, that capt. Wilson of the sloop *Agatha* sailed from this colony, sometime in the month of August last, for the Grenades, where he took on board 30 hhds. of rum the property of Isaac Wilson of the town of Portsmouth, two the property of the captain himself, and two the property of Cornelius Calvert, jun. who was super cargo of the said vessel, which appears to be the property of John Shedden of Norfolk, Robert Shedden of Portsmouth, and John Syme of Smithfield; that it farther appears, that the said Robert Shedden had given orders to his agents in Glasgow to ship large quantities of goods from thence, in direct violation of the association which he had agreed to and subscribed, and had thereby discovered an earnest intention of injuring, as much as possible, the cause of America, and that it appeared, that the sum of 53*l.* 11*s.* 4*d.* is now due to the mariners of the said vessel. That the sloop *Swallow,* of which George Burwell is master, cleared out in ballast from Hampton, about the 1st of September last, to the island of Tortuga, where she arrived, and took in great part of her load of salt, and then sailed for Turk's island, and took in 300 bushels more, and arrived in this colony with the same; that 2155 bushels thereof appeared to be the property of Hector M'Allister of Norfolk, and the residue to belong to the captain and his mates; that the said vessel, except about 60*l.* in her value, belonged to the said George Burwell. That the sloop *Molly,* whereof Samuel Servent is master, cleared out at Hampton with a cargo of grain, and other commodities, on the 10th of September last, and sailed about the 20th of the same month for Antigua, and that the whole of her cargo was on board when she cleared out; that she arrived at Nevis, and then sailed for Turk's island, and took on board 1232 bushels of salt; that the said sloop, together with the cargo, except 50 bushels of salt taken on board for the captain's use, belonged to William Turner, Archibald Brown, and James Woddrop, of Norfolk, and that it appeared, from the testimony of Dr.Archibald Campbell, that the said James Woddrop had been very active under Lord Dunmore since the commencement of the present disputes, and had received a commission as an officer of the militia from him, and was one of the party at the Great Bridge, and principally engaged in carrying of[f] the cannon during the action.

That the brig *Corlet,* whereof John Harris is master, sailed from Hampton, some time in the month of June last, for Scotland, and from thence, in September, for this colony, in ballast; that she has on board three pieces of Irish linen, two pieces of diaper, and six macaroni waistcoats, which were for his own use; one piece of osnaburgs, two pieces of Irish linen, three parcels of pins, a parcel of needles, and one piece of green plains, sent by one Maclean of Scotland to his wife at Norfolk; and two pieces of Irish linen, one dozen and ten pair men's thread stockings, the property of Andrew Sprowle of Norfolk; and that they had come to several resolutions thereupon, which he read in his place, and afterwards delivered in at the clerk's table, where the same were again twice read, as follows:

Resolved, That the rum in the sloop *Agatha* was not imported contrary to the continental association, but that 11 hhds. thereof, together with the said sloop, being the property of Messrs. Robert and John Shedden and John Syme, from the inimical conduct of the said Robert, are become justly forfeited to this colony, and ought to be considered as lawful prize; but as the conduct of the said John Shedden and John Syme, two of the owners thereof, cannot be enquired into, they refer the farther examination to the committee of Safety.

Resolved, That the remainder of the said cargo be delivered to the several proprietors thereof.

Resolved, That the said vessel, and 11 hhds of rum, be sold at public auction; and that the sum of 53*l.* 11*s.* 4*d.* due to the mariners of the said vessel, for their wages, be paid to them, and the residue be disposed of as the Convention shall direct.

Resolved, That the salt in the sloop *Swallow* doth not appear to have been imported contrary to the terms of the continental association; but that the conduct of Hector M'Allister, owner of the said vessel and cargo, ought to be inquired into by the Committee of Safety.

Resolved, That the goods imported in the brig *Corlet* be forfeited to this Colony, and sold at public auction.

Ordered, That the said report do lie upon the table.

Ordered, That the cargo of the sloop *Agatha* aforesaid, except 11 hhds. of rum, belonging to Robert and John Shedden, and John Syme, be delivered to the several proprietors thereof.

Mr. [Richard] Parker laid before the Convention the proceedings of the committee of the county of Isle of Wight relative to the conduct of John Goodrich, which were read, and ordered to be referred to the committee appointed to inquire into the conduct of the said John Goodrich concerning the importation of gunpowder, and other articles for the use of this colony.

1. *Virginia Convention,* 85–87.
2. See Purdie's *Virginia Gazette,* December 22, 1775.

PURDIE'S *Virginia Gazette,* SUPPLEMENT, FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 1776

Williamsburg, January 5.

Yesterday afternoon an express arrived from York, with intelligence that two topmast vessels, and one of a smaller size, had hove in sight, which were suspected to be two men of war and a tender, coming up to cannonade that town; upon which capt. [George] Gibson, with his West Augusta boys, were immediately ordered to reinforce the troops stationed there, and prevent any of Dunmore's hell-hounds from landing to set fire to the houses. Many gentlemen volunteers likewise went from this city, to assist their brethern at York; and our worthy delegates, then sitting in Convention, formed themselves under that old intrepid warriour, col. Andrew Lewis, for the protection of the city. Capt.Gibson had marched but a little distance from town, when he was met by col. [Patrick] Henry, from York, with the agreeable intelligence that the two large vessels were, one a provision vessel from Corke, deep laden with beef, butter, potatoes, &c., the other from the Grenades, loaded with rum, sugar, and several other necessaries,[1] and the small vessel the brave capt. Barron carrying them up the river, out of the reach of the men of war.

[1] Brig *Fanny,* John Cunningham, master, from Cork for Boston with provisions for the British army, and the brig *Industry,* James Sampson, master, from Grenada for Philadelphia, with a cargo of rum and sugar.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM COL. ELLIOT [THOMAS ELLIOTT], TO COL. PATRICK HENRY, DATED HAMPTON, JANUARY 5, 1776." [1]

Enclosed you have the copy of a letter from Col. [William] Woodford to me, dated 3 o'clock yesterday, since which a snow and two small vessels have gone up to Norfolk. She appeared to have a great many men on board, but was not a vessel of war. There are three others (one a brig) in the bay, this morning coming up, which Capt.[James] Barron has just gone to look after. Some little time after my express left Norfolk, with the enclosed,[2] a very heavy firing began, and continued chief part of the night; and a considerable fire was discovered there about dark, which continued burning many hours.

[1] *Pennsylvania Gazette,* January 17, 1776.

[2] Woodford's letter of January 4, 1776.

DIXON AND HUNTER'S *Virginia Gazette,* SATURDAY, JANUARY 27, 1776

Newbern, (N. Carolina) Jan. 5.

Last night arrived here a vessel from Norfolk with 60 men, women, and children, part of the Scotch settlers which Lord Dunmore's tenders took off the capes of Virginia, bound to Cape Fear, and which were to have been forced into his black and white regiments; but the defeat at the Great Bridge has happily released these unhappy people, who are going to Cross Creek to settle among their friends there.[1]

[1] See Pinkney's *Virginia Gazette,* December 30, 1775.

MINUTES OF THE WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

[Wilmington] At a Meeting on Friday, Jany 5. 1776

The Trade of this Port depending so much upon good Pilots, and the Ships of war in the Harbour having already one or more of the Branch Pilots in their Custody, and the Captn of the *Scorpion* exacted from Thomas Bridges (another of the sd Pilots,) his Parole of Honor to return on board the Said Ship, with an intention as it is conjectured, not only to deprive the good People of this Colony of all Benefit of Trade, but to pilot our Enemies up the River when it shall be thought expedient to distroy the property of the Inhabitants; It is the Opinion of this Committee, that all the pilots of this River, be immediately secured, and that Col. [James] Moore be requested to take them into his Custody, And it is Resolved, that as soon as the said Pilots shall be safely secured, that Notice be given to the Captn of the *Scorpion,* that the said Thomas Bridges is detained by Order of this Committee.

[1] Secretary of State Papers (Committees of Safety 1774–1776), NCDAH.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

In the Council of Safety.
[Charleston] Friday, Jan. 5th, 1776.

Read the following letters:

From the Committee at George-Town, 3rd Jan., 1776.

From the Committee at St. James, Santee, 30th Dec., 1775.

From the Committee at Beaufort, 1st Jan., 1776.
From the same Committee, 2nd Jan., 1776.
Col. [Stephen] Bull, at Beaufort, 3rd Jan., 1776.
Mr. John Coram, 4th Jan., 1776.

The Council issued orders on the treasury for the payment of the following sums:

To Capt. Robert Cochran, for his voyage to the northern colonies,	£ 350 0 0
Capt. Geo. Gab. Powell, his account of sundries for the brigantine *Comet*, the account for which vessel is to be kept distinct,	364 2 6

A permit was applied for, and granted for the Spanish snow *San Miguel*, to pass Fort Johnson, in order to proceed upon her voyage.

The following bill was drawn, and delivered to Capt. Cochran:

Gentlemen – Pay this bill to Capt. Robt. Cochran, or his order, as he may have occasion to draw upon us, for the service, and on account of this colony, as advised in our letter of the 31st December, 1775, any sum or sums of money, not exceeding in the whole ten thousand dollars of continental currency.

In the Council of Safety, 5th Jan., 1776.

By order. Henry Laurens, President

To Geo. Clymer and Michl. Hillegas, esq., Continental Treasurers at Philadelphia.

The following letters were also written to the delegates from the colony at Philadelphia, and to Capt. Joseph Vesey:

Charles-Town, Jan. 5th, 1776.

Gentlemen – The Council of Safety have thought it expedient to send Capt. Cochran, to procure seamen in the New-England Colonies for the service and defence of this. He will shew you his instructions; and we request that you will give him every assistance in your power, the better to enable him to complete his business. We refer you to him, for information, in any matters respecting this colony, which you may want to know, and shall be glad to hear from you, by return of the pilot boat in which he goes, and to receive any intelligence worth communicating. Be pleased to direct your letters to the President of this board.

By order of the Council of Safety.
Henry Laurens, President.

The Delegates from South-Carolina.

In the Council of Safety.
Jan. 5th, 1776.

Sir – You are to proceed in the pilot boat *Hawke*, in which Capt. Robert Cochran is to go as a passenger, to the Capes of Delaware, and land Capt. Cochran there, or at any port in the Jerseys, which you most readily and safely make, and as Capt. Cochran shall direct. You will also wait until you are discharged by Capt. Cochran, or by the delegates from this colony at Philadelphia, and then return with the utmost dispatch into one of the inlets to the southward of Charles-Town bar, and give us the earliest intelligene of your arrival.

By order of the Council of Safety.

Henry Laurens, President.

Capt. Jos. Vesey.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society,* III, 149–51.

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6 Jan.

WILLIAM BARTLETT TO GEORGE WASHINGTON [1]

Sir

Beverly 6 Jany 1776

After Receiving yours p Yesterday togeather with the Resolve of Congress inclosed I find by Examining there appears to me to be a Contradiction in this parragraft which I now inclose a Coppy which please to inform me

[Enclosure]

Resolved that all Transport Vessels having on board any Troops Arms Ammunition Cloathing provisions or Military or Naval Stores of what kind soever, and all Vessels to whomsoever belonging that shall be employed in Carrying provisions or Other Necesaries, to the British Army or Armies or Navy – that Now are or Shall hereafter be within any of the United Colonies shall be Liable to [2] forfeiture and Confiscation, unless the said Vessells so Employ'd belong to an inhabitant or inhabitants of these United Colonies – in which case the said Vessel or Vessels togeather with her or their Cargoes, shall be Liable to Confiscation I am Sir [&c.]

William Bartlett

[1] Washington Papers, LC.

[2] The copyist at headquarters, who supplied the resolution to Bartlett, had omitted at this point the following: "seizure, but that the said cargoes only be liable to." See Volume 2, 1132.

BILL FOR CORDAGE DELIVERED CAPTAIN JOHN MANLEY [1]

Salem January 6th 1776

dd Capt John Manly 1 c- 1 qr – 9 lb Cordg @ 66/[9]d also 6 Skains of Marline @ 10d on acct of the younited Colones of Amaraica

Joseph Vincent

[1] Bartlett Papers, No. 7877, BHS.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE [1]

[Extract]

Cambridge January 6. 1776

I am told that Capt [James] Wallace's ships have been supplied for some time with provisions by the Town of New port, on certain conditions stipulated between him & the Committee – When this Truce first Obtained, perhaps It was right, then there might have been hopes of an accomodation taking place; But now when every prospect of it seems to be cut of[f] by his Majesty's late Speech;

When the Throne from which we had Supplicated redress breathes forth vengeance & indignation & a firm determination to remain unalterable in its purposes, & to prosecute the System & plan of ruin formed by the Ministry against us, should not an end be put to it, and every possible method be fallen upon, to prevent their getting necessaries of any kind? We need not expect to conquer our Enemies by good Offices, & I know not what pernicious consequences may result from a precedent of this sort; other places circumstanced as New port is, may follow the example, and by that means, their whole Fleet & Army will be furnished, with what, It highly concerns us to keep from them.

1. Washington Papers, LC.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES [1]

[Watertown] Saturday, January 6, 1776

The Committee appointed to consider what Sum of Money should be put into the Hands of the Committee for fixing out Vessels on Account of this Colony, for importing Powder and other Warlike Stores, reported.

Read and accepted.

Resolved, That the Receiver General of this Colony be, and hereby is directed to pay said Committee the Sum of *Eight Thousand Pounds,* they to be accountable to the General Court for the same.

1. Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN ALEXANDER GRAEME, R.N.[1]

Whereas his Excellency Major General [William] Howe has applied to me to appoint a Ship of his Majs Squadron to receive on Board Major General [Henry] Clinton and other Officers of the Army to proceed on a particular Service; and having his Majesty's Ship under your Command for that purpose.

You are hereby required and directed to receive Major General Clinton, his Retinue and Servants and such Officers as the General may desire, and you are to cause Cots to be made for them and Births built with Old Canvas and Deals, and to accommodate them in the best manner you can without prejudice to the Kings Service.

Given under my hand on board his Maj's Ship *Preston* at Boston 6 Janry 1776

Sam^{l} Graves

To Capt. Graeme of his Maj's Ship *Mercury*

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 115, BM.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES [1]

[Boston, January] 6 [1776]

Captain Graeme of the *Mercury* had Orders to fit for Sea, to receive Major General Clinton his retinue and Servants and such Officers as he should desire, and to cause Cots to be made for them, and Births built with old Canvas and Deals, and to accomodate them in the best manner he could without prejudice to the King's Service, and Captain Graeme by a subsequent Order of the 10th was directed to receive on board such Ordnance Stores as Lieutt Coll [Samuel] Cleaveland of Artillery should desire to be sent from the *Kitty* Transport.

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1. Graves's Conduct, II, 27, BM.

Providence Gazette, Saturday, January 6, 1776

Providence, January 6.

Monday Night [January 1] last a Party from Head-Quarters, on Rhode-Island, set Fire to the House and Barracks on Goat-Island; a Number of Men from the King's Ships landed, and saved one of the Buildings; the others, with a Quantity of Furniture &c. were destroyed.

Tuesday last a Sloop with Passengers, principally Women, in coming up the River from Newport, was stopped by a Barge from one of the King's Ships, although a Pass had been previously obtained from Capt. Wallace. The Vessel was detained two days, robbed of what Provision was on board, and two Passengers were ordered on board one of the Ships, where they remain.

Agreement to Build Bateaux and Other Vessels on the Lakes [1]

> Memorandum of an Agreement made the sixth Day of January, one Thousand seven Hundred and seventy six, By and Between the Honorable Philip Schuyler Esqr Major General in and Commanding the Forces of the United Colonies in the Northern Department of the First part and Jacob Hilton of the City of Albany and the several persons whose names are hereunto Subscribed and seals affixed of the second part.

The said parties of the second part each for himself doth hereby promise and agree that they respectively will immediately repair to Fort George, Ticonderoga and such other places in the province of New York or Quebec as General Schuyler shall direct and there Imploy themselves in Building and Constructing such and so many Batteaus other Vessels or Buildings, as by the said General Schuyler or such person or persons as shall be by him appointed to superintend the said business shall be directed or required – That they will during the time they shall be so employed Continue each day at their said Work and Employment between the Times following to witt, To begin their Work at sunrise and Continue at it till sunset excepting one Hour at Breakfast and one and an half Hour at Dinner – That each of them shall and will find and provide Tools and Implements for the Carrying on the said work – and that if any of the said parties of the second part shall Leave the said work and go from the post Where he shall be employed without the Leave of the Commanding officer of such post first obtained the party so going shall forfeit All the wages which shall then be due to him –

In Consideration whereof General Schuyler promises & agrees that the said parties of the Second part shall have and receive The Wages following Vizt The said Jacob Hilton at and after the rate of Ten Shillings and each and every other of the said parties of the second part after the rate of Eight Shillings New

York Currency for each Day they shall be in actual Employment in and about Constructing the said Vessels or other Buildings and That over and above those sums they shall several[ly] receive 1¼ lb pork or Beef and one and an half pound of Flour per Day four pints of peas per week one pint of molasses per week, half a pint of rum per Day That the said Wages shall Commence on the Day they Leave Albany – That after Completing the said work, they shall respectively be Allowed Two days for returning if at Fort George, Four days if at Tionderoga and for any Farther distance from Albany at the rate of twenty Miles per day, And it is Further agreed between the said parties to these presents, that if it shall happen that any of the parties of the second part should be taken sick during the time which they shall be employed as above, they shall not be entitled to Wages for the Time they Abstain from Working by reason of sickness unless the Commanding officer of the post where they shall be stationed shall on application to him made refuse to discharge the persons taken sick and then they shall be Entitled to Wages from the Time of such refusal

Sealed and deliver'd by the parties of the Second part

[1] Mass. Arch., vol. 195, 50–50a. Enclosed in Schuyler to Massachusetts General Court, June 29, 1776.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

[New York] Die Sabbati, 10 HO.A.M. Jany. 6th, 1776.

Ordered, That the committee appointed to dispatch three vessels for ammunition, despatch two separate orders or invoices of the said medicines to different ports, to wit: one to such port or place in the foreign West Indies, as they shall think best; and another to Europe to obtain the said medicines, and to prevent a disappointment in obtaining them. And

Ordered, That Doctor John Jones and Dr. Treat be requested to speak to proper persons to make or procure the instruments and utensils mentioned in their said estimate; that they direct them to be good of their kind and quality; and that none be purchased or paid for but such as those gentlemen approve of.

3 ho. P.M., January 6th, 1776.

Capt. Kennedy, attending at the door, was admitted; he informed the Committee that the ships of war in the harbour had despatched three boats up the East river, or Sound, with both sails and oars.

Thereupon a letter was wrote to Col. Joseph Drake informing him thereof, and that the Committee are anxious for the safety of the powder for Suffolk County, sent to his care, and requesting him to take means for its preservation, and to forward it with a boat to the chairman of the committee at Huntington.

Ordered, That the said letter be sent to Col. Jos. Drake Sa[mpson]. Dyckman, as a messenger, and it was delivered to the said Sampson Dychman accordingly.

Captain John Hodge, who arrived last night from Lisbon by request, attended this Committee. Notes of his information were taken and read to him and filed.[2]

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[1] *New York Provincial Congress,* I, 239, 240.

[2] See following entry.

INFORMATION GIVEN BY CAPTAIN JOHN HODGE TO THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY[1]

In Committee of Safety, New York, January 6th 1776

Capt John Hodge of New York arrived in the [city] last Night from Lisbon, & left that place Seven weeks ago to morrow –

He says that on the 8th of October last about S.W. from Cape Clear about 125 Leagues, he met two East India Men & a Cat or North Country Collier, very full of Troops, the first Division of Seven Sail, with five full Regiments bound from Cork to Boston, which first Division had then been nine days from Cork –

That in Bourdeaux he afterwards met with sundry Masters of Vessels who sailed from Cork with the last Division of the said Seven Sail – That the three Transports he met had not a Convoy and he did not discover that they had any Guns – That the said Masters of Vessels at Bourdeaux informed him that officers were recruiting in Ireland, and had raised Six Regiments all Roman Catholicks – That the protestants would not enlist – That the said Masters informed him that after the said first Division of Transports had sailed from Cork, a Vessel had been dispatched after them to order them to go to Hallifax to winter – That he was informed by Calder of this port and Capt Cassels of Philadia and by Capt Amory, that two Thousand Fisherman were gone from Newfoundland to Boston to cut down the woods before the Army, as was pretended – That in Lisbon he understood that every English Vessel would be Seized, as soon as the Consent of the King of Portugal could be obtained, who was then absent about Sixty Miles up the River Otagus – That Capt Sandwich (Son of Lord Sandwich) arrived at Lisbon in an Armed Ship rigged Yatch on the day before this Examinant left Lisbon – That his Merchant waited on Mr Sandwich who informed him that if he (Sandwich) had met any of the American Rebels at Sea he would have seized them – That to avoid a Seizure he came out of Lisbon the next Morning in Ballast, together with Capt Alexr Guy of Philadia in a topsail Schooner also with Ballast only – That no powder or Arms can be obtained in the ports of France or portugal – And that they cannot be obtained from the Ports in the Mediterranean as he was informed, on account of the English Ships of War & Cruizers –

That he did not hear of any French Troops being in the west Indies, or about to go there, until he arrived in New York –

That five Sail of Fishermen were taken in & about the western Islands; that three of them at least were Whalers – That the said five Whalers or fishing Vessels were taken by Commodore Banks in a 74 Gun Ship, and with two Frigates in Company – That when the Captain of the Man of War or Yatch at Lisbon examined Guy to whom his Vessel belonged, he concealed his Register, and said She belonged to Par & Bulkley, And he this Examinant said his Vessel was his own property –

That by a Packet Boat from England, which arrived at Lisbon the day before he saild from thence, he obtained his Majesty's Speech to Parliament, & Newspapers of the 28th of Octr –

That there has been great Crops all over Europe – That Lisbon is the best market – Wheat & flour so low in France that it will not bring the first Cost –

That Capt Cassels had a Letter which he received at Newfoundland from a Gentleman there, informing him that he would be seized if he did not depart; upon which he fled from thence in Ballast – That he (Hodge) left Capt Jones in Lisbon –

That by Masters of Vessels both in France & Lisbon he was informed that 2500 Men were intended for the American Service, but whether beside the Troops now in America, or not, he did not understand – And that Transports were arrived at Giberaltar to take the British Troops from Thence –

A true Copy of Notes by me taken of the Information given by Captain John Hodge to the Committee of Safety. –

John McKesson Secry.

1. Washington Papers, LC.

Captain Hyde Parker, Jr., R.N., to Lord Sandwich [1]

(Copy) *Phoenix* at New York 6 January 1776.

My Lord By not having had any sort of small Vessel under my Command, it has wholly been out of my power to forward Intelligence to Vice Admiral Graves, the present event of Lieutenant [Hugh] Robinson's going to England is So favorable to transmit to your Lordship the inclosed Pieces of Intelligence which I am led to believe are mostly authentick, that I think it might be deemed negligent was I to omit it; [2] at the same time having the honor of laying before your Lordship the particular situation of His Majesty's Ships at this Port.

The *Phoenix* and *Asia* are only here, it was intended by Admiral Graves that the *Viper* Sloop should also have been upon this Station but by some misfortune she is not yet arrived notwithstanding she sailed seven Weeks since from Boston.[3] From the severity of the Winter which has already caused great quantities of floating Ice; We are reduced to the necessity of hawling the Ships close to the Wharfs, to which we have fasts that are watched by the Inhabitants of the Town, in consequence of my having represen[ted] to the Mayor this necessity, least some ill disposed people might cut them, which act I should certainly retaliate upon the Town the Rebel party in the Town we are informed threaten to erect Batteries upon some heights, at the distance of about Seven hundred Yards, by which they would certainly annoy the Ships very much, but I do not imagine they will oblige us to move, until we have in a great measure destroyed the Town; I have great reason to believe that the Citizens in general are very well affected, and am in hopes we shall remain quiet; unless the Connecticutt and New Jersey People put their threats into execution, which is to invade this City with a body of three or four thousand Troops; should this take place, I am apprehensive they would bring on the destruction of the Town.

I beg leave to mention to your Lordship the impossibility of His Majesty's Ships under my Command, stopping in any measure the supplies passing to the Rebel army; the want of small Vessels puts this intirely out of my power, as the Stores are landed in the North River and carted to a distance from the Ships, and then reshipped to go up the Sound, from the very great quantities of ice it is impossible to risque rowing Boats as they would inevitably be lost among it or drove on shore, in the latter case the people would be made Prisoners.

By two Seamen that has made their escape from the Rebel Row Galleys about eight Days ago at Philadelphia; I find there are Six Sail of Privateers in that River, one of Thirty Six Guns upon Two Decks, and only Three hundred and Fifty Tons, One of Twenty four, One of Twenty one of Sixteen and one of Ten Guns, the other a small one also thirteen Row Galleys, each with Fifty Men; there is in the City a great number of English Seamen who are so guarded as to make it impossible for them to escape, and are from necessity reduced to enter into the Service of the Rebels the People of Philadelphia in order to interrupt the Navigation of the Delawar, have sunk about nine miles from the City Seventeen Caissons armed with very large Iron Spikes, these are sunk in such a manner as to make a serpentine Channel and very narrow; they themselves have already experienced the Effects, by the loss of three or four Vessels some of which were of considerable Value

At New Haven in Connecticut there is two Brig Privateers of Twelve or Fourteen Guns, which are intended to make an attempt to seize the Powder in a Magazine at Needhams Fort upon the Island of Barbadoes, they have been informed it is weakly guarded

By a Letter of authority from the Island of Hispaniola dated the 23d of November The Port of Ocayes upon the said Island was opened as a free port by Proclamation for Six Months; for the importation of North American Produce, the same Letter mentions also their expectation of the arrival of Seven Thousand five hundred French Troops at Cape Francois; and the same number at Martinique; and that there is a great importation of Ordnance Stores daily coming into the Ports upon that Island.

The Continental Congress have ordered thirteen Sail of Frigates to be immediately built two of them are allotted to this Port; and I find are to be Built above the Fort erected about Fifty Miles up Hudsons River

It is certain that the Rebels get at present supplied with Gun powder from the French. A few days since I am well informed two French Men passed through this City in their way to the Continental Congress with passes from Mr Washington the Rebel General at Cambridge,[4] these Men had landed a Cargo of Gun powder to the Eastward, and are supposed to be gone in order to settle for the furnishing of further supplies.

It is reported and believed that Mr [Richard] Mon[t]gomery the Commanding Officer of the Rebel Army in Canada, has received a severe Check. But as yet it is impossible to get at the particulars.

My Lord the Papers marked 1. 2. 4 are papers transmitted to Governor Tryon by some body in the Continental Congress.[5] I have the honor to be with great respect Your Lordships [&c.]

Hyde Parker

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1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/123, 61b.
2. See Intelligence from Philadelphia, January 4, 1776.
3. The *Viper* was blown off the coast and went to Antigua.
4. Pliarne and Penet.
5. Supplied by James Duane's valet, James Brattle.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS [1]

[Philadelphia]Saturday,January 6, 1776

Information being given to Congress, that a quantity of powder was arrived at Great-Egg Harbour; on board the sloop *Sally*, of which 29 bl. a part was addressed to Congress by Mr. [Jonathan] Parsons, a part consigned to Mr.[Pelatiah] Webster and others in Philadelphia, and a part to another gentleman in said city.

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be directed to get the powder addressed to Congress, brought to Philadelphia, and to purchase, for the use of the United Colonies, the other quantities of powder.

Resolved, That one ton of the powder arrived, be delivered to the Committee for fitting out armed vessels, for the use of said vessels.

The Committee, to whom it was referred to consider how the shares of prizes, allotted to the captors, ought to be divided between the officers and men,[2] brought in their report, which, being taken into consideration, was agreed to as follows:

Resolved, That the Commander in chief have one twentieth part of the said allotted prize-money, taken by any ship or ships, armed vessel or vessels, under his orders and command.

That the captain of any single ship or armed vessel, have two twentieth parts for his share, but, if more ships or armed vessels be in company when a prize is taken, then the said two twentieth parts to be divided amongst all said captains.

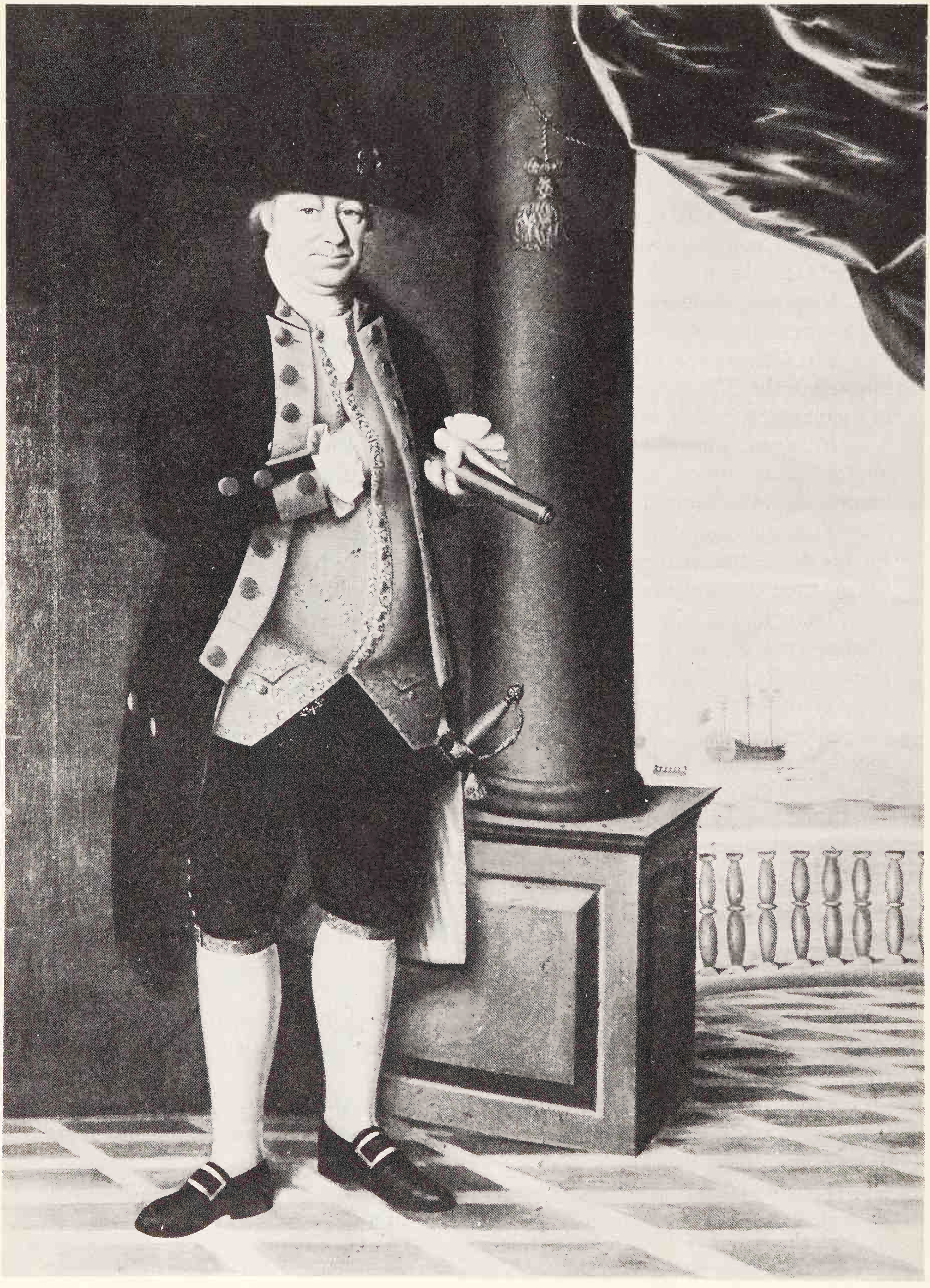
That the captains of marines, lieutenants of the ships or armed vessels, and masters thereof, share together, and have three twentieth parts divided among them equally, of all prizes taken when they are in company.

That the lieutenants of marines, surgeons, chaplains, pursers, boatswains, gunners, carpenters, the masters' mates, and the secretary of the fleet, share together, and have two twentieth parts and one half of one twentieth part divided amongst them, equally of all prizes taken when they are in company.

That the following petty warrant and petty officers, viz. (allowing for each ship, six midshipmen; for each brigantine, four midshipmen, and each sloop, two midshipmen, one captain's clerk, one surgeon's mate, one steward, one sailmaker, one cooper, one armourer, two boatswain's mates, two gunner's mates, two carpenter's mates, one cook, one cockswain, two serjeants of marines for each ship, and one surgeon for each brig and sloop) have three twentieth parts divided among them equally, and when a prize is taken by any ship or vessel on board of which the Commander in chief is, or in company, then the Commander in chief's cook or cockswain to be added to this allotment, and have their equal shares with these last mentioned.

That the remaining eight twentieths, and one half of a twentieth, be divided among the rest of the ship or ship's companies, as it may happen, share and share alike.

That no officer or man have any share but such as are actually on board their several vessels, when any prize or prizes are taken, excepting only such as may have



Captain Abraham Whipple.

been ordered on board any other prizes before taken, or sent away by his or their commanding officers.

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1. Ford, ed., *JCC,* IV, 35–37.
2. This was the Naval Committee, which had been given the assignment on December 22, 1775. Contemporary copies of the report are in the Nicholas Biddle Papers, HSP, and in the Whipple Papers, Malcolm C. Drake Collection, Middleboro, Mass.

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH [1]

[Philadelphia] Saturday 6 Jany Minutes of Yesterday read & Letter informing of a considerable Quantity of Powder just arrived at Egg Harbor, some of it consigned to the Congress by Jonath Persons, some consigned to Pelatiah Webster & some to another Person in Philada Congress agreed to purchase the whole & the Secret Comee are desired to have it brought here under a Guard commanded by a Lieut. a Letter of Thanks directed to be sent to Mr Parsons for his Attention to the Public Welfare . . . The Memorial from the Town of Newport was agitated for several Hours & at last referred generally to the Assembly of Rhode Island. – Mr [Christopher] Gadsden from the Naval Comee reported the Rules for Distribution of the Prize Money which was confirmd with One Alteration viz. That the Rewards for extraordinary Exertions shall not be paid out of the Continental Share of the Captures – Letters just recd from Gens Schuyler, Montgomery and Wooster pressing for an immediate Supply of hard Money & for more Troops otherwise they fear all will be lost in that Quarter – Montgomery was before Quebec on the 16th of Decr with 8 or 900 effective Men & some Canadians and had planted by Way Feint a Battery of Cannon agt the Lower Town but intended his chief Efforts by Way of Storm agt the Upper Town, Monday Morng was assigned to consider this Business & Nothing else to interfere

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1. Richard Smith's Diary, LC.

NAVAL COMMITTEE TO CAPTAIN ABRAHAM WHIPPLE [1]

To Abraham Whipple Esquire Captain of the ship *Columbus*

You having received a Commission from the Congress to command the aforesaid ship You are hereby directed to take charge of her and all her officers men & stores – to see that everything be conducted in the most prudent manner, and that the most careful and exact discipline peace and good order be maintained at all times onboard the said ship – And that you put yourself and the ship aforesaid under the direction of Esek Hopkins Esqr Commander in Chief of the Fleet of the United Colonies and to follow observe and obey, all such directions, instructions and Commands as you may receive from him – and carefully observe and answer all such signals as he may display – for which purpose you will receive from him an account of the intention and signification of each signal – And you are to be particularly careful that you do not seperate from the Fleet unless by express orders from the Commander in Chief – But if by the extremity of weather it should so happen, You are to use your utmost endeavours to join it again immediately at such rendezvous as may be appointed for that purpose

Dated at Philadelphia Jany 6. 1776.

By Order of Congress [2]

	Step Hopkins	Silas Deane
	Chris Gadsden	Joseph Hewes

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1. U.S. Navy, Mss., NYPL.
2. This was a form letter in the hand of Timothy Matlack, secretary of the Continental Naval Committee, and signed by four of the committee members. In addition to the letter to Whipple, the one to Nicholas Biddle has been located. Those to Dudley Saltonstall of the *Alfred,* John Burroughs Hopkins of the *Cabot,* and John Hazard of the *Providence* have not been located.

JOSEPH HEWES TO SAMUEL JOHNSTON [1]

[Extract] Philadelphia 6th Jany 1776 –

In your favour of the 5th of November the only one I have received from you I observe the plan you Adopted to get Arms and Amunition and your wish that the general Association had not been infringed, I have often wished the same thing, the Congress having adopted and pursued a Similar mode and on a much larger Scale; [however], altho' we have not yet reaped much advantage from it, I have altered my mind on that subject and am now perfectly reconciled to it from a Conviction that our utmost efforts in every way will barely furnish us with a Sufficient quantity of those Necessary Articles, –

Some of the zealous City politicians are alarmed at the Arival of a Lord Drummond who came to Town a few days ago, it seems he is son to the Earl of Perth, has lived several years in New York Government, is possessed of a Landed Estate in New Jersey, went to England in Novemr 1774, came out to Boston in a Man of War in August last, from thence in the same conveyance soon after, to New York; had he left the Title of Lord behind him he might have walked the Streets of this City a long time unnoticed, now the Eyes of all are upon him and consider him as a Suspicious Character, in private company I am told he says he was several months in London and frequently in company with Lord North, that the ministry are heartily tired of the controversy between Great Britain and the Colonies, but the pride of the people of England will not suffer them to relax, he thinks the matter might be easily setled; – if America would consent to give a very small sum Annually so as to save Appearances, England would repeal all the obnoxious Acts and give up more than we ask, he says Lord North was Astonished at the Union and Strength of the Colonies, declared he did not think it was possible for such things to be brought about; that he had no idea of such resistance, some people think this Lord is employed to make Overtures to the Congress, others imagine he is only to sound some of the leading Members & endeavour to find out the whole scope design and Views of the Congress; certain it is he has had private conferences with several Characters of the first distinction Among us, I dont find he has yet Closeted any of the wise men of the East, however I am not certain of it, my indisposition has kept me from Congress for two days past in which time I have seen very few members,

A report prevails this day in Town that by some late advices received to the eastward from England the Ministry are determined to send a large Army to

America early in the Spring and Land it in this Province in order to subdue it at all events considering it the most Active in the present Rebellion, this like many other reports, the talk of a day, wants confirmation, tho all Accounts Agree (except what comes from the Lord above mentioned) that Administration will make one grand effort in the Spring to subdue the Colonies, therefore it becomes Neceessary for us to provide for the event, we have Fifty three Regiments raised and raising each to consist of 728 men officers included to this Strength you may add twice the number of Regiments of well regulated Militia, some of our Regiments are in Canada and more must be sent there, I will trespas no longer upon your patience then to request you to present my Complements to Mrs Johnston and family, I am Dear Sir [&c.]

Joseph Hewes

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1. Samuel Johnston Papers, Hayes Manuscripts, NCDAH.

William Spear to John Spear, Merchant, Antigua [1]

Dear Jonny. Baltimore 6th January 1776.

Yours of the 12th 17th & 29th by Captns Oakman Chase and Johnson I received. Pierce is not yet arrived. am glad to hear of your safe arrival after your disagreeable passage. Capt Oakman arrived here about the 20th Ult all well. I am sorry you was so much alarmed as not to suffer him to bring Salt, as that Article has been sold at 7/6 this fall. I have taken a freight for the Sloop from the Publick as no private person will be admitted to Load their Vessels for the West Indies. She is to discharge her Cargo at some foreign Island near where you are, who she will be consigned to is yet uncertain. If I could insured them that you would be there ready to receive her Cargo, you would have had the Consignment, and perhaps I may procure it for you yet. A Vanbiber goes out a factor for the publick and says if she is addressed to him that he will give up the Commission to you, he has 5 Vessels Consigned to him and would be glad to have your assistance to which I have no objection provided it does not interfere with your own business and he gives you such part of the Commission as you think worth your notice. as to your coming home I will not pretend to advise. we have no business here nor can I say when we will. I apprehend there will be a risque in coming on the Coast in the Spring after the E. [English] Fleet arrives. therefore if possible be home before that period if you intend coming this Spring. also send your property away with all Speed, as it is expected the American Fleet will keep them employed until they are Reinforced.

I wrote you the 16 Novr by Mr. N[eil]'s Schooner but hope you did not receive it, as the Import of it was to desire you to Remit Bills to London as I then thought the risque too great in bringing goods Home, but now I am of a different Sentiment, and had I any sum would order it all in goods. Such of our Countrymen as has returned with goods has made out well. it is said that R: Makem has cleared above £1500 and some others more.

Such Goods as you have out to sell on Commission be careful to observe the Orders given by the owners. I am sorry you parted with any article of your Cargo that would keep, as every hour you keep it, it must rise in value, as the Ports on this Continent will certainly be continued Shut whilst the Contest lasts. the Smuggling out of Virginia that you mention was by the Tories at Norfolk I suppose and that is at an end. were peace to be Restored this Winter and you inclined to Stay some time there I will send you out as much produce as you can Sell, but at present every thing is so fluctuating and uncertain that I do not see how we can do any business at an English Island. therefore if you tarry any longer there you must settle your affairs at Antigua and go to whatever foreign Island you think fit, and as soon as I know where you reside, I will send you produce either my own or the publicks

Price Current:

Salt 6/.	Sugar 60/ if good.
Powder 15/. p lb but expected to fall soon	Melasses 2/ and plenty
Osenbrigs 2/ p yd	Cotton 2/6.
Rum 3/9	Coffee 1/2

all kinds of dry goods is very high such as you took a Memorandum of is all much wanted and the price very high.

Flour 12/6.– Bread 12/ – Corn 2/2

The news is that L. [Lord] Dunmore and all the forces he could collect is driven on board of His Ships. it is said that he has burnt Norfolk but not confirmed. our whole Continent is Arming both by Sea and Land. Next Summer the whole Coast will be lined with our Armed Vessels. All the Ship Carpenters is now employed in altering old Vessels and building new ones, a great Number is already at Sea, and it is expected if we have not peace before Spring, that the Congress will make a formal Declaration of War and Commission their Ships to Seize all British Property. We have reason to think that Carlton with all Canada is Taken. it is also expected that Boston is demolished by this time. the Provincials carries all before them. The only loss yet sustained worth mentioning is one Capt. Martindall in one of our privateers with 80 Men taken by a Man of War. him and his Crew sent to England.[2] – Shall write you the morrow by Captain Vanbebor. your friends and acquaintances here are all well. I am your Affect. father

P Capt Burk Wm Spear.

[Endorsed] (a Copy) Jams Young.

[Second endorsement] Copies of intercepted Letters Containing Intelligence of the proceedings and Designs of the North American Rebels.

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1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.
2. Washington's armed brig *Washington,* Captain Sion Martindale.

WILLIAM SPEAR TO JOHN SPEAR [1]

Dear Johny. Baltimore 6th Janry 1776.

By the same Conveyance I wrote you fully and inclosed a Late paper since that the Confirmation of Norfolk being burned is come to hand and we are all assured that our Trade will meet no more interruption from Dunmore this Winter therefore beg that you will put every Shilling you can Command in dry goods that is in such Articles as you carried your Memorandum of and send them with all speed. Mr Makem laid his Money out in [St.] Eustatia and has sold the goods for four times the first Coast [*sic*] Your Powder will intitle me to load the Sloop out but would not advise you to be large in that Article as large quantities is expected in daily. I am your afect. Fathr Wm Spear

P Capt Burk

[Endorsed] (a Copy) Jams Young

[Second endorsement] Copies of intercepted Letters Containing Intelligence of the proceedings and Designs of the North American Rebels.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

PINKNEY'S *Virginia Gazette,* SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 1776

Williamsburg [January 6].

By an express from Norfolk, and letters from colonel [Robert] Howe, we learn, that all the ships and tenders which had been drawn up close to the town with springs on their cables began a heavy fire at 3 o'clock in the evening of Monday last [January 1], that after about an hour's firing, a few boats were sent ashore under cover of the cannon, and concealed by their smoak, which was blown in on the shore, and several houses were set on fire in different places along the river, that this was done so suddenly and amidst so much smoke and noise, that it was impossible to prevent it; that the wind being favourable to their design, the flames spread with great rapidity, and when the fire had run to a great extent, and our enemies imagined they had spread confusion and terror amongst our young troops, by such an incessant cannonade as they had kept up, and by the conflagration around them, they attempted to land a number of men in different parts of the town, but were repulsed with considerable loss in every attempt; all our centinels and guards kept their posts notwithstanding, and had pretty smartly chastised those who set fire in the houses; they were reinforced by lieutenant colonel [Adam] Stephens, with about two hundred marksmen, who behaved with great bravery. Six of the enemy were left dead on the shore, and great numbers were supposed to be carried off in their boats. We did not lose a man; but had six or seven wounded. Some poor women were killed in endeavouring to move out of town. It was a shocking scene to see the poor women and children, running about through the fire, and exposed to the guns from the ships, and some of them with children at their breasts. Let our countrymen view and contemplate the scene! Colonel Howe speaks highly of colonel [William] Woodford, colonel Stephens, and all the officers and men. The cannonade had lasted twenty five hours when the express came away, and the flames were raging (it being impossible to extinguish them on account of the heavy fire from the ships) and had consumed two thirds of the town. Our men, notwithstanding this, still kept their posts. The ships which fired were the *Liverpool, Kingfisher* and *Otter,* men of war, lord Dunmore's large ships, the *William* and *Eilbeck,* the store ships, and all the tenders. It is affirmed that one hundred cannon played on the town almost incessantly for twenty five hours, and the express says he heard firing all the way on the road. Notwithstanding this heavy firing, and the town in flames around them, our men had the resolution to maintain their posts, and the coolness to *aim* as usual. They seem animated in their glorious cause and appear to be shielded as the favourites of Heaven.

Upwards of thirty of Jack Dunmore's *hopeful gang,* consisting of soldiers, sailors, and negroes, arrived here yesterday as prisoners under a strong guard. They are taken *proper care* of.

A large snow from Cork, laden with beef, butter, and potatoes, and a fine brig from the West Indies, laden with rum and sugar, were taken last Thursday [January 4] by our good old friend captain [James] Barron. He was in a small vessel, with only six swivels and nine men. The prizes are sent to Cumberland town to unload.[1]

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[1] The brigs *Fanny* and *Industry*; see Journal of the Virginia Convention, January 8, 1776.

SAMUEL INGLIS TO ROBERT MORRIS [1]

Dear Sir Williamsburgh Jany 6th 1776

The inclosed Letter I wrote in North hampton, but not chusing to forward it from thence brought It over with me here – before this gets to you, you will have heard of the destruction of Norfolk, friday was a week Lord Dunmore had given Notice to the few Inhabitants that remained in It to remove themselves, for he intended firing It in a few Days accordingly on Monday last about four in the afternoon the horrid Scene was begun by Men from the Ships, principally Negros I understand with lighted Torches, who began at my Stores on the Town point wharf at the North extremity of the Town, from thence they proceeded to the middle, and then to the south East parts, so that the Town was fired in a manner in three different parts at once, there was a considerable value of Jahs & my own property in my Stores upwards of Twenty Tons of hemp I think for one article, by an express from Colo [William] Woodford which arrivd last Night to the Committee of Safety the fire was still raging on Thursday when about Nine Tenths of the Town was in Ashes, before the express had set off his Lordship It seems had given notice to the Inhabitants of Portsmouth to remove out of Town, as he intended to fire It next, and then York Town No pen can describe to you the horrid situation the Inhabitants of Norfolk are drove to, the Country about there was miserably poor at best, the Army lately sent there has drain'd It of any provisions or necessaries the Inhabitants had, so that now these poor Wretches who have been fired from their houses (many of them as genteel people as any in the Colony) must absolutely perish for the mere want of Covering and Victuals, the distress of this Country has now nearly ruined me, but beleive me I look on myself in a happy situation compared with that of most of my Townsmen, for with all their desasters their late Conduct has erected such prejudices against Them in the up Country, that I fear they will meet with little of that humanity which I know the Virginians are so susceptible of in most cases – I can hear nothing yet particular about Bahannon further than that Lord Dunmore first seised his Vessel, and that Capt Montague [James Montagu] afterwards wrested her from his Lordship and claims Vessel and Cargo as his, both my Clerks which I left in Norfolk are aboard of the Vessels belonging to the Governor, one of Them went voluntarily, and the other a prisoner I understand, I have applyd to the Comittee of Safety and they have given me an order to the Commander in Chief of our forces at Norfolk to permit me having an Interview with Them which I shall endeavour in a few days, my books I have got on the Eastern Shore and most of my papers, but some of the most Valuable I am fearful are in the hands of one of my Clerks – you may imagine the situation of my affairs must give me great uneasiness, but beleive me its little compared to what I feel for my Wifes Unhappy Relations, the Unhappy part they have taken has entirely ruined Them, her Father with one of her Uncles are now prisoners on the Eastern Shore, and their Wifes and Children with Them, the Men will be sent for here in a little Time to take their Tryalls, Mr A I hope will clear himself, but the other I tremble for, tho a better man never drew the breath of Life, a misconception of the present Dispute has been his Ruin, they are all at present with Mrs Parker and her Children under mine and Mr Ronalds roof[s] and with great difficulty the Committee of Northampton with Mr Ronalds and myself prevented the [illegible] people there destroying even the Women & Children by firing the Roofs they were under – I beg you woud let Capt Long know the situation of his affairs here, I expect to be on this Shore best part of the Winter shoud you write to me direct to the Care of Mr [Robert Carter] Nicholas the Treasurer and be pleased to keep the Contents of this Letter to yourself I beg My Complements to Mrs Morris and am &c

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1. Correspondence of Robert Morris, LC.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Otter,* CAPTAIN MATTHEW SQUIRE [1]

January 1776 Elizabeth River [Virginia]

Saturday 6 Sailed hence on a Cruize the *Betsey* Tender
Variable Weather. The Rebels attempted to set fire to the Mills at the Point. fired several six pounders & dispersed them.

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1. PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

MINUTES OF THE WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

[Wilmington] At a Meeting on Saturday, Jany 6. 1776.

Mr W Campbell came into committee & presented a Letter from the Governor, requesting Mr Campbell to send down Two or Three barrels of Flour, a Tub of Butter, & some Vegetables.

Ordered, That Mr Campbell have leave to send down two Barrels of Flour, a Tub of Butter, & some Vegetables for His Excellency.

Ordered, That the Custom House officers do not clear out any Vessels from this Port hereafter, without Leave from this Committee or some superior power, & that the Officers be served with this Order.

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1. Secretary of State Papers (Committees of Safety 1774–1776), NCDAH.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

In the Council of Safety,
[Charleston] Saturday, Jan. 6th, 1776.

Read a letter from Capt. [George Gabriel] Powell, 5th Jan., 1776.

Whereas, all the British ships of war that were in Rebellion Road, have this day quitted the harbour. Therefore

Resolved, That the order of this board of the 4th instant, to Capt. Powell, to proceed with the brigantine *Comet* through Wappoo Creek into Stono River, be withdrawn; and that Capt Powell do forthwith return with the said vessel into Charles-Town harbour.

Ordered, That Capt. Powell be served with a copy of the above resolution.

Ordered, That Mr. John Rutledge, Col. [Charles Cotesworth] Pinckney, Mr. Bee, Mr. Arthur Middleton, Mr. Thos. Heyward, jun., and Doct. [David] Oliphant, be a committee to inquire and report to this board, what further measures out to be pursued for the better securing and defending the port and harbour of Charles-Town.

An information was given to the board of two scooners loading with flour, etc., for the West Indies by Wm. Gichie [William Ritchie] and Wm. Wayne, pretended to be destined for Georgia, and intended to pass through Wappoo Creek.

Referred to the committee of observation.

In the Council of Safety,
Saturday Evening, Jan. 6th, 1776.

Ordered, That letters be written and sent by express this night.

To Col. [Stephen] Bull, desiring him to confer with the Committee at Beaufort, and to send a boat under the conduct of a proper person to Cockspur, in order to give the earliest intelligence of the arrival at Tybee of the *Tamar,* or any of the ships under her command, which sailed this morning from Rebellion-Road, And

To Archibald Bullock at Savannah, on the same business; and also, if practicable, to send Lord William Campbell to his proper place of residence in Charles-Town, and his Secretary [Alexander] Innes, with his Lordship.

And accordingly the following letters were written, and sent by Muckenfuss.

Charles-Town, Jan. 6th, 1776.

> Sir – We received by Muckenfuss, who is bearer of this, your letter of the 3rd inst., which time will not permit us at present to reply to, except to assure you, that we are well pleased with the contents, and are sensible of your continued endeavours to promote the interest of the colony.
>
> This morning sailed out of Rebelion-Road to sea, the *Tamar* and *Cherokee,* the *Sandwich packet,* the armed scooner, and a brig prize, laden with salt, taken in Stono river, and a pilot boat belonging to Georgia. We are told the *Tamar* is gone to North-Carolina to heave down; that the *Cherokee* is to go in at Tybee, and to lie somewhere in Savannah river. The end of our present application is, to request the Committee at Beaufort will immediately send a proper boat to wait near Cockspur, and to give us the earliest intelligence of her arrival, and particularly whether the *Tamar* also arrives there. This is a matter of the utmost importance; we desire the business may be committed to a very careful, judicious man, and that he be charged to conduct it with secrecy and dispatch. You will draw upon this board, for the expence which may attend the present service.

As the vessel or vessels above mentioned may be several days on their voyage, admitting they are really destined for Tybee, as we have been informed, we have therefore written to Archibald Bulloch esq., to give us notice of their arrival. We enclose our letter under this cover. Your messenger may, if the vessels do not appear when he reaches Cockspur, proceed to Savannah, and deliver it into Mr. Bulloch's own hand; after which he may return to Cockspur, and wait or proceed again to Beaufort, as you may order. But Mr. Bulloch should be apprized, if he intends to wait, and how long, in order to save the expence of double expresses. This is one reason for desiring a careful, sensible man to be sent as messenger, that he may confer with Mr. Bulloch, and be capable of following orders with precision.

You will recommend also to the committee to keep a look-out against an attempt by the *Cherokee* or the armed scooner to retake the indico brigantine, if she is in possession of the committee. We beg these gentlemen will excuse our delay of writing to them in answer to their late letters, of the 1st and 2nd inst. It is impossible by this opportunity.

. . .

By order of the Council of Safety
Col. Bull. Henry Laurens, President.

Charles-Town, Jan. 6th, 1776.

Sir – We refer to a letter written to you the beginning of this month by the President, and sent by express.

This morning the *Tamar* sloop, *Cherokee* armed ship, and an armed scooner as a tender, together with the *Sandwich packet,* a brigantine prize, and a Georgia pilot-boat, sailed from Rebellion Road to sea; and this evening we are informed that the *Cherokee* is destined for Savannah river, the *Tamar* sloop for North-Carolina, in order to clean her bottom. We have desired the Committee at Beaufort to dispatch a proper boat to Cockspur, in order to gain the earliest intelligence of any one or all of those vessels; if none are arrived when the Beaufort messenger reaches Cockspur, he will proceed to Savannah, and deliver this into your own hands, and concert a plan with you for giving us the earliest intelligence, either by detaining him a few days, or by such means as you shall judge best. If the *Cherokee* alone arrives there, it will please us more than if she is escorted and guarded by the *Tamar*.

Should Lord William [Campbell] and his secretary, Capt. Innes, walk the streets of Savannah, we doubt not but that our friends there will think they go to hold counsels which cannot be intended to produce benefit to either of the colonies, and that proper means will be taken to send those itinerants, with all dispatch, to their late habitation in St. Michael's, Church street, Charles-Town, where the Governor particularly is extremely wanted, and from whence he retired without good grounds, and very much against the inclination of the people over whom he presided, and who are exceedingly desirous of his return.

By order of the Council of Safety

Henry Laurens, President.

We write to you particularly – you will best know whom to consult.

Arch'd Bulloch, esqr.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society,* III, 151–54.

Journal of H. M. Sloop *Tamar,* Captain Edward Thornbrough [1]

January 1776 In Rebellion Road So Carolina

[Monday] 1 A M Longboat Employed watering the Pacquet
½ past 2 P M weigh'd and came to Sail in Company with the *Cherokee, Sandwich Pacquet* & *Polly* Schooner at 4 Brot up with the best bowr in 11 fm water Veered to ½ Cable cumming's Point SBW, the chimney, on Sullivans Island NBE ½ a Mile

[Tuesday] 2 A M Boats wooding & Watering
Do with Showers P M Fired severall guns as a Signal to a Brig & a Snow in the offing.

[Wednesday] 3 At 8 A M Saild the *Polly* Schooner Commanded by Lieut Peyton with 25 Men & 6 Carriage Guns which were got out of the *Lord Sandwich Pacquet.*
Little wind & foggy Employd Occasionally

[Thursday] 4 First & middle pt Light airs and hazey latter fresh gales & Cloudy

[Friday] 5 At 8 A M fired a Six pound Shot & one Swivel shot, at a party of Rebells which were taking a fishing Sloop off Sullivan's Island the *Cherokee* fired severall Shot as did the Rebells from a battery to the Noward of the Road, at Noon came in the *Polly* Schooner with a Brigg from the Streights with Salt & Brandy which the Cut of[f] Stono [2]
P M Sent the Kedge Anchor & hauser of 4½ Inch to the *Elizabeth* Brigg being a prize

[Saturday] 6 at 7 A M Weighd and made Sail in Company with the *Cherokee, Sandwich Packett, Polly* Schooner & the *Elizabeth* Brigg at 9 Crossed Charles Town Bar in 17 feet water brought too Do Stowed the Sheet Anchor at 11 made Sail in Company as before
First pt Calm & Clear – Middle & latter light airs & hazey at 1 P M Charles town Light house N W 6 or 7 Miles at 5 the Light House N½E 8 or 9 Miles at 11 Tack'd Ship in Compy as before

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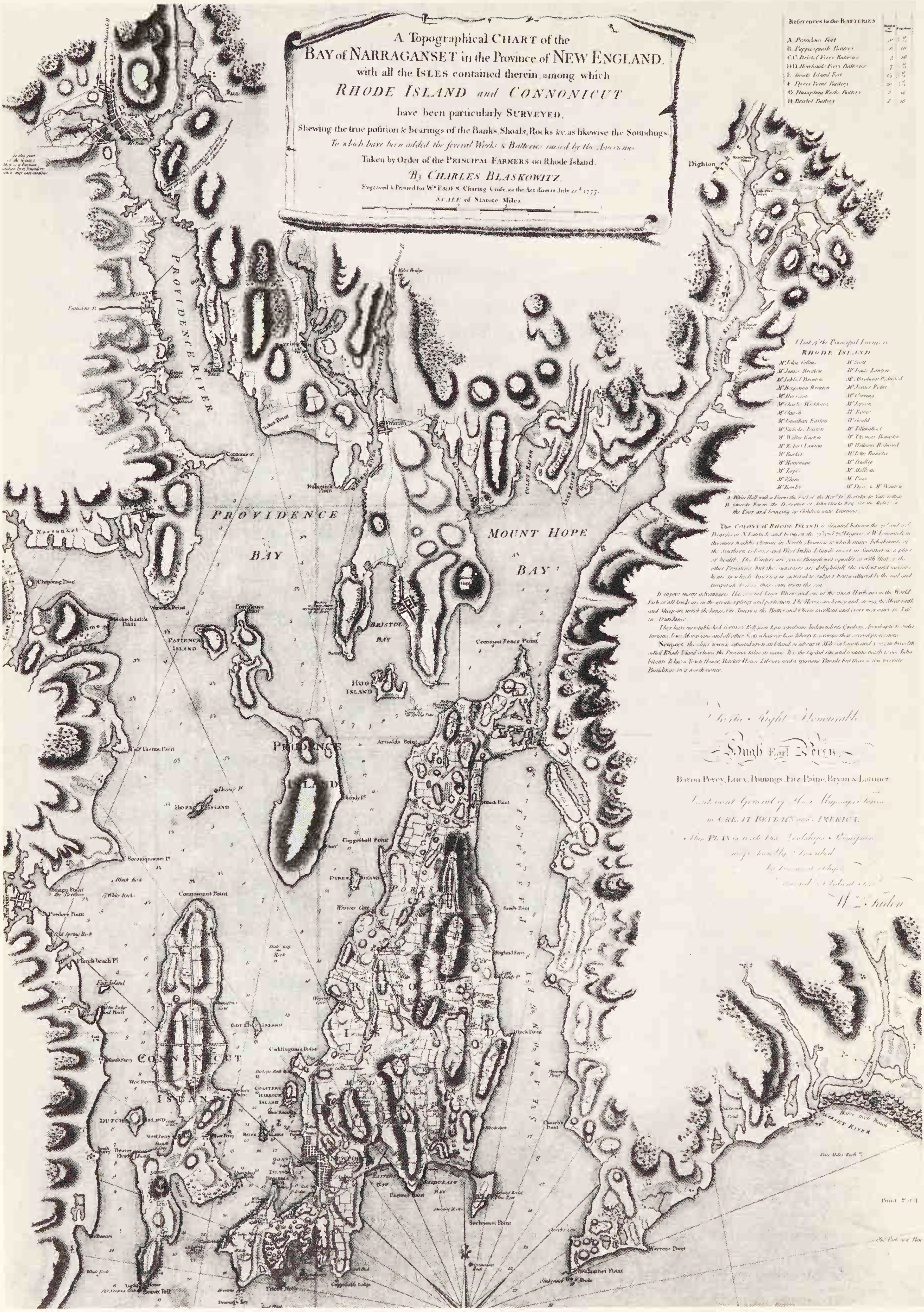
1. PRO, Admiralty 51/968.
2. The brig *Elizabeth,* Philip Sullivan, master and John Scott, owner, from Barcelona for Charleston, with a cargo of brandy and salt.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M. ARMED VESSEL *Cherokee* [1]

January 1776	At Single anchor near Sullivans Island
Monday 1	A M received from *Tamer* 46 pieces of Beef and W.287 of Bread First and middle parts Lights Airs and fair Latter moderate and Cloudy at 2 P M weighed and came to sail in Company with His Majestys Sloop *Tamer, Sandwich packett* and *Polly* Schooner at 4 do anchored with the best bower in 9 Fathom Water Veer'd to ½ a Cable
Tuesday 2	at 7 A M saw a brig in the Offing ½ past 9 saw a Snow in the Offing she fired several Guns and made the signal for Assistance read the articles of War and Abstract to the Ships Company. First and middle parts moderate and Cloudy Latter part Light Airs and hazey at 3 P M sent our Cutter mann'd and Armed with a pilot to the Snow at 4 Do saw an Armed Schooner belonging to the Rebels board the Brig Do we fired two Guns and made the Signal for our Cutter to return ½ past 5 our boat return'd Do all the Vessells in the Offing bore away to the Southward at 8 Do sent 9 Seamen Armed on board the *Polly*.
Wednesday 3	at 7 A M sailed hence the *Polly* in quest of the above Vessels First part mode and Cloudy middle and Latter Light Airs and foggy at 3 P M heard several Guns fired to the Southward
Thursday 4	First part Mode and fair
Friday 5	middle and latter fresh gales and hazey A M came in here the *Georgia* Packett [2] at 9 Do fired four Four poundrs. and six three pounders Shotted at a Large petty Augre full of Armed Men who were attempting to carry off the ffishing boat which we had detained Do the redoubt on the No. shore fired 8 Guns on us at 10 Do we Weighed the best Bower and dropt farther down to the Eastward Anchored with the best Bower in 10 ffathom Water and Veer'd to half a Cable First and middle parts strong Gales and latter fresh breezes and fair P M came in here the *Polly* Schooner with the *Betty* Brig Laden with Salt which she seized at Stono [3] Do came in here a Schooner Mr. William Gickie mastr laden with provision for the use of Lord William Campbell.
Saturday 6	A M we took all the Provisions out of the Schooner Consisting of 47 barrels of fflour 7 do of Beef 1 do of pork and 15 firkins of Butter at 7 do weighed and came to sail in Company with His Majestys Sloop *Tamer* the *Sandwich packet Polly* Schooner and *Betty* Brig


A Topographical CHART of the
BAY of NARRAGANSET in the Province of NEW ENGLAND,
with all the ISLES contained therein, among which
RHODE ISLAND and CONNONICUT
have been particularly SURVEYED,
Shewing the true position & bearings of the Banks, Shoals, Rocks &c. as likewise the Soundings.
To which have been added the several Works & Batteries raised by the Americans
Taken by Order of the PRINCIPAL FARMERS on Rhode Island.
By CHARLES BLASKOWITZ.
Engraved & Printed for Wm. FADEN, Charing Cross, as the Act directs July 22d 1777.
SCALE of Statute Miles
References to the BATTERIES
A Providence Fort
B Papposquash Battery
C.C. Bristol Ferry Batteries
D.D. Howlands Ferry Batteries
F Dyers Point Battery
G Dumpling Rocks Battery
H Bristol Battery
A List of the Principal Farms in
RHODE ISLAND
The COLONY of RHODE ISLAND
Newport
To the Right Honourable
Hugh Earl Percy,
Baron Percy, Lucy, Poinings, Fitz Paine, Bryan & Latimer
in GREAT BRITAIN and AMERICA
W. Faden
PROVIDENCE RIVER
PROVIDENCE BAY
MOUNT HOPE BAY
TAUNTON RIVER
Dighton
Miles Bridge
Warren
Bristol
BRISTOL BAY
Common Fence Point
Rumstick Point
Conimicut Point
Nassauket
Warwick Point
PATIENCE ISLAND
Providence Point
HOG ISLAND
PRUDENCE ISLAND
HOPE ISLAND
Arnolds Point
Coggeshall Point
DYERS ISLAND
PORTSMOUTH
Sandy Point
Black Point
RHODE ISLAND
Codingtons Point
COASTERS HARBOUR ISLAND
GOULD ISLAND
ROSE ISLAND
GOAT ISLAND
NEWPORT
CONNONICUT ISLAND
DUTCH ISLAND
Commonicut Point
Plumb beach Pt.
Fox Island
Black Rock
White Rocks
Gold Spring Rock
EASTONS BAY
Eastons Point
Sachuest Point
Warrens Point
Point Judith

First part Light breezes and fair middle and Latter Light airs and Cloudy inclinable to calms ½ past 4 P M Tacked at 6 in 1 Reef Topsails Charles town Light House N N E 3 Leagues at Midnight Tack'd as P Signal in Company as before

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1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1662.
2. The *George Town* Packet, a prize of the *Tamar*'s tender *Polly*.
3. The *Elizabeth* brig, another prize of the *Polly*.

7 Jan. (Sunday)

Memorandum of a Letter from Stephen Moylan to William Watson, Plymouth [1]

To Wm Watson [Cambridge] Janua 7 1776

orderd him to examine into the Condition of Captn Coits Schooner [2] – if fit to be Continued in the Service to Look out for Some person qualifyed to take Comand of her appoint officers & raise men for that purpose

if unfit. & that a Clever Set of Officers & Men Can be got allso – Schooner remarkable for Sailing, to remove the guns amunition &[c]a from on board the one into the other &[ca.]

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1. Washington Papers, LC.
2. Washington's armed schooner *Harrison*.

"A Discription of the Narra Gansett Bay in the Colony of Rhode Island" [1]

Boundaries	It Contains all those Bays, Islands and Harbours, Comprehended between Seconett Point and the Nara Gansett Store Extending Northward to the Entries of the Providence, Swanzey & Taunten Rivers –
Navagation	A 20 Gun Ship or larger may pass safely between every Island in the Bay and between the Islands & the Main Land in general –
Harbours	There are several fine Harbours on the main, but none more Commodious than Gut Harbour near Howlands Ferry. this Harbour Admits 20 Feet Water low tide, its Extreme not more than 40 or 50 Yards Across and is Intirely secured from the Annoyance of any Ships that passes the Bay, and there is no Harbours on the Main where the Enemy would Dare to Risque their Shipping for any time. There are no Harbours in the Islands of any Consequence. (New Port Excepted) this is very Commodious but may be secured by Fortifying Town Point, Goat Island & the point Opposite. the Town of Newport is Commanded by a large Hill lying to the Eastward of it. Dudleys' House is the place where the Colony Troops are mostly Stationed but is Commanded by Tomina Hill, the Colony Committee laid out a large Four Sided Fortification with proper Bastions, but Genl [Charles] Lee thought proper only to order the Quarters of the Soldiers secured for the present against small Arms, as this is by no means a place for Erecting any works

of Consequence Either for Defending the Islands or Annoying the ships in the Harbour; they have Two 18 & Two 9 Pounders at this place, mounted on Travelling Carriages; At Howlands Ferry they have a bad Constructed half finished Battery of 6 Guns on Each side the Ferry the Channel here is narrow and very Easily commanded, w[ere] there proper works Erected and well defended. Bristol Ferry may also be Commanded by proper works but with more Difficulty –

Islands Rhode, Conanicut & Prudence are the Principal Islands in this Bay, these Islands are very rich and will produce more Fruit and Afford more Forridge than any lands of the same Extent perhaps in America, the Chief Produce of this Country is, Corn, Oats Barley and large Crops of Grass. No Country Raises more Cattle & Sheep, nor of a larger Breed –

To Accompany the Map of the 7th January 1776, Presented to His Excellency George Washington Esqr by Lt Collo [Rufus] Putnam

1. Washington Papers, LC.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL CORNELIUS D. WYNKOOP, ESOPUS [1]

Sir Albany January 7th 1776

The Expence of Carrying on the Women & Children by Land will be too heavy, you will therefore detain them with you more especially as it is not certain whether their Husbands are in Connecticut or pennsylvania, Mrs Bliss the Widow of the Serjeant that was killed on board the *Gaspee* you will forward to her parents, and such others may go as chuse to hire their own Sleds.

All the men of the St John's Garrison to go, or Stay, as the Officers commanding the different Corps they belong to shall direct.

If any Officer of the other Troops taken at Montreal chooses to remain with the Men he has my leave,

General Montgomery is well before Quebec I have his letter of the 18th ult: he was In hopes Soon to be In possession, I am Sir [&c.]

Ph: Schuyler

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, I, 384, NA.

SAMUEL ADAMS TO JAMES WARREN [1]

[Extract] Philada., Jany. 7, 1776

I am glad that your Attention is turnd so much to the Importation of Powder and that the Manufacture of Saltpetre is in so flourishing a Way. I cannot think you are restraind by the Resolve of Congress from exporting Fish to Spain. I will make myself more certain by recurring to our Records tomorrow when the Secretary returns; he being at this time (6 o'clock P.M.) at his House three Miles from Town. And I will inform you by a Postscript to this Letter or by another Letter by the Post. I have the Pleasure to acquaint you that a Vessel with five

Tons of Powder *certainly* arrivd at Egg harbour the Night before last, besides two Tons in this River. A Part of it is consignd to the [Continental] Congress – The Rest is the Property partly of Mr [Thomas] Boylston and partly of a Gentleman in this City. Congress has ordered the whole to be purchased for publick Use. We are also informd that Six Tons more arrivd a few days ago in New York which I believe to be true. But better still. A Vessel is *certainly* arrivd in this River with between fifty and sixty Tons of Salt petre. This I suppose will give you more Satisfaction for the present than telling you Congress News as you request.

. . . While I am writing an Express arrives from Baltimore in Maryland, with the Deposition of Capt. [John] Horn of the *Snow Bird* belonging to Providence.

The Deponent says, that on Monday the 1st Instant he being at Hampton in Virginia heard a constant firing of Cannon; that he was informd a Messenger had been sent to inquire where the firing was, who reported that the Ships of War were cannonading the Town of Norfolk; that about the Middle of the Afternoon they saw the Smoke ascending from Norfolk, as they supposd; that he saild from Hampton the Evening of the same day and the firing continued till the next day. This will prevail more than a long Train of Reasoning to accomplish a Confederation, and other Matters which I know your heart as well as mine is much set upon.

I forgot to tell you that a Vessel is arrivd in Maryland having as part of her Cargo four thousand yards of Sail Cloth – an article which I hope will be much in Demand in America. Adieu my Friend.

S. A.

1. *Warren-Adams Letters,* I, 197–200.

TIMOTHY MATLACK TO COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS [1]

[Philadelphia, January 7,1776] [2]

The *Asia* and *Phenix* are stil in New York – Their fast are on shore – their nettings open – and appear in Perfect security – the *Asia* lies opposite Pecks slip – and the *Phoenix* a hundred Yards below My Friend arrived from thence last night at 12 o'Clock You have seen the Kings speech – The Parliament address is ten times more violent – A schooner with dainties for Genl [William] Howe at Boston is cast away and all his Poultry spoiled – a fine Chesshire Cheese a Compliment from [George] Vandeput to him cased in Lead betrayed the intention of the Voyage – it was directed "From Capt Vandeput to General Howe" [3]

I shall thank you for an exact return of the Officers and Men onboard each ship with the date of the Commissions – Warrants &c — The Resolution of Congress [4] I have dd to Capt [John] Hazard [5] last Evening and the Warrants for the *Columbus* He brings with him also the Standard – [6]

Your most Obedient &c
T Matlack

It is said an Inserrection has happened among the Tories in South Carolina – North Carolina marched a thousand men to their assistance and it is quelled we expect without considerable Loss – North Carolina do themselves honour by their Spirit –

1. Hopkins Papers, RIHS. First page missing.
2. The date is approximated from the contents of the letter.
3. The sloop *Polly and Ann.* On January 17, 1776, the Monmouth, New Jersey, Committee reported that she stranded lately on Manasquan Beach with a cargo of provisions for the troops in Boston. *New York Journal,* February 1, 1776.
4. The resolution of January 6, 1776, covering the distribution of prize money.
5. Hazard, in the sloop *Providence,* seems to have joined the fleet at Fort Island, sailing from Philadelphia on or about January 7.
6. The Standard was the famous Rattlesnake Flag.

JOSEPH HEWES TO ROBERT SMITH [1]

Dr Sir [Philadelphia, January 7, 1776] [2]

I have not been favoured with a Line from you since I left Edenton, the reason is plain I [did] not wr[i]te to you, therefore you are not obliged to know that I ever arrived here, I wish you had forgiven me and been less Ceremonious.

I find by Mr [Samuel] Johnstons Letter the mode you adopted in Council to get the one thing Necessary we have done the same here on a much Larger Scale, Necessity, dire Necessity induced us to make that infringment of one of our own Laws, I cannot say I approved of it my self at first, but I have altered my opinion of the matter and am now perfectly satisfied we are right, our utmost exertions in every way we could devise have hitherto proved insufficient to furnish the Necessary Supplies of powder consequently some of our movements have gone on heavily; I thank God the prospect now brightens a little, two Vessels arived yesterday from the Foreign west India Islands with each one Ton of Powder, and last night another came into the River with Six Tons more from the same quarter, the Captain of the latter says he left fifteen Vessels behind all waiting for the same precious article, that they had the fullest assurance 150 Tons of it were hourly expected at those places which had been sent for in order to supply the distressed Americans, another Vessel is also Arived in the River from old France with near 60 Tons of Salt Petre on board and I have the pleasure to inform you there is Sulpher enough in this City to work it all up –

On thursday and fryday Last [January 4 and 5] the following Vessels fitted out for the protection of the United Colonies sailed from this City on a Cruise to witt

Ship *Alfred,* Captain		Saltinstoll	28	Guns
Ship *Columbus*	[Abraham]	Whipple	26	do
Brigg *Cabot*	[John Burroughs]	Hopkins	16	do
Brigg *Andrea Doria*	[Nicholas]	Biddle	14	
Sloop *Providence*	[John]	Hazard	12	

now ready in a Neighbouring port on the same Acct

Sloop *Hornet*	[William]	Stone	10	
Schooner *Wasp*	[William Hallock]		4	

These Vessels will all be well maned and I hope get to sea in a few days –

It is currently reported that great Britain intends to make one grand effort in the Spring to reduce the Colonies for which purpose they are to land a very large army in this province and subdue it first considering it as foremost in Rebellion, as they mean to give the land of the Rebels to the Soldiers it will be prudent to begin here where land is best improved and most Valuable.

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1. Hayes Manuscripts, NCDAH. Robert Smith is suggested as the recipient of this letter, as he was Hewes' partner and a resident of Edenton.
2. The date is established through Samuel Adams to James Warren, January 7, 1776.

SAMUEL WARD TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE [1]

[Extract] Philadelphia 7th Jany. 1776

The Marine service is of such vast Importance, that we doubt not of your utmost Attention to it in all its Branches. The Ravages committed by the armed Vessels & the continual alarms raised by them must be very distressing to the Colony, but what would not a wise man do or suffer, to preserve his Liberty, the alone Source of human Happiness and only Security for the permanent Enjoyment of it . . . The Removal of the Stock is of great importance, & We are happy to find that proper measures are adopted for that Purpose.

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1. *The Historical Magazine* (Morrisania, N.Y., 1870), 2nd series, VIII, 45.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM A GENTLEMAN AT NORFOLK, TO THE PRINTER, DATED JANUARY 7." [1]

I doubt not you have heard before this of the furious cannonade with which the enemy opened the year. They began about 3 in the afternoon of new year's day, and continued, with very little intermission, for 9 hours. Every thing that could carry a gun, from a frigate to a boat, played against us. Under the cover of their cannon, they set fire to the town in four different places, and made several attempts to land field pieces, but were repulsed with loss. The horrow of the night exceeds description, and gives fresh occasion to lament the consequences of civil war. The thunder of artillery, the crash of falling houses, the roar of devouring flames, added to the piteous moans and piercing shrieks, of the few remaining wretched, ruined inhabitants, form the outlines of a picture too distressful to behold without a tear. I pray God I may never see the like again. We had 2 or 3 men wounded, none mortally; it is said several of the enemy were killed. The large distillery down the river was set on fire the night of the cannonade, and [Andrew] Sprowle's houses two or three nights after. In short, desolation and ruin have overspread the face of the country, and the once populous town of Norfolk now resembles, in minature the ruins of Palmyra! [2] We have met with no loss since our arrival in this place, excepting 5 men made prisoners by the enemy, nor have we had a wounded man, except 3 or 4 of a detached party, in a small skirmish the night of our arrival; besides these, we have had none hurt before or since the cannonade. I know not how long we shall stay here; at present, every thing appears in the greatest confusion.

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1. Pinkney's *Virginia Gazette,* January 20, 1776.
2. Destroyed by the Romans in 272 A.D.

JOURNAL OF THE GEORGIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

At a Special Meeting of the Council of Safety [Savannah], Sunday, January 7th, 1776.

The President informed the Board, that in consequence of information received from the secret committee, informing that two ships of war and one transport had sailed from Rebellion Road,[2] which, there was good reason to believe, was destined to this Province, in order perhaps to plunder it of life stock, &c., or to support the merchants in the exportation of produce contrary to the Continental restraints. That in consequence of this information, he looked over the list of names of members of the Council of Safety and found there would be difficulty getting a Board, and fearing the public safety would be endangered by a delay, and therefore issued the following orders.

Orders to David Zubly, John Stirk, &c., &c.

It is deemed necessary for the public safety, that a part of the militia should be draughted to do duty at and about the Town of Savannah. You are therefore ordered and required immediately to draught one third of the men in your company and to march them to Savannah by 12 o'clock to-morrow, with their arms and accoutrements and lodging apparel; for which the officers and men will be paid agreeable to a resolve of Congress.

Geo. Walton,
President of the Council of Safety.

The Board, highly approving of the conduct of the President, do resolve that the foregoing orders be valid, as if particularly directed by the Board.

Mr.[Stephen] Drayton represented that he was ready to make the report of his deputation to Charlestown, when the Board thought it proper to defer it till to-morrow morning.

A motion was made and seconded that officers be appointed to command the militia ordered upon duty by the President.

Resolved, That Samuel Elbert, Esquire, be Colonel and Chief in Command, Stephen Drayton, Esquire, Lieutenant Colonel and Second in Command, and Joseph Habersham, Esquire, Major and Third in Command, and that the President be empowered to issue and sign commissions for them.

Resolved, That sufficient number of small craft be forthwith sent down to Cockspur to lighten the Ship *Inverny*, McKenzie, Master, now riding in the road there, in order that the ship may be brought up to Savannah.

Resolved, That it be given in charge to the commanding officer at Cockspur, to use his utmost endeavours to effect this purpose, and in case he shall find it impracticable and that the vessel and cargo must otherwise fall into the hands of our enemies, that then and not till then, in order to prevent the same, he shall have power to scuttle her.

Resolved, also, That it be further given in charge to the said officer to put the ship as soon under way as possible, and that he uses the utmost dispatch in bringing her and her cargo up to Savannah.

Resolved, That the President do commissionate Peter Bard and William O'Bryan, Gentlemen, for this purpose.

Resolved, That the commanding officer at Savannah, for the time being, have power to restrain any Crown officer from going without the limits of Savannah, if he should deem it expedient.

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1. Candler, comp., *Georgia Records*, I, 86–88.
2. H.M.S. *Tamar* and H.M.S. *Cherokee*, with the *Sandwich Packet*.

8 Jan.

MEMORANDUM OF A LETTER FROM STEPHEN MOYLAN TO WILLIAM BARTLETT, BEVERLY [1]

William Bartlett Cambridge 8th Jany 1776

Answer'd his Letters of the 5 & 6th instant desired he woud purchass the Guns from Capt [John] Darby belonging to the *Lee* schooner if not he must give them to him, to be alert in fitting the vessells out &c

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1. Washington Papers, LC.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES [1]

[Watertown] Monday, January 8, 1776.

Ordered, that Mr. [Dummer] Sewall, Doctor [Asaph] Fletcher, and Capt. [Timothy] Parker, be a Committee to bring in a Bill for establishing the Fees of the Courts of Admiralty in this Colony.

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1. Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Chatham,* CAPTAIN JOHN RAYNOR [1]

January [17]76	Moored at Boston Harbour
Monday 8	at ½ past 7 PM Discover'd Some houses on Bunkers hill on fire at 9 we found the fire to be on Charles Town Neck & heard the report of Several great Guns & Platoons of Small Arms. hoisted out all the Boats & got the ships Company all under Arms and Sent the Boats Mann'd & Arm'd to row Guard between the North Battery & Charles town at 11 the fireing Ceased.

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1. PRO, Admiralty 51/192.

RHODE ISLAND COLONY COMMITTEE TO SAMUEL SOULE [1]

Sir, Providence January 8. 1776.

You being appointed Master of the Sloop *Diamond,* fitted out and laded on Account of the Colony of Rhode Island, are hereby ordered to embrace the first good Weather and Opportunity to sail from this Port to Martinique. Upon your Arrival there apply to His Excellency the Governor for Permission to sell your Cargo, and to purchase Gunpowder, small Arms, Lead, Duck, Saltpetre, Sulphur, Twine, and Flints. procure as much Powder as possible; and take Care that your Small Arms be serviceable and good. If you shall have an Opportunity of shipping your Powder from Martinique in a suitable Vessel, either for this Colony, Connecticut or the Massachusetts Bay, you are to do it; and in that Case to employ some Drogers to bring you from Dominica a sufficient Quantity of Sulphur to compleat your Loading. If you cannot procure Powder at Martinique, proceed to Guadaloupe, and there make Application and pursue the Directions above given – Should you also fail there, proceed with said Sloop to St Eustatius, and there endeavour to procure the above-mentioned Articles, and to conduct yourself as above directed. If you should be unsuccessful at those Places, proceed to Curacoa, and there lay out the Amount of your Cargo in the abovementioned Articles, giving the Preference to Powder, and Small Arms, and not exceeding 100000 Flints. It is hardly possible to suppose you will fail at all those Places, but in such Case you are to proceed to any Place you shall think proper, and take in a Lading of Salt. When you shall have loaded your Vessel you are to return immediately to this Port, or such other in the two neighbouring Colonies as you shall think best. Be careful during your being at Sea, and speak with no Vessel whatever. In general, if any Accident or any unforeseen Contingency should arise, you are to do your best for answering the Expectations of the Colony. – We wish you a good Voyage and are, Sir, [&c.]

Nicholas Cooke } Col[ony] Com[mittee]
John Jenckes }

[Endorsed] The above and foregoing is a true Copy of my Orders, and which I promise to observe

Samuel Soule

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1. Maritime Papers, Revolutionary War 1776–1781, R.I. Arch.

Governor Nicholas Cooke to the Governor of Guadeloupe [1]

Sir, Providence January 8. 1776

I did myself the Honor by Mr. Paul Allen to address myself to Your Excellency in a Letter upon the Contest between the Colonies and Great-Britain. Lest that Letter Should by Some Misfortune fail of being put into Your Hands, I now Subjoin a Copy of it by Capt. Samuel Soule, who goes by Permission to Guadaloupe, to purchase Powder and warlike Stores, and whom I beg Leave to recommend to Your Protection.

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1. "Nicholas Cooke Correspondence," *AAS Proceedings,* New Series, XXXVI, 299.

Journal of the Rhode Island General Assembly [1]

Providence [January 8] 1776.

It is voted and resolved, that Capt. John Grimes be commander of the row-galley, to be fitted out, at the wages of £9, lawful money, per month, to commence from this day; and to be commodore of both row-gallies.

That the wages of Capt. Benjamin Page be raised to £9, lawful money, per month, commencing from this time.

That each of the said gallies be manned with fifty men, including officers; and that Thomas Arnold, of East Greenwich, be appointed first lieutenant; Samuel Vial, of Rehoboth, second lieutenant; and John Kelton, of Providence, master of said row-galley.

It is voted and resolved that Mr. Samuel Westcoat be chosen and appointed first lieutenant of the row-galley, commanded by Capt. John Grimes, in the room of Thomas Arnold, who refuses; and that Mr. Francis Bradfield be appointed master of said row-galley, in the room of John Kelton, who refuses.

Whereas, Ambrose Page, Esq., who was appointed to build two row-gallies, for the service of the colony, laid before this Assembly, an account, by him charged against the colony, for materials by him furnished, and for his time in attending said business; and the said account having been duly examined by Mr. Nathaniel Mumford, Thomas Greene and Gideon Mumford, Esqs., who reported a balance of £380 12s.2d., lawful money, due to the said Ambrose Page; which being considered by this Assembly, –

It is voted and resolved, that the said report be, and the same is hereby, accepted; and that said balance be paid the said Ambrose Page, out of the general treasury.

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1. John Russell Bartlett, ed., *Records of the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations* (Providence, 1862), VII, 410–15. Hereafter cited as Bartlett, ed., *Records of Rhode Island.*

JOURNAL OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO BUILD TWO CONTINENTAL FRIGATES IN RHODE ISLAND[1]

Providence January 8th 1776

At a Meeting of the Committee appointed to Build two ships for the Service of the Continent of America

Present the Honble Nicholas Cooke Esqr

Nicholas Brown
Joseph Russell
Joseph Brown
John Brown
John Smith
William Russell
Daniel Tillinghast
John Innis Clarke
Joseph Nightingale
Jabez Bowen[2]

Voted. That the Honorable Nicholas Cooke Esqr be Chairman of this Committee, and Henry Ward Esqr Clerk

Voted. That Jabez Bowen be Clerke pro tempore

Whereas there is a quantity of ship timber now at Pautaucket landing. Tis voted that Jonathan Jenckes Esqr be imployed to go to the people that own the same, and purchase it on the best terms he can and that he get as much of it to be Delivered in Town as possible, the Remainder he is to get carted as soon as practicable, and on as reasonable terms as may be, that he purchase One Hundd Tons of Timber more to consist mostly of Floor and rising Timber and plank loggs on the best termes he can to be delivered in Providence immediately. –

Voted. that Capt Barnard Eddy be imployed to get the Keel, stem, stern post and Transom for the largest of the ships and that he procure the same to be carted as soon as possible. That he agree for the said Timber on the most reasonable termes he can, and that he take as many good Carpenters and Ax men as he may think he can imploy to advantage, and also that he get any other kind of timber that may be wanted for the Building the said ships. –

Voted. That Capt Nicholas Power go to Newport and engage all the pine timber that will do to saw into plank and all the spars and plank that will answer for the ships. that he engages all the ship Carpteners in Warren and Newport also that he procure as much Locust for Trennils as he can, that he endeavour to get Major Benjamin Tolman to leave the service to engage in Building the Ships, and that he procure a proper person to get the Timber and sparrs brot off the Island as soon as possible that he call on Mr Langly and purchase the Boards he has now in this Town, and that he engage all the Navel Stores that are to be sold in Newport

Voted. That Coll Wm Russell go to Warren and engage Mr M[oses] Tyler or any other suitable person to come to Providence for a Master Builder to carry on one of the ships, also that he go to Swanzey and engage all the Carpenters and plank he can. –

Voted. That there be 25,000 feet plank of 2½ Inches engaged as soon as may be. –

Voted. That the Runing plank under the Whale be four Inches thick. –

Reckoning 12/ LMy paid by John Brown. –[3]

Meeting adjourn'd to morrow Evening 6 o'clock this place

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1. Journal of the Committee who built the Ships *Providence* and *Warren* for the United States AD 1776, RIHS. Hereafter cited as Journal R.I. Frigates, RIHS.
2. Names of committee members attending each meeting are recorded in the Journal. The names, however, will be omitted from subsequent Journal entries appearing in this Volume.
3. *Ibid.*, the "Reckoning" represented cost of refreshments consumed by the committee and seems to have been paid by one of the members, who, perhaps, collected later from the others. As the meetings continued, the recording of the amount expended dropped the name of the payer, and, eventually, even the amount of the bill.

JOURNAL OF H. M. S. *Rose,* CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE [1]

January 1776	Moor'd in Rhode Island Harbour
Monday 8	AM at 11 was taken in the Jolly Boat by the Rebels Mr Henry Stevenson and 2 Seamen.

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1. PRO, Admiralty 51/804.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Swan,* CAPTAIN JAMES AYSCOUGH [1]

Jany 1776	Single Anchor of[f] Warwick Point
Mondy 8	½ past 3 [P.M.] hove up the Bt Br and came to sail turning to Windward spoke with the Tender belonging to the *Glasgow* from Boston Bore away running up Conanicut fird at the Rebbels 14 teen 6 Pounders Shotted and 4 Swivels at 5 P M Came too off Warwick Point in 3 fms water with the Bt Bower it Bearing N B W Prudence E to N West off Shore 2 Miles handed Sails and Veerd to half Cable

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1. PRO, Admiralty 51/960.

JOSEPH DENISON TO GEORGE WASHINGTON [1]

Sir Stonington January 8th 1776–

The Comte of Correspondence & Safety in this place, to whose Consideration Your Excellency, by letter dated the 27th of Novr last was pleased to refer the Affair of one [John] Denny, and his captur'd Vessel [2] & Cargo; having on the first of December transmitted to You Their Proceedings relative thereto; beg leave now to report further – that (having notified all Persons concern'd) after a full hearing & careful Examination & Enquiry of the several Evidences before us, (consisting of People on Board said Vessel when Taken, and of the neighbours suppos'd best acquainted with the Character of Sd Denny and one Buddington who, for some Reasons weare suspected of being toryistical) cannot Find that Either of them have adopted or pursued any measure really inimical to America, or in any thing acted a Part so obnoxious, but that they, upon paving the necessary and Occasional Charges, might without further Delay or Trouble have said Vessel & Cargo Restor'd to them – unless the mere Act of Sd Denny's availing himself & being Possess'd of the inclosed Certificate & Clearance, when taken, should be deem'd a Sufficient Bar in the Way; relative to which, the Bearer is desir'd to wait and Receive Your Excellencys Resolution & Commands. From [&c.]

By order of the [Stonington] Committee

Joseph Denison Chairman

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1. Washington Papers, LC.
2. The sloop *Warren* was taken in November, 1775, by Washington's schooner *Hancock,* Nicholson Broughton, and *Franklin,* John Selman. See Volume 2.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. TO JOSEPH TRUMBULL [1]

Dear Sir New London January 8 1776

Agreable to your Directions I have taken all the Flower that is come to hand paid ⅓ frt wich is Customary from N York to this Port – a Small Sloop Load Mr [Thomas] Mumford has taken and paid the Skipper ⅙ frt by whose order I know not & is Shipt it for the West Indias his giving ⅙ has made sum trouble among the others that brought – shall Send it up to Norwich as Soon as the River Opens – The Powder I Mentioned to have Arived att the Eastward is Near Four Thousand & the Governour has given me orders to Deliver it to Governor [Nicholas] Cook[e] att Providence I hope [soon to have Sum more all Accots from the West Indias Agree that a Great Number of our Vessels are safe arrived] Dunmore on Board his Ship – hope our Navy will Soon give sum Accott of him. I am Dear Sir [&c.]

Nath^{l} Shaw Jun^{r}

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1. Joseph Trumbull Papers, ConnHS.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

[New York] Die Lunae, 3 o'clock P.M. Jany. 8th, 1776.

Whereas Mr. Isaac Governeur has imported into this Colony 465 quarter casks, contain 116 cwt. and 25 lb. of gun-powder, and by Mr. William Cannon, his consignatory, sold the same to this Committee, for public use: And Whereas the Honble. the Continental Congress by their resolve of the 15th day of July last past, that every vessel importing gunpowder within nine months from the date thereof, shall be permitted to load and export the produce of those Colonies to the value of such gunpowder; and it is thereby recommended to the Committees of the several Provinces to inspect the military stores so imported, and to estimate a generous price for the same according to their goodness, and permit the importer of such powder to export the value thereof and no more, in produce of any kind: the Committee having by some of their members and other persons, inspected the said gunpowder, do estimate the same at the value of £30 New-York money per ton, and do hereby permit Mr. Isaac Governeur, by Mr. Wm. Cannon his agent, to export the value thereof at that estimate, to wit: the amount of the sum of £3,487 10s.0d. New-York money, and no more, in produce of any kind which he may think proper.

[1] *New York Provincial Congress,* I, 241.

Journal of the Continental Congress [1]

[Philadelphia] Monday, January 8, 1776

The Congress, taking into consideration the report of the Committee on General Schuyler's letters, thereupon came to the following resolutions:

Resolved, That shipwrights be immediately sent from New York and Philadelphia to General Schuyler, or the Commander in chief of the forces at Ticonderoga, to be employed by him in constructing a number of batteaus, not exceding one hundred, for transporting troops, with their baggage, from that place into Canada, whenever it may be found necessary.

That a sufficient number of suitable men be engaged for rowing said batteaus; and that a large quantity of provisions and stores be sent this winter to fort George.

That General Schuyler be desired to have the river St. Lawrence, above and below Quebec, well explored, and to determine upon proper places, for opposing, by armed boats or otherwise, any attempts of the enemy to penetrate that country by the river; and that he give order for constructing speedily as many such boats as he shall judge necessary.

That two shipwrights be immediately sent from Philadelphia, to be employed under the direction of the committee of inspection at Albany, in constructing scows for facilitating the passage over Hudson's river.

Information being given to Congress, that about 57 tons of salt petre were arrived in Philadelphia, and about 15 tons of powder at New York, for sale:

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be directed to treat for the purchase of the salt petre, and enquire how it may be most speedily manufacturered into powder, and report to Congress.

That Mr. P[hilip] Livington, Mr. [John] Alsop, Mr.[John] Jay, and Mr. [Francis] Lewis, be directed to purchase, on the best terms they can, for the use of the United Colonies, the powder arrived at New York, and forward the same, with all possible expedition, under guard, to the camp at Cambridge.

[1] Ford, ed., *JCC,* IV, 37–41.

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH [1]

[Philadelphia] Monday 8 January Votes of Saturday read as were letters from Gens [Philip] Schuyler and [Richard] Montgomery, the latter, it seems, was before Quebec the 5th of Decr & expects Success in his intended Storm, he demands 10,000 Men to defend Canada . . . Gadsden moved and was seconded by Me that Col [Benedict] Arnold may be made a Brigadier Gen. and receive the Thanks of the Congress for his extraordinary March from Cambridge to Quebec & for his other Spirited Exertions, this was debated & put off till Tomorrow – The Kings Speech of the 27th of October (1775) arrived to day as did a Report that a large Fleet was seen at Sea with 5000 Troops on Board, but some think this premature – An Express came with Letters from Baltimore informg. that Ld Dunmore has Destroyed the Town of Norfolk in Virginia – 300 Barrels of Powder just arrived at New York as did 8 Ton the Week before – 50 or 60 Tons of Saltpetre arrived here at Phila in [Thomas] Masons Vessel –

[1] Richard Smith's Diary, LC.

DIARY OF CHRISTOPHER MARSHALL [1]

[Philadelphia] Janry 8th 1776

. . . this morning arrived via New-york the Kings Speech to both houses of Parliament 27th Octr 1775 also accot of 300 large bbs of Gun Powder Landed not far from New york to the Eastward, . . . this afternoon News Came of the Schoner, *Charming Polly*'s Arrival at ches[ter,] with 60 Tunn of Salt Petre, & Sloop *Tryal* with 1000 lbs of Powder –

[1] Diary of Christopher Marshall, HSP.

JOSEPH HEWES TO ROBERT SMITH [1]

Dr Sir [Philadelphia, January 8, 1776] [2]

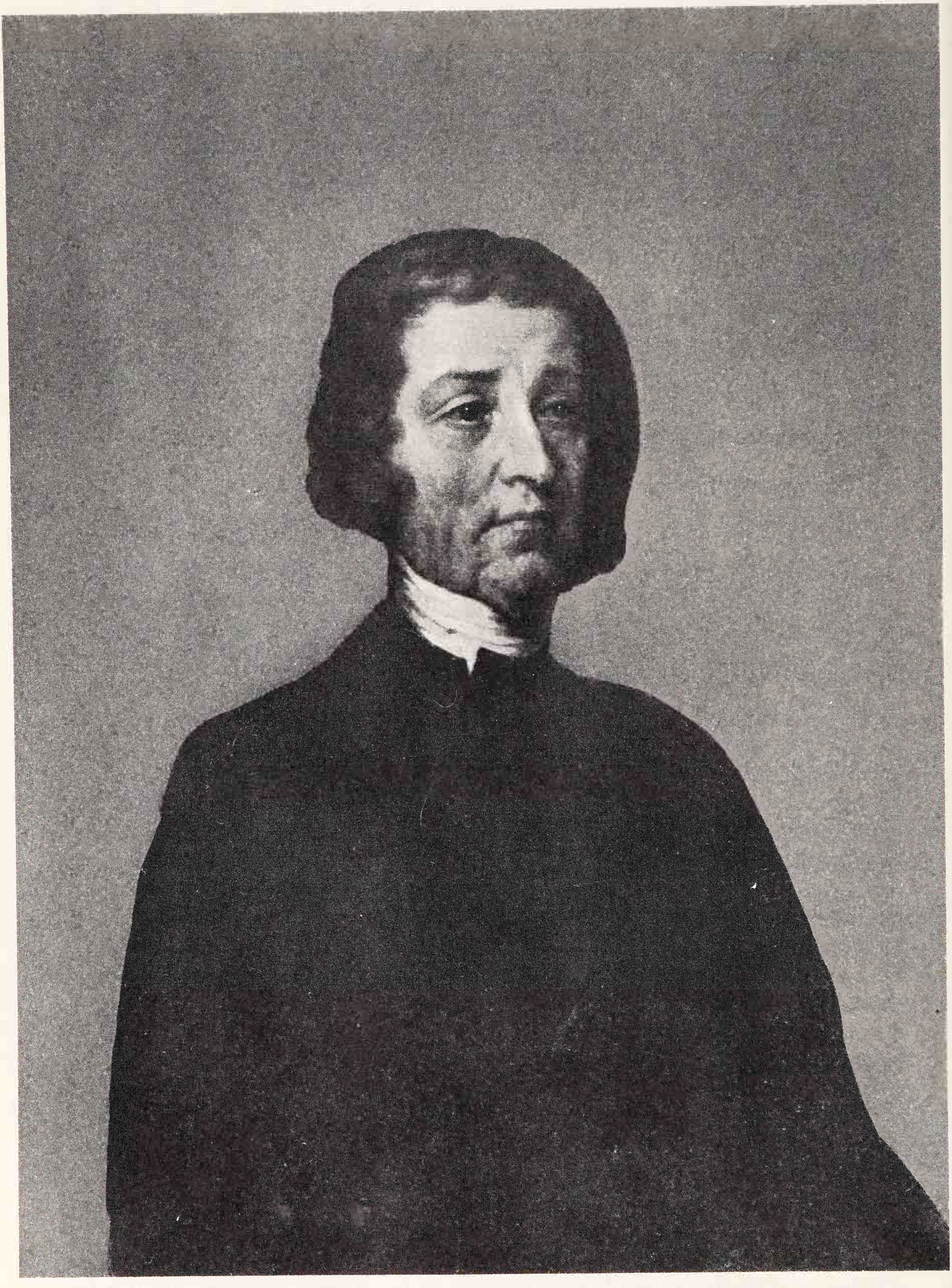
Since I wrote yesterday, Several Vessels have Arived from one of the foreign Islands and brought in Seven Tons of Powder the Master of one of them informs that he left fifteen sails of Vessels all waiting for that Article, that they had the fullest assurance that 150 Tons were hourly expected at those Islands which had been sent for on purpose to supply the Americans. another Vessel is Just Arived in the River from old France with near 60 Tons of Salt Petre,[3] We have recd Letters from Gen. [Richard] Montgomery and Col. [Benedict] Arnold dated 16 decr informing us they had sat down before Quebec and were in hopes of taking it in a few days

[1] Hayes Manuscripts, NCDAH.
[2] Date established by his letter of January 7.
[3] Hewes here repeats in slightly different words, what he had already written in his January 7 letter.

FRANCIS LIGHTFOOT LEE TO RICHARD HENRY LEE [1]

[Extract] [Philadelphia, January 8, 1776] [2]

. . . You have seen the King's speech, which you wou'd suppose, must convince everybody of the bloody intentions of the King & Ministry, but it is far



Josiah Bartlett.

from being the case in this City; for there is a certain Ld Drumond who perswades the Fools who are gaping after a reconciliation, that he is in the secrets of the inner Cabinet, that the sincere wish is, to make up with America, upon her own terms, that even Ld Mansfield is a warm friend to our Cause. All this is so absurd, that you will say, none but rank tories can pretend to beleive it & so shou'd I, did I not find the contrary, for you may be assured that many friends & well meaning people are taken in & wish loudly for Congress to send deputies home. indeed I am not without my fears, that Congress May be somewhat affected. Thursday a motion was made to grave this measure, by myself & some others. You shou'd be here as soon as possible, I mean with tolerable convenience to yourself, for I see no prospect of the Congress adjourning. nine batallions are order'd for Canada, to march as quickly as they can be raised,[3] [John] Bull's & [William] Maxwell's are two of them who go off directly. [Richard] Montgomeries last Letter informs us of his being before Quebec, & confident of success. We have recd 57 tons of salt petre & 30 tons of powder, & have intelligence of a vessell with 15 tons & 2000 stand of arms which is every day expected [illegible] Yr fleet is not yet out of the River but I beleive thay have now no obstruction, tho Virga I beleive will not receive any benefit, as the pilots are sent home. Norfolk we hear is destroyd, but we are anxious to know the fate of the troops there. God bless you farewell

F. L. Lee

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1. Lee Papers, UVL.
2. The date is established by the contents of the letter.
3. Resolution of January 8, 1776.

JOSIAH BARTLETT TO JOHN LANGDON [1]

Sir, Philadelphia Jan 8th 1776.

The Congress have ordered the Secret Committee to purchase and bring in for the use of the Navy and Army sundry articles which were under consideration before you left the Congress. At my request, the Committee have directed me to inform you, that they are willing one vessel should be sent from our Colony for that purpose if a proper loading for the European market, such as fish, potash, bee's wax &c can be purchased reasonable.

If you think it will answer and agree to send, you may charter a vessel and procure a loading, and forthwith inform the Committee that they may direct what goods and the quantities you are to send for, and remit you the money to pay for the cargo: this will be of the same nature of your former contract.

Your friend Wharton tells me he has some money in the hands of Mr.Tracy of Newburyport, for which he is willing to draw and receive the money here, which will save some expense of conveyance. I think seven or eight hundred pounds L.M:

You will see the necessity of this Committee's being informed of your determination on this affair as speedily as possible.

Last Saturday [January 6] Major Patton's brig arrived with above fifty tons of salt petre, and a few days before another vessel brought 3 tons and a half of powder.

Our fleet fell down the river the latter end of the week.

Please to inform me of the present Situation of our Colony affairs and don't forget to put our Convention in mind to send somebody here to relieve me as soon as convenient.

I am [&c.] Josiah Bartlett

January 9th I have now a proper agreement drawn which – now enclose; if you like it, you will sign it and forward it back as soon as possible. You will give orders concerning the money to be remitted to you. Yours ut Supra

J. B.

N B. 23 tons of powder arrived at New York.

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1. William Whipple Papers, Force Transcripts, LC. Bartlett was a New Hampshire delegate in the Continental Congress.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE [1]

At a Meeting of the Committee 8 Jany 1776

Upon Motion Resolved, That no Person shall, after the Publication hereof, & under any Pretence or Direction whatever, presume to load any Vessell, or, after being loaded, shall attempt to depart this Port, without proper Permits from this Committee, as they shall answer to the contrary –

Ordered, That the above be published in the Papers –

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1. Baltimore Committee, LC.

ARCHIBALD BUCHANAN TO THOMAS JOHNSON, JR., ANNAPOLIS [1]

Sir Baltimore Town January 8. 1776.

Inclosed you have the Invoice and Bill of Loading for [James] Tibbett's Cargo, I keep a Copy of the Cargoe and have not added up the Invoice sent. I suppose it not necessary until a settlement, I shall very soon be done with Your Commission If you have any thing else shoud be glad, I suppose the Capns will have their order soon as I immagine the Sloop is near ready. I am Sir [&c.]

Arch^d Buchanan

[Endorsed] 1258
128 138.6
440
———
1826

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1. Executive Papers, Box 1, Md. Arch.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO CAPTAIN ISAAC VANBEBBER [1]

Sr Annapo 8 Jany 1776.

You are to proceed in the *Rachel* Capt [James] Tibbet to the Island of St. Austatia her Cargoe as well as that of the Brig *Hannah* Capt Elijah Luce and as that of the Brig *Fortune* Capt Moore are consigned to you The *Rachel*s Cargoe will probably not be on Account of our province if not then as to that Mr Wm Lux is to direct but the Cargoes of the *Hannah* & *Fortune* and if no Direction from Mr Lux then the Cargoe of the *Rachel* are to be sold by you either at Statia or where else you may think most to the Interest of the province all three of the Vessels being bound to land at three different foreign ports in the West Indies the Sale to be at any of them – You are to have 5 pCt on the Sales and 5 pCt. on the Returns and remit the proceeds in the Articles mentioned in the inclosed – From the Confidence we have in your Ability and Inclination to perform this Service so essential to your Country we think it unnecessary to be more particular

[Endorsed] List of the same Articles inclosed as ordered by Mr [Richard] Harrison [e]xcept the Quantities not mentioned and also Dr [Frederick] Weisenthals List of Medicines. –

1. Executive Papers, Box 1, Md. Arch.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA CONVENTION [1]

[Williamsburg] Monday, January 8, 1776.

The President laid before the Convention, for their opinion, the cases of two vessels taken by capt. Richard Barron in Hampton roads, and carried up York river. The first is the brig *Fanny*, the property of Joseph Hughes [Hewes] Esqr. of North Carolina, whereof John Cunningham is master; who, being examined, declares, that he sailed about a year ago with the said brig from North Carolina, with instructions from his owner to land her cargo in the island of Antigua,[2] and there or elsewhere to take any freights that might offer, that, having landed his cargo accordingly, he took a freight to Grenada, and from thence another to Cork in Ireland, where he was offered a freight to Boston, in government service, which he refused; that he was likewise offered a freight in the same service to Gibraltar, which he would have accepted, but the contractor declined employing him, not caring, as he said, to trust an American; upon which he would have returned to North Carolina in ballast, but a man of war arriving, he was informed that all American vessels would be stopped, to evade which he agreed to accept a freight of provisions from government for the troops at Boston; that he sailed from Cork the 18th of October, in company with seven sail of transports, with three regiments of soldiers destined for Quebec, as he was told, whom he parted with the night after he sailed; that, having sprung his mast, he came into the capes, intending to Norfolk, to get a new one, and then to proceed to Boston, but was taken on his way to Norfolk by capt. Barron; that he shipped one Mr. Wogan, a native of Capel in Ireland, who took his passage for Boston, to collect some money there, and then to proceed to Philadelphia, as he said; that by the bills of lading, dockets, and intercepted letters, it appears the cargo of the said vessel is as followeth, on government account 1050 barrels of pork, 400 firkins of butter, 4 half-barrels of tongues, 2 hhds. and four hampers of potatoes, and one barrel of parsnips; and, on private account, and designed as presents for the officers in Boston, several parcels of beef, butter, cheese, tongues and potatoes.

The other vessel is the brig *Industry,* James Sampson master, an inhabitant of Philadelphia, from whence he had gone to sea many years in the employ of Messrs. James and Drinker, merchants in that city; that, about five years ago, he sailed from thence in the said brig, whereof himself, his mate, William Simpson, and Laundrice Cuthbert of Pennsylvania, are owners, and has been trading in many ports, chiefly in the Mediterranean sea, till lately, when, inclining to return, he came to the island of Grenada, with intention to take a freight from thence to Philadelphia; but being told a man of war at Newcastle would prevent his passage to that city, and that the port of Norfolk in this colony was open, he engaged the following freight for Norfolk, to wit: 25 puncheons of rum for Messrs. Kerr and company, and 10 hhds. of rum and 2 hhds. of sugar for Messrs. Roper & Boyd; and also laded on board 65 hhds. of rum, 3 barrels of sugar, 2 casks of Malaga wine, and 5 or 6 blankets, the manufacture of Tunis, which are the property of himself and mate. Upon consideration whereof, the Convention are of opinion, and do resolve, that the cargo on board the brig *Fanny* is lawful prize, and justly forfeited to this colony, and that the same be disposed of under the direction of the Committee of Safety. And that the brig *Industry* and her cargo shall not be water-borne below Cumberland town, where the same now is.

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1. *Virginia Convention,* 89.
2. The brig *Fanny,* 90 tons, John Cunningham, master, cleared the Port of Roanoke (Edenton) for Antigua on December 30, 1774, with a cargo of 20,000 shingles and 70,000 staves and headings, Port of Roanoke Records, Appendix B, Volume 2.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Otter*, CAPTAIN MATTHEW SQUIRE [1]

January 1776 Elizabeth River [Virginia]

Monday 8 A M Received water by the long boat cleard hawse at 10 P M perceived the Mills to be on fire. Fired several six Pounders & dispersed the Rebels.

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1. PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

In the Council of Safety
[Charleston] Monday, Jan. 8th, 1776.

Read a letter from the Committee at George-Town, dated 6th January 1776

The chairman of the committee of observation reported that the result of an inquiry, in consequence of an information laid before this board last Saturday, and referred to them, was, That one of the scooners informed against had passed through Wappoo last Tuesday, after having taken in some beef, butter, and other provisions here, and about fifty barrels of flour at Mr. Wm. Glen's landing at Wappoo, delivered by Mr. Glen's cooper there, to William Gickie, who went in the vessel. That this scooner is the same which, having gone to sea through Stono inlet, appeared on Friday morning among the ships-of-war in Rebellion-Road; and which, after delivering her cargo to them, had been dismissed, and stopt at Fort Johnson. And that the other scooner now lies at Mr. Champney's wharf, is bound to Georgia, to carry some furniture and flour, together with the owner, Mr. Wm. Wayne, who is also owner of the former scooner.

Upon an application by the Hon. Capt. W. H. Drayton,

Ordered, That eighteen cutlasses be delivered, for the use of the ship *Prosper,* out of the armory by Mr. Calvert.

Read a letter from Capt. Edward Blake, for permission to load a vessel for Bermuda, and another on the public account for the foreign islands.

Ordered, That Capt Blake have permission to load both vessels accordingly.

Ordered, That Mr. William Glen be summoned to attend this Council immediately

Mr. William Wayne made application for permission to send a scooner to Georgia, with some household goods and flour. Which was refused.

Ordered, That the flour laden on board said scooner be relanded. Mr. Wayne being questioned relative to the schooner wherein William Gickie had conveyed provisions to the men-of-war, he acknowledged that he owned the vessel, and that he had hired her to Mr. Gickie, at ten pounds a day, to go to Georgia; but declared that he was not only entirely ignorant of, but did not even suspect his intentions; and that he had received no part of the hire.

He also declared, that till this day he was ignorant of the necessity of applying for a permit to go to Georgia, whither he intended going for the recovery of a debt due him.

Mr. Glen attended, according to order, and being questioned if he had sold flour and butter, and delivered it at his landing in Wappoo creek, on board a scooner of Mr. Wayne's, to William Gickie, he declared that he had sold him sixteen kegs of butter and forty-seven barrels of flour, and that the latter were delivered from his plantation, whither he had removed many articles for safety; but that he did not imagine Gickie was going to the men-of-war, but to Georgia, and accordingly delivered to him a letter for his son at Savannah.

Whereas, the Continental Congress did, on the 1st day of November last, resolve, "That no produce of the United Colonies should be exported, except from colony to colony, under the direction of the committees of inspection and observation, and except from one part of the same colony." The more effectually to prevent any violation of the said resolve,

Ordered, That no committee do suffer the loading of any vessel in any creek, river, bay or harbour in this colony, for any other colony, without a permit first obtained from this Council.

Ordered, That the secretary do forthwith cause the above order to be printed and published in hand bills.

Mr. [John]Rutledge, from the committee to inquire and report what further measures are necessary to be pursued for the better securing and defending this port and harbour, reported that the said committee having viewed the battery erecting to the westward of Fort Johnson, they found that work went on very slowly. and that, having also viewed Sullivan's Island, they were of opinion that possession thereof ought to be taken, and a strong fort and battery erected thereon, – and recommended that Col. [Owen] Roberts might be consulted on this occasion.

Ordered, That Col. Roberts be desired to attend this board to-morrow morning.

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1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society,* III, 154–57.

JOURNAL OF THE GEORGIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

At a meeting of the Council of Safety [Savannah], Monday, Jan. 8th, 1776.

Stephen Drayton and William Ewen, Esquires, deputies appointed by this Board to make a representation of the state of this Province to the Council of Safety in South Carolina, and to confer with them on the subject of exportation, having returned, attended and made their report.

Resolved, that no rice shall be exported from this Province after this day, until the first day of March next, except such as was shipped previous to the arrival of the prohibition by the Continental Congress, and not then, without permission by this Board.

Resolved, That the President do write to the Council of Safety in Carolina and represent the particular circumstances of the vessel and cargo lately taken and carried to Beaufort by their order; and that he request that the same may be returned to this Province; and that he pledges the faith of the Province that she shall not sail with her cargo contrary to the Laws of Congress.

Resolved, That the President do write to the committee for the Parish of Saint John, requiring that they use the utmost vigilance in watching the motions of the pilots for the harbour of Sunbury; and that, in particular they send for Captain William Lyford, and question him as to his piloting into any port in this Province any ship or vessel of war of our enemies, and that they take such steps with him, if he appears inimical to the common interest, as will be a sufficient security against his aiding our enemies.

[1] Candler, comp., *Georgia Records,* I, 89–91.

ORDNANCE STORES FROM ST. AUGUSTINE FOR H.M. SLOOP *Tamar* AND H.M. ARMED SHIP *Cherokee* [1]

Office of Ordnance
East Florida 8th Janury 1776

We do hereby Certify the Undermentioned Stores have been delivered to Captain [John] Graves of His Majestys Schooner *St Laurence,* for use of His Majesty's Ships the *Tamer* and *Cherokee,* Pursuant to His Excellency Governor [Patrick] Tonyn's Order of this date.

Vizt

Corn'd Powder	W.B	Thirteen.
Copper Hoops on do		Fifty two.
Cartridges Paper	6 prs	Three hundred.
Match Slow	lbs	Two hundred.
Musquet Cartridge Paper	Quirs	Two.

Humbly Certified

Jn° Kenward
Ordnance Storekeeper

Thomas W B Hall
Clerk of Survey and Cheque.

[Endorsed] In Govr Tonyn's (No 37) of 14th Jany 1776

[1] PRO, Colonial Office, 5/556, 211.

9 Jan.

CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES [1]

Sir *Roebuck* at Halifax 9th Jany 1776

I beg leave to acquaint you, that the Boatswain of His Majestys Ship under my command has been confined and Suspended from duty ever since the 1st of December last, being charged by Lieutt [John] Orde with disobedience of orders, contempt to his Superior officer, and using mutinous expressions

I therefore beg the favour you will please to Order a Courtmartial to be held upon him when opportunity offers. I have the honor [&c.]

A S Hamond

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[1] Hamond Letter Book, 1771–1777, UVL.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES [1]

[Watertown] Tuesday, January 9, 1776.

The Committee on the Petition of Capt. John Bunker, read Jan. 5th, reported. Read and accepted.

Whereas, Mr. John Bunker and others, did on the 24th Day of Nov. last, at Mount-Desert, take a Schooner called the *Falmouth-Packett,* Isaac Danks, Master, laden with live Stock, Butter, Cheese, Sauce &c. and in our Enemies Service bound to Boston; and said Bunker, not knowing any Provision made in such Cases, delivered said Schooner and Cargo in the Hands of the Committee of Goldsborough, till he should have the Order of this Court thereon:

Therefore, *Resolved,* That the Committee of Goldsborough be, and they hereby are directed to deliver said Schooner with her Cargo, or the proceeds thereof, if the same or any Part thereof hath been disposed of by said Committee, as also the Papers and Appurt[e]nances to her belonging, unto the said John Bunker, that said Vessel may be brought to Trial at some Court of (A) Admiralty, erected by the General Court of this Colony, B.

Afternoon.

Jedediah Foster, Esq; brought down the Resolve of this House on the Petition of Capt. John Bunker, with the following Vote of Council thereon, *viz.*

In Council, January 9, 1776.

Read and concurr'd, with the Amendments at A and B, *viz.* At A dele *Admiralty,* and insert *Justice,* and at B insert, *to try the Capture of Vessels.*

Read and concurred.

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[1] Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M. SCHOONER *Halifax* [1]

January 1776 Remarks &c in Boston Harbour

Monday 8 [A.M.]Empd getting ready for Sea The *Mercury* Anchord Here Returnd Her Streem Anchor to Her

The 1st and Middle parts Light Airs and fair W Latter fresh Breezes & Hazey w Rain at times at 3 P M weighd and Came to sail at 5 Came too wt the Sml Br off the N W pt of Long Island the Eastmost head bearing E S E about ½ a Mile Veerd to ⅓ of a Cable at ½ past saw a large fire and heard the report of Cannon and Musquetry which we took to be an Attack at Bunkers Hill at 11 weighd and Came to sail to wards Boston at ½ past Came too off Bird Island Veerd to ⅓ of a Cable sent the Boat on bd the *Preston*

Tuesday 9 at ½ past 1 the firing Ceased and the boat returnd, brought an Acct that the Rebels had Sett fire to some Mills near Charlestown

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1775.

JOURNAL OF H.M. BRIG *Bolton*, LIEUTENANT THOMAS GRAVES [1]

January 1776 At Anchor abreast of Cannanicut Island

Tuesday 9 at 8 AM unmoored – ½ past Weigh'd Small Br & came to sail in Compy the Tenders of the *Rose* and *Nautilus.* at ½ past 9 came too under Cannanicut Island.

First part mode & hazy Wr middle little winds & thick foggy Wr latter hard gales & Squally with Do

at ½ P M weighed & came to sail, at ½ past 1 abreast the upper end of Cannanicutt sent the *Rose*s Tender, to cut a Sloop out from under the Main. at 2 came too abreast of Hope Island in 6 fm water. Do sent our Boats on Shore to get some hay. at ½ past 3 weigh'd & came to sail at 5 came too off the North side of Patience Island. at ½ past the *Swan* and Tenders join'd us, with the prize, a number of Rebels firing on us, out of the Houses in Warwick Neck, hove several Shot among them.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4127.

JOURNAL OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO BUILD TWO CONTINENTAL FRIGATES IN RHODE ISLAND [1]

[Providence] Jany 9 1776

Meeting in being according to Adjournment.

Voted. – That Mr John Smith procure all the ship carpen[ters] ship Timber and Plank he possibly can, and the [*sic* that] he imploy a proper person to go to Marshfield &c. to engage what carpenters are out of imploy there.

Voted. That Capt Christopher Sheldon and Par[d]on Sheldon be appointed Clerks to take an Account of all the Timb[er,] plank, Iron &c that shall be brought into the ship yard and that Nicholas Brown, Joseph Nightingale & Jabez Bowen be a Committee to agree with them for their wages and also that they agree with Christr Sheldon, Thurbers & Cahoon, Capt Jos.Tillinghast, John Aplins Guarde[e]ns Mr Ebenezer Thompson for the lands that may be wanted to Build the ships on and lay the Timber. –

Voted. That Joseph Brown and John J. Clarke be appointed a committee to agree with Messrs Joseph & Daniel Bucklin on the Terms that they will undertake the Blockmakers Bills for the Ships. –

Voted. That John Brown & Joseph Nightingale be a committee to enquire on what terms the Blacksmiths work coud be done for the ships.

Voted. That Jabez Bowen & John I. Clarke be a committee to agree with the Boat Builders for the Boats that may be wanted for the Ships.

Voted. That eighteen shillings P Ton be given for all ship Timber that will measure 12 Inches square at the top end and to be 40 feet in length and 20/P Ton if 46 feet long & 12 Inches at Top, and 15/ for all timber that shall be 12 Inches square and 25 feet long, and 16/ for 30 feet long and 17/ for 35 feet Long. –

Memorandum. Messrs Brown & Power agree to furnish the riging for one of the Ships certain, and as much more as they can make for the other @ 54/pr Hundred. –

Voted. That Messrs Clarke & Nightingale send for Ten Tons of Sterling Barr Iron to New York for the Use of the ships at the risque of the Continent. –

Reckoning 12/ LMy paid by John Brown. –

Meeting adjourned to morrow evening 6 o'clock. –

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1. Journal R. I. Frigates, RIHS.

Minutes of the Connecticut Council of Safety [1]

At a meeting of the Governor and Council of Safety,
[Lebanon] Tuesday 9th January, 1776.

The subject of building or purchasing [a vessel] to be arm'd for defence &c. according to the resolve of the Assembly, in addition to the one lately purchased by order of said Assembly of Cap. Gregg [*sic* John Griggs], was considered &c., and on the question, voted, that the vessel to be built or purchased for said purpose be of not less than 200 tons burden.

And then voted, That Benja. Huntington, Esqr, and Cap. Seth Harding be a committee to repair forthwith to Middletown and other towns on the river, and such other places as they shall find necessary, and make dilligent enquiries, whether and where such warlike vessel fit and suitable for the service designed can be purchased and obtained, and how and on what terms and conditions, and also where such vessel can best and most advantageously be built for that purpose, and by whom and on what terms, and to make report of whatever they may find and judge to be advantageous for promoting said service to the Governor and this Committee as soon as possible. *And copy given.*

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1. Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut Records,* XV, 223–24.

Minutes of the New York Committee of Safety [1]

[New York] Die Martis, 10 HO. A.M. Jany. 9th, 1776.

Whereas full information has been given to this committee by Capt. Nat. Tyler of this city, and sundry other witnesses that Lieut. Edward Tyler [2] an officer of the Continental army now a prisoner on board the ship *Asia,* had planned a method to escape from thence, and for the purpose of effecting his escape delivered a letter to Lawrence Hartwick directed to James Tyler of New York, and that the said Lawrence Hartwick betraying the trust reposed in him, had delivered the said letter to Capt. George Vandeput, whereby the said prisoner was prevented from making his escape: And Whereas this Committee has also been informed by the same witnesses that the said Lawrence Hartwick affirms that he will continue to go on board the King's ships of war without leave of any chairman, contrary to the order of the Provincial Congress of this Colony, and made many other declarations highly inimical to the measures purused by the inhabitants of the American Colonies for the defence of their liberties; thereupon a draft of a warrant to Capt. Nat. Tyler was read and approved, and is in the words following, to wit:

In Committee of Safety, for the Colony of New-York, During the recess of the Provincial Congress, Janүy. 9th, 1776.

Whereas full information has been given to this Committee, that Lawrence Hartwick betrayed a trust reposed in him by Lieut. Edward Tyler, an officer of the Continental army, now a prisoner on board the ship *Asia*; And Whereas further information has been given to this Committee that of other particular conduct and declarations of the said Lawrence Hartwick, highly inimical to the present measures pursued by the inhabitants of the American Colonies for the defence of their liberties: Therefore,

Ordered, That the said Lawrence Hartwick be apprehended by Capt. Natl. Tyler or by any other militia officer of this city, with a sufficient guard for that purpose, and carried to the guard house at the upper barracks in this city, and there confined until the further orders of this committee.

Ordered, That a copy thereof be engrossed and signed by the Chairman, and delivered to Captain Tyler.

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1. *New York Provincial Congress,* I, 241.
2. Ensign Edward Tilley (not Tyler) was being held as a prisoner on board H.M.S. *Asia,* on the charge that he had been active in the removal of the cannon from the Battery in New York, August 5, 1775. He was seized September 17, 1775.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS [1]

[Philadelphia] Tuesday, January 9, 1776

A letter from Mr. M[atthew] Tilghman, dated Annapolis, 5 January, with sundry enclosures, . . . were laid before Congress, and read.

Resolved, That a letter be written to Mr.Tilghman, informing him, that the *Hornet* and *Wasp* are under orders to sail to the capes of Delaware, and that such vessels, as are ready to sail, may take the benefit of that convoy.

Resolved, That the Committee for fitting out armed vessels, be directed to give orders to the captains of the *Hornet* and *Wasp,* to take under their convoy, such vessels as are ready to sail.

Resolved, That a letter be written to General Schuyler by the president, informing him, that it is the opinion of Congress, he should proceed to have the conduct of Lieutenant [Jeremiah] Halsey enquired into, by a court martial, giving him previous notice to appear in his own defence, and that such sentence should be passed on him, as such court martial shall think just, and if the said Lieutenant Halsey shall decline to submit his conduct to such examination and sentence, that then all arrears of pay due to him be stopped; to enable him to give discharges to such officers as have quitted the service; to assure him, that we have great confidence in his attention to the public interest, and rely, that he will give to the proper officers in his deparment, such orders, as will procure indemnification to the public, for any embezzlement or waste of its stores, or monies; to empower him to remit to such of the troops, raised in the province of New York, as may re-inlist, any right we may have to stop wages for under cloths delivered to them; to desire he will communicate to Mr. Price [2] the sense this Congress have of his friendly offices to General Montgomery, in favour of the American cause; to return him our thanks for the same, and assure him, immediate measures shall be taken for replacing the monies he has advanced; to notify to Colonel [James] Easton our approbation of his late services, and that we shall retain in our minds a just sense of them.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the committee of safety of the province of New York, to appoint proper persons to enquire into the propriety and practicability of obstructing or lessening the depth of water in the narrows, or in any other place at the entrance of New York, or of any way of fortifying that pass, so as to prevent the entrance of the enemy; and also to enquire whether the depth of water in Hudson's river, below the battery, may not easily be lessened, so as to prevent large ships passing up, and to make an estimate of the expence, and report their proceedings in the premises immediately to Congress.

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1. Ford, ed., *JCC,* IV, 41–45.
2. James Price, a Montreal merchant.

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH [1]

[Philadelphia] Tuesday Jan. 9. the Votes read & some Letters, one of them from Matthew Tilghman Esqr President of the Convention in Maryland desiring our Two small armed Vessels the *Hornet* and *Viper* [2] at Baltimore may convoy to the Capes of Virginia some Vessels going with Provisions on Accot of the Congress, to get Necessaries for our Fleet and Army, this was agreed to & Directions are to be given to Admiral [Esek] Hopkins to meet them – Several Members said that if a Foreign Force shall be sent here, they are willing to declare the Colonies in a State of Independent Sovereignity – M.Pliant [Pliarne] one of the Two Frenchmen in Treaty with our Secret Comee offers to supply the Continent from France with all Sorts of Goods & Military Stores at the price common in France & hints that our Ships may trade to that Kingdom by Connivance & that they are willing to send their Bottoms here, he treats apparently in Behalf of a Company at Paris & he stays here till his Partner returns from thence – the President desired to write to Gen. Schuyler *inter alia* requiring Him to try Lieut. [Jeremiah] Halsey at a Court Martial –

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1. Richard Smith's Diary, LC.
2. The Continental schooner *Wasp;* not *Viper.*

COMMISSIONERS FOR BUILDING THE PHILADELPHIA FRIGATES TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF NAVAL STORES [1]

Messrs James Craig, James Wharton
Nathaniel Falkner & William Davis } Philadelphia 9 Janury 1776

Gentlemen The Honourable Continental Congress have thought proper to Order Four Frigates to be built in this Port, and Authorized us to Act as Commissioners for executing this Business with powers to do every thing necessary for Compleating it – We find this will be a work of such Magnitude & Importance, that to have it well, and Expeditiously done it will be necessary to divide it into different departments, One of which you have been good enough to undertake, And we hereby Authorize and impower you to make Estimates of the Quantitys of Cordage, Ship Chandlery and other Stores and necessarys that will be requird to fit compleatly Two Ships 700 Tons Burthen as Frigates mounting 32 Guns, 26 of 12 Pounders and Six of Six pounders –

One Ship of 650 Tons as a Frigate of 28 Guns whereof 26 of 12 pounders and 2 of 6 pounders, and one Ship of Tons as a Frigate mounting 24 Guns 9 pounders, you are to Estimate and fix the proper Sizes and dimensions of all Cables, Blocks, Gun Carriages, Rammers, Spunges, Ladles, Cartridge and Cartridge Boxes, Scales, Weights, Scale Beams, Harness Tubs Mess Tubs, and other needfull for said Ships Outfits, with full power and Authority to purchase the same – You are Authorized to make such reasonable Contracts as you shall Judge proper with any person or persons for supplying any of the Articles wanted; you will be carefull that every thing procured is of the best of its Kind – and the prices reasonable as can be obtain'd for ready Money –

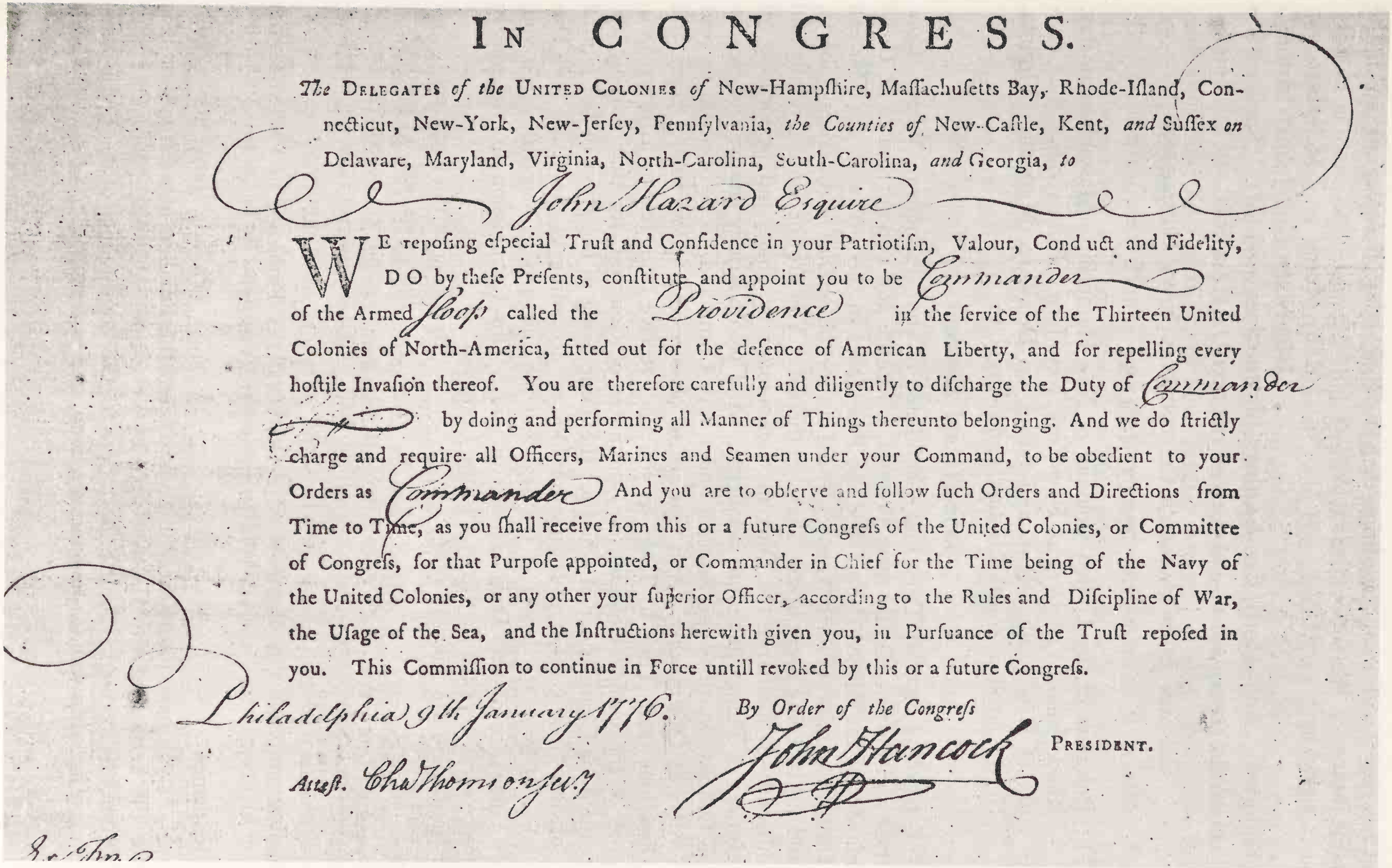
You will hire a proper Store or Stores wherein to deposit the sundry goods and Articles you buy, also such proper Clerk, as you can safely trust with the care thereof – You will cause a regular Account to be kept of every thing you buy, or Cause to be bought, for which you and your Clerks are accountable, and you are to deliver the Articles procured, in such proper quantitys and proportions as may be required for each Ship, to such persons or Officers as we may hereafter direct, keeping an Account for each Ship, and charging them Respectively with the Quantitys, Qualitys and at the proper prices of every Article so delivered for their use –

You are to collect all Bills of Parcells, Accounts and Contracts by you made, and send them as often as Necessary to Messrs Benjn Fuller, Thomas Fitzsimmons, Isaac Hazlehurst & Clement Biddle, who are a Committee for examining and passing all Accounts relative to these Ships, with power to Correct Errors, point out Charges, remark on high prices &c. – The Accounts & Contracts will be return'd to us with the Committees remarks, and we shall immediately Issue drft [on] the Treasurer for Payment of all just and reasonable demands

All reasonable expences will be allowed your Board and such other reasonable Compensation for your time and trouble as may hereafter be agreed on. –

You can at all times and in all Cases when necessary have our advice, and We shall from time to time give such fu[rt]her instruction[s as]to us may appear Necessary. –

We on our part accepted the trust reposed in us with the sole view of serving our distressed Country and promoting its true Interest, an Ardent desire to answer these Ends prompts us to recommend your utmost exertions in the execution of your department, so that Pensylvania may produce four Ships, superior in Quality



IN CONGRESS.

The DELEGATES *of the* UNITED COLONIES *of* New-Hampſhire, Maſſachuſetts Bay, Rhode-Iſland, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jerſey, Pennſylvania, *the Counties of* New-Caſtle, Kent, *and* Suſſex *on* Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North-Carolina, South-Carolina, *and* Georgia, *to*

John Hazard Esquire

WE repoſing eſpecial Truſt and Confidence in your Patriotiſm, Valour, Conduct and Fidelity, DO by theſe Preſents, conſtitute and appoint you to be Commander of the Armed Sloop called the Providence in the ſervice of the Thirteen United Colonies of North-America, fitted out for the defence of American Liberty, and for repelling every hoſtile Invaſion thereof. You are therefore carefully and diligently to diſcharge the Duty of Commander by doing and performing all Manner of Things thereunto belonging. And we do ſtrictly charge and require all Officers, Marines and Seamen under your Command, to be obedient to your Orders as Commander And you are to obſerve and follow ſuch Orders and Directions from Time to Time, as you ſhall receive from this or a future Congreſs of the United Colonies, or Committee of Congreſs, for that Purpoſe appointed, or Commander in Chief for the Time being of the Navy of the United Colonies, or any other your ſuperior Officer, according to the Rules and Diſcipline of War, the Uſage of the Sea, and the Inſtructions herewith given you, in Purſuance of the Truſt repoſed in you. This Commiſſion to continue in Force untill revoked by this or a future Congreſs.

Philadelphia 9th January 1776.

By Order of the Congreſs

John Hancock PRESIDENT.

Atteſt. Chas Thomson secy

of less cost & with more expedition than the Neighbourg Colonies engaged in the same Business. – We are Gentlemen [&c.]

Sign'd by
Rob^t^ Morris J.M.Nisbett
John Nixon John Wharton

[Endorsed] Rob^t^ Morris Esqr & Others Instructions

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1. Papers CC (Letters addressed to Congress), 78, XXIV, 331, 332, NA.

Captain John Hazard's Continental Navy Commission [1]

IN CONGRESS.

The Delegates of the United Colonies of New-Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Rhode-Island, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, the Counties of New-Castle, Kent, and Sussex on Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North-Carolina, South-Carolina, and Georgia, to

John Hazard Esquire

WE reposing especial Trust and Confidence in your Patriotism, Valour, Conduct and Fidelity, Do by these Presents, constitute and appoint you to be *Commander* of the Armed *sloop* called the *Providence* in the service of the Thirteen United Colonies of North-America, fitted out for the defence of American Liberty, and for repelling every hostile Invasion thereof. You are therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the Duty of *Commander* by doing and performing all Manner of Things thereunto belonging. And we do strictly charge and require all Officers, Marines and Seamen under your Command, to be obedient to your Orders as *Commander* And you are to observe and follow such Orders and Directions from Time to Time, as you shall receive from this or a future Congress of the United Colonies, or Committee of Congress, for that Purpose appointed, or Commander in Chief for the Time being of the Navy of the United Colonies, or any other your superior Officer, according to the Rules and Discipline of War, the Usage of the Sea, and the Instructions herewith given you, in Pursuance of the Trust reposed in you. This Commission to continue in Force untill revoked by this or a future Congress.

Philadelphia 9th January 1776. By Order of the Congress
John Hancock President.

Attest. *Cha^s^ Thomson Secy*

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1. Charles Roberts Autograph Collection, 723, HCL. This is a printed form with ink insertions shown in italics.

Commissioners for Building the Continental Frigates in Philadelphia to Wharton & Humphreys [1]

Gentlemen Philada Jany 9th 1776

As you have most Cheerfully undertaken the Building of a Frigate of War for the Service of the United Colonies we cannot too much commend your Zeal nor be too warm in our Exhortations for the Continuance of it – The Dimensions of the ship you are to Build are fixed, and a draft made, we doubt not you will conform as Strictly as Possible to both, and produce as Compleat and good a Ship as those Dimentions & that Draft will admit of – You Know there are four to be Built in this Port. One in New Hamshire Two in Rhode Island; Two in Massachusets Bay, one in Connecticut, Two in New York, and one in Mary Land. This Port has Double the Number of any other Colony, which was Claim'd as due to our Ship Carpenters, who are more Numerous and we hope will prove on this Occasion, to have greater Abilities in their profession than their Neighbours –

Gentlemen your Honor and the honor of this Province is at stake, but we doubt not you will compleat your Business so well, and so Soon, that the publick Voice will declare in your favour – As we are appointed Commissioners under Authority of Congress for having these Ships Built and fitted, we have Empowered Messrs William Pollard, Francis Grice, Samuel Penrose, & David Thomson to act as Timber Commissioners, with powers to buy and take charge of all Timber, plank &c. necessary for compleating these Ships, they will keep an exact account of all that is bought, and an Account of what is apply'd to the use of each ship; therefore you must apply to them for all Timber, Plank and Trenals wanted for your Ship and they will supply the Same as fast as wanted – We have appointed Messrs James Craige James Wharton Nathaniel Falkner [Falconer] and William Davis Commissioners for providing Rigging, ship Chandlery and other stores, and when any thing is wanted by you that falls within their department, they will supply it on application –

Messrs Benjamin Fuller, Thomas Fitzsimmons, Isaac Hazelhurst and Clement Biddle are appointed commissioners of accounts, and the whole accounts that relate to those ships are to undergoe their Inspection and Correction –

Mr Woolman Sutton is appointed superintendant and Mr John Ashmead Clerk of your Ship Yard – They will form a Muster Roll of all Persons employd to work on or about your ship and Keep a regular account of the time they do work, they will procure Labourers when needfull, they will procure work for Smiths and other Tradesmen as wanted, and in short do every service, and tender you every Assistance in their Power. –

As Harmony amongst all Persons employed in the same Business will greatly promote the work we earnestly recommend it to you and all others to keep up good humour and good Understanding with all these boards of Commissioners, with the Superintendants, Clerks, and with the other ship Carpenters, and all Other Tradesmen, it will Serve your country to do so, and we Know your Patriotism too well to think you want any other Spur – In all things that we can promote this Business we shall do it by day or by Night, and we hope in due time to hold up your Conduct to all the united Colonies as deserving their Intire approbation – We are Sirs [&c.]

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1. Joshua Humphreys Correspondence, 1776–1780, vol. 2, HSP. This is the contract for Frigate No. 2, subsequently to be named the *Randolph*. The contract for Frigate No. 1, later named the *Washington,* was with Gehu and Benjamin Eyres, of Kensington, and is held by the United States Naval Academy Museum, Annapolis. It differs only in the names of the superintendent, Peter Younge, and the clerk, James Dundass. Contracts for the other two Philadelphia built frigates, the *Delaware* and the *Effingham,* have not been located.

FRANCIS WADE TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

Gentn Philada 9th Jany 1776 –

When I gave in my aplication to your body for the Contract to supply the Arm'd boats for the defence of this province, I had in View that of serveing them on the lowest terms, for the benefit of the province, & a small proffit for myself, at least as much as would pay me, & my people for my trouble & loss of time, attendg that [business] which on Examination I find will only barely do it, as that is realy the Case, at this time, & a greater scarcety of the Articles I furnish them with to be Aprehended, lays me under the necessity of soleciting the gentn of the Committee of safety for a supply of Cash, so as I may not be a sufferer by the Contract, which I must Undoubtedly be, unless Enable'd to lay the Articles in on the best terms, which Cannot be done without Cash – I am now in advance for one months rations, which with the disadvantages I labour under on Account of the present & aproaching season I hope the gentlemen of the Committee will, take under their Consideration & grant me such a supply of Cash, as they may think sufficient to go through with the Contract, to the satisfaction of the Committee & the Concern'd, I am Verry respectfully Gentn [&c.]

Fran^{s} Wade

N B the amount deliverd Exceeds £ 460 [2]

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1. André de Coppet Collection, PUL.
2. The Committee of Safety did not act upon Wade's request until January 26, when it ordered the committee on accounts to draw in his favor for £350.

DIARY OF CHRISTOPHER MARSHALL [1]

[Philadelphia, January] 9th 1776

. . . at Breakfast I was visited by Paul Folkss housekeeper, who inform[ed] that their boy Neal had heard his Sister Rosanah Thompson who liv[es] At [Richard] Bache's how that James Brattle Servant man to James Duean one of [the New] york Delegates, was imployed by Govr [William] Tryon to Collect & Send him all the news he Could find on board the *Asia,* for which he Should be well rewarded & also be preferd to Some Post, in Consequence of which he had wrote to him & in particular the day our fleet Saild with their Number &c one this enformation I called upon Some of our Committee [of Inspection and Observation] at Coffe house. Joseph Dean Went with me but could gain nothing we returnd. then John Bayard went with me to Joseph Reeds he not at home thence to See for him at Committee of Safty; not there thence to Court house found him after taking his advice went to Halls printing office took Bache home with us calld his maid examind her She Seemed Confounded but on the whole denied it. from thence to Coffe house Room Where consulting Major [John] Cox Joined us two we went to State house calld out Mr Duane informd him he Seem Confounded requested us to attend him to his house we did. he calld his man examind him took him up stairs & made Search all to no purpose. we then went took him with us to Paul Folkss examind the Boy who persisted we brought the boy back to the Duanes Lodgin Sent for the young woman who upon Seeing her brother Conf[essed] that what he had Said was true. James was call & interrogated, but all to no purpose. then Major Cox mr Duan took him up Staires to

Search again & while they were imployd in that business he Slipt down Staires out throe the yard & have Seen no more off him Major Bayard & my Self [waited] for them in the parlour thus he Escaped.[2]

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1. Diary of Christopher Marshall, HSP.
2. Another account of this incident was given in a memorandum signed by Joseph Reed, John Bayard and John Cox, appearing in *The Freeman's Journal: or, the North-American Intelligencer,* Philadelphia, Pa., August 15, 1781. It was prepared in defense of James Duane, whose loyalty was under partisan attack in the newspapers that summer. They call the traitor "Rattle", instead of "Brattle", and place the date as January 7, 1776 instead of January 9; understandable lapses of memory after five years. The memorandum reads as follows:

> On Monday about noon, the 7th of January last, 1776, major Cox, major Bayard, and Mr. Marshall, senior, three of the committee of observation for the city and liberties of Philadelphia, called on Mr. Duane in congress, and acquainted him that a discovery had been made, that his servant, James Rattle, was concerned in carrying on a correspondence with governor Tryon: and after mentioning the circumstances, added, that in delicacy to him, as a member of congress, the committee did not chuse to interfere, but left the further detection and punishment of the offence to himself. He thanked them for their politeness, but assured them, *that they would encrease the obligation by assisting him in bringing the matter to light, and the offender to justice:* They asked him then, whether it would be convenient for him to attend that evening, promising all the aid in their power; *he observed, that if it was so long delayed, a suspicion of the discovery might reach Rattle, and he make his escape, and that it was therefore best to seize him and search his papers immediately.* This plan was accordingly executed, and his pocket-book, cloaths, bedding,&c.the places where it was suspected he might have concealed any thing examined, but nothing could be discovered. We then proceeded with him to the house of Mr. —— [Paul Fooks], whose apprentice lad first gave the information, he repeated the circumstances with all the appearance of truth and sincerity, and in the manner they were told to him, as he alledged, by his sister Rose, who was courted by Rattle. The lad was then confronted with his sister, and repeating the same story, she with much reluctance and entreaty, and evident marks of concern, lest Rattle's life might be brought into danger, confirmed the truth of the information, which was to the following effect: That Rattle had frequently told her, that *his master* and all the congress *would be hanged:* That last new-year's day he told her, that some person came to Philadelphia and engaged him to give intelligence to governor Tryon of what passed in this city, and in reward he was promised a place as a merchant in a vessel trading between New-York and Boston. That he accordingly gave governor Tryon intelligence of the vessels of war which were fitting out at this port, and of the time of their sailing. That this last advice he had communicated in a letter which had been sent with his master's dispatches by colonel [Abraham] Brashier. The letter Mr. Duane well remembered, it was directed to Leslie a barber in New-York and when Rattle requested it might be sent by colonel Brashier, he told him, it enclosed or gave an account of money which he had received from Mr.[Thomas] Cushing, then a delegate for Massachusetts, for Leslie: She added further, that Rattle told her, he was one day writing intelligence for governor Tryon, and *his master came upon him unexpectedly, that he was so much frightened lest he might make a discovery; that it threw him into a fit of sickness.* Rattle and Rose were then confronted, and he denied every word of the charge: but the proof being positive, the committee *as well as Mr. Duane,* concluded that he was guilty, and it was agreed, that a constable should be sent for and he be committed to goal. Mr. Duane then recollected, that he had a suit of blue cloaths, which on the search we had not seen, and that as he had no chest or trunk, it was probable that he might have secured his papers in them. *Doctor Cox* and Mr.Duane took him up stairs, to examine those cloaths, but making no further discovery, his master told Rattle, that he believed he was a rascal, and that he would never have any further concern with him; that he should give him an account of

the money he received and expended for him, which a few days before he had ordered him to draw out, and take away his cloaths. He desired leave to change his breeches, and for that purpose, and to get the account, went into the next room. In the meantime *Doctor Cox* discovered a basket with papers standing in the passage, between the two rooms, on the top of a cloaths press. *Mr. Cox* and Mr.Duane returned to the light to examine the papers, which took three or four minutes, and making no discovery from them, went down to join the other gentlemen of the committee, who had remained in the parlour below, and where it was expected to find Rattle; but missing him, searched the house, yard and stables, to no purpose: At length one of the children of the family told us, he had gone out of the yard door. *Mr. Marshall* then proposed, that *Mr.Duane* should apply to a magistrate for a warrant to apprehend him, but as the nature of the complaint did not regularly fall under such a mode of proceeding, *it was concluded by us all, it would be best for the committee to have him procured and brought before them, which they undertook to do, and gave directions accordingly. He, however, made his escape.*

We do certify the foregoing to be a true and faithful narrative of the detection and escape of Mr.Duane's servant, James Rattle [Brattle].

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

In Committee of Safety
[Philadelphia], 9th January, 1776.

Conformable to a Resolution of Congress That Nathaniel Shaw should have permission to load Flour in this port, to the amount of two thousand pounds, this board requested the Committee of inspection and observation to permit Thomas & Isaac Wharton, to export in Flour to the said amount.

Resolved, That Capt. Procter [Thomas Proctor] immediately go to Fort Island, and take under his Command the Artillery Company station'd there.

Order'd, that Robert Towers, Commiss'y, immediately apply to Colo. [John] Cadwalader for all the Muskets he has to spare, and deliver them to Capt. [Samuel] Nicholas, taking his receipt for the same.

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[1] *Pennsylvania Colonial Records,* X, 451, 452.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR A DESERTER FROM CONTINENTAL BRIG *Cabot* [1]

TWO DOLLARS REWARD.

Deserted the third inst. from Captain John Welsh's company of marines,[2] PETER M'TEGART, born in Ireland, about thirty years of age, five feet seven inches high, smooth faced, brownish complexion, short dark brown hair. Had on a light brown coat, white cloth jacket and breeches, blue stockings and new shoes. Whoever delivers said deserter to James Guthrie, at the corner of South and Water streets, shall have the above reward.

Philadelphia, January 9, 1776.

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[1] *Pennsylvania Evening Post,* January 9, 1776; repeated January 13, January 18, and January 20, 1776.

[2] Welsh commanded the Marines on board *Cabot.*

ARCHIBALD BUCHANAN'S ACCOUNT FOR THE BRIG *Hannah* [1]

			Currency
1776	Dr Brigg *Hannah* in Accot with Archd Buchanan		
864	Barrells of Flour 1,732.2.6	a 12/6	£ 10[22].17. –
	Barrells	a 1/9	75.12. –
107	Barrells of Bread 13,390	a 12s/	[8]0. 6.10
	Barrells	2 2/1	11. 2.11
6	m Red & White Oak Staves		32.
	To Bill of disbursemts. for Cooperage, Nails Linning, Casks, Scow hire Dray hire Rum for Waggoners &ca		13 3 3½
	[Baltimore] January 9th Errors Excepted		
			£1295.12. –½

Archd Buchanan

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[1] Executive Papers, Box 1, Md. Arch. *Hannah* was making a West Indian cruise.

MICHAEL EARLE TO THOMAS RINGGOLD [1]

[Extract]

Chester Town 9th Janry 1776 –

Norfolk is reduc'd to Ashes at last it seems – I fear we are laying plans for more of this kind of Work – Dunmore has a most malignant Hea[rt] of his own, & I wish some Patriot Bullett wou'd give him a Safe Conduct to the other World – In this, he is a pest – The further I extend my View, the greater to me appears our Danger & I wish those Gent among us, who conduct our Politics to deliberate well on the deep Stake we are playing & consider if it may not on the whole be best to make one further Essay for Accomodation – A thousand reasons may be urg'd in its favor, not a single one agst it occurs to me – It surely is not impossible, but that the Spirit of an old Roman might be accompany'd by the Humility of a good Christian, & this be our Conduct – I would hold the Olive Branch in one hand & the Sword in the other, & I woud convince the whole World, that this was not by way of threat, but purely to secure my Liberty – I woud wipe away the Aspersion that Independance was our View, by drawing the Line as nearly as I cou'd in Terms not the least ambiguous, & if they refus'd, the Blood that must be Spilt, woud fall on their heads – If this be done, there woud be but few Tories in America & of those few, none dare shew them selves – We shoud unite as one Man & no power coud destroy us – If we do not, what may be the fatal Consequences of Disunion – If no Accomodation takes place & they resolve to risque their all upon the Cast, for so I think they will, must they not accept of the foreign Troops offer'd them – If the Russians come over, will it not necessarily introduce the French, it must. That Power will find means to persuade us into an Acceptance of their Men. We shall have the sevral Powers of Europe, fighting their Battles in America, & in this View of things, the fate of Poland ought to make us tremble – I pretend not to say that all this will happen – That it may serve my Purpose, or suppose it any way less injurious, yet a spe[e]dy Settlemt by Negoiation must be preferable. That it must come to at last, perhaps after the loss of 50,000 Lives, & shoud the bale [balance] be agst us, we may want Spirit to exert our Abilities to advantage. It's observable that those who are most elated with Success, and proportionably depress'd by a Reverse of Fortune, & if so, we coud not go into a Negotiation at a more proper Season – I woud send Home dispatch Boats, I woud draw the Letter in [illegible] plain & express Terms, that he who run[s] might read, so, as that it coud not possibly be misunderstood – I woud let them know that while I had Life I woud have Liberty, & that the better to secure it, I woud not relax in a single Instance – My Operations should all be continued without abatement, & if they refus'd, what all Mankind must agree was right & reasonable, the Blood as I said before shoud be on their own heads – By this Conduct we shoud stand perfectly fair with the whole World, with our selves, & I shoud suppose with Heaven, whose Interposition I am not Infidel eno' to think, ought not to be taken into the Account – I coud say much more, but I shoud not take up too much of your Time – You have these thoughts as they occur in confidence, & you'l let me hear what may be the prevailing Opinion of our Acquaintance & friends on this most interesting Subject – If something in this way be not done, I see a Spirit rising, that may be injurious to our Cause – More minds will grow more agitated, & a difference of Sentiment may throw us into Altercations & heart burnings which may be prejudicial – Policy shoud dictate to our Leaders to adopt such Measures as may be as universally approv'd as possible. – Shoud a Jealousy take place among ourselves as well as in England, that Independance is the real View of almost a Majority, what Distractions may we not fall into, & to insure our Success, it ought to be prevented least here & every where our Enemies take advantage of it – Tho the present gloomy prospect almost precludes happiness, I can't help wishing you a large proportion of it – & with my Respects to my old friends, I am Dr Tom Yr affect Uncle

Mc Earle

1. Hollyday Papers, MdHS.

Robert T. Hooe to Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer [1]

Honble Sir Alexa Jany 9th 1776

Capt Conway has never been able to get his vessel ready to take in till this day tho' he has used great industry, the weather, the Hollydays &c has been against him – She is still a very fine vessell, now in the most complete order and it gives me concern to inform you that, the Capt, one of the most active fellows in the world, is about leaving her – of this Capt Conway never gave me the most distant hint, till within these few days, as soon as he made known his intentions, I expostulated with and endeavor'd to convince him of the impropriety of leaving the service without giving the Council of Safety due notice to provide another master, but all in vain, – He has had a little vessel built some where in the lower parts of Virginia, she is finished and come up and he is going out in her – However he promises to stay by the vessel and see things carried on, till another master comes on board You'll therefore be pleased to appoint one and send him to take charge as soon as possible. He says he intended to give you notice at Annapolis, but the Council Room was always full & he never could find an opportunity. if you have not a proper person to spare, there is a Brother of Conways, who I believe to be an able seaman, & a very industrious spirited man that has offerd himself; He being well acquainted, could pick up men in a short time of wch the vessel is bare, having but 3 on board. I am Sir [&c.]

R.Hooe

If you incline to accept of his brother it will be well to give me orders by next post or he will be engaged.

1. Correspondence of Council of Safety, Md. Arch.

Lord Dunmore to Lord Dartmouth [1]

[Extract] [On board the Ship *Dunmore,* off Norfolk]
[No. 34] [January 9, 1776]

Since writing the above [2] William Goodrich is arrived. He informs me the two thousand Pounds worth of Powder, that was sent for to France, is not yet arrived, and that all the Bills were Sold except the inclosed two of £ 400. – – that I now send your Lordship (No 11) that you may make such use of as you think proper against the parties concerned in them, I have kept the seconds and thirds of each for fear of accidents, and shall send your Lordship the Seconds with Duplicate of this, I here also send your Lordship a Copy of all that passed between William Goodrich and Mr Van Dam (No 12) at St Eustatia, when last there; And with this I send your Lordship (No 13) a Letter I intercepted a few days ago of Mr. John Norton's to His Son John Hatley Norton in Virginia, who is Married to a Daughter of Mr Robert Carter Nicholas, Treasurer of this Colony, Your Lordship will see by the Contents of this letter that the writer must be well acquainted with the use the Money was to be put to, for which Mr. Robert Carter Nicholas draws on him, from his earnestness, when he Speaks of honoring the Bills, that "He hopes he shall be able to bring it about some way or other, and will make a point of it, if he is obliged to pawn his Coat."

In your Lordships dispatch No 22, you are pleased to inform me of the Situation of North Carolina, and from every thing I can learn, I believe it to be a very exact account of it; Your Lordship at the same time desires that I will supply Governor [Josiah] Martin with such a Number of the Arms &ca sent me, as he may want, or I can Spare; Since the Arrival of the *Liverpool,* a Tender arrived here from Governor Martin, requesting me to supply him with three thousand Stand of Arms and Ammunition in proportion, this Your Lordship knows was impossible for me to do, as I had only received three thousand in all, but I have sent him one third, which I do assure your Lordship goes to my very heart, for was I even now to receive any reinforcement I am sure I could get men enough for double the Number of Arms now left me.

I am happy to have it in my power to inform your Lordship, that by depriving the Rebels from every supply of Salt, Rum, or Sugar, in my power, the first as I observed to your Lordship before, is raised from one Shilling per Bushel to fifteen, Rum from two Shillings and Six Pence per Gallon to twelve and fourteen Shillings, and Muscovado Sugar (for they have no White at all) which used to Sell from five to Six pence per pound, now Sells at four and five Shillings per pound, the want of the first of these Articles must distress them beyond Measure, as they cannot without it either preserve the Cattle in the upper part of the Country that are alive, nor can they, in the lower part of the Country cure the Meat they live upon during the whole of the Summer. I think the want of Rum will damp their Courage more ways than one, and I know they will feel the want of the last Article tho' only a luxury of life.

[1] PRO, Colonial Office, 5/1353. Date is approximated.
[2] His letter of January 4, 1776.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM THE MIDSHIPMAN ON BOARD HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Otter,* COMMANDED BY CAPTAIN SQUIRES"[1]

Jan. 9. 1776.

The detested town of Norfolk is no more! Its destruction happened on New Year's Day! About four o'clock in the afternoon the signal was given from the *Liverpool,* when a dreadful cannonading began from the three ships, which lasted till it was too hot for the Rebels to stand on their Wharfs. Our boats now landed and set fire to the town in several places. It burnt fiercely all night, and the next day; nor are the flames yet extinguished; but no more of Norfolk remains than about twelve houses, which have escaped the flames!

[1] *Lloyd's Evening Post and British Chronicle,* March 4 to March 6, 1776.

MINUTES OF THE WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, COMMITTEE OF SAFETY[1]

[Wilmington] Tuesday Januy 9th 1776.

Resolved, that Jacob Phelps, one of the Pilots in this River, be employed with his Boat, to carry Freight and Passengers, between Wilmington & Brunswick and no further without Permission; And that the said J. Phelps do not presume to take any Passengers or freight without the leave of one of the two Committees of the said Towns, or the Commanding Officers of the forces at Brunswick or Wilmington; And it is recommended to the People in general that they employ the said Jacob Phelps's Boat only as a passage Boat; And it is further Resolved, That no other person, but such as the said J. Phelps may employ, shall have Liberty to carry any Freight or Passengers to Brunswick without the leave of this Committee, or the Commanding officer at Wilmington, to the End that such person as may have inimical Designs against the Country, may be prevented from carrying Intelligence to the Governor or Ships of War.

Resolved, That Jonathan Swain, another of the Pilots, have Liberty to remove with his Family from his usual place of Residence about two or three Miles back; That Benjamin Bill may be employed, if he thinks [proper], on board the Provincial Ship, but that he shall not have Liberty to go to his usual place of Residence; And that Thomas Gallaway continue at some convenient place near the new Inlet, in order to be ready to pilot in any Vessels which may be allowed to Trade in this province, and that it be recommended to the Provincial Council & Committee of Safety for Wilmington district to make an adequate Allowance to the said Thomas Gallaway towards the Maintenance of his Family.

Ordered, That Mr John Forster receive all the Salt petre, Lead & Brimstone in Wilmington & that he give Receipts for the same. And that 4. p lb be allowed for all Salt petre –

1. Secretary of State Papers (Committees of Safety 1774–1776), NCDAH.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

In the Council of Safety
[Charleston] Tuesday, Jan. 9th, 1776.

Col. [Owen] Roberts attended, according to the order of yesterday; and after conferring with that gentleman upon the subject of the report made by Mr. [John] Rutledge yesterday, the Council

Resolved, That possession be forthwith taken of Sullivan's Island, and a strong fort and battery erected thereon, for defending the channel and harbour of Charles-Town; and that a temporary battery be erected there in order to defend the work, under the immediate direction of Col. Roberts.

Mr. Cornelius Dewees was then ordered to be called, and attending, the following contract was entered into with him:

Memorandum – Mr. Dewees is to deliver Palmetto logs, until further orders, not less than ten inches diameter in the middle, one-third to be eighteen feet long, the other two-thirds twenty feet long, at such part of Sullivan's Island as he shall be directed; and to be allowed one shilling per foot for all such logs so delivered – in which delivery the utmost expedition must be used.

In the Council of Safety, Jan. 9, 1776.
Henry Laurens, President.

Resolved, That the ordnance store-keeper do deliver to the order of Col. Roberts all such cannon and ordnance stores as he, from time to time, shall require for the works to be erected upon Sullivan's Island.

Resolved, That the colony powder-receiver do deliver to Col. Roberts' order any quantity of gunpowder not exceeding eight hundred pounds weight in the whole.

Read a letter from Col. Stephen Bull, dated Sheldon, 7th Jan., 1776.

Read another letter from Col. Bull, 8th Jan., 1776.

Read a letter from the Committee at Beaufort, 6th Jan., 1776, inclosing an inventory of the cargo of the brigt. *William,* John Mercier, master, from Georgia for London, secured in Beaufort harbour, to prevent a violation of the Continental Association's resolutions. Also an account of expences for bringing said brigantine from Georgia, amounting to £275 2s. 6d.

Read a letter from Col. Elias Horry, Santee, 7th Jan., 1776.

Read a proposal of Mr. Peter Le Poole, for the importation of certain necessary articles.

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1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society,* III, 157–59.

JOURNAL OF THE GEORGIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY[1]

At a meeting of the Council of Safety [Savannah], Jan. 9th, 1776.

The President having informed the Board that, from the accounts received, informing that ships of war were destined to this coast, he had issued orders to remove the cannon from the Island of Cockspur.

Resolved, That this Board do approve of the said orders, and that the President do issue further orders for collecting and cleaning the cannon in and about the Town of Savannah, and that the commanding officer be appointed to do the same.

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[1] Candler, comp., *Georgia Records,* I, 92–95.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO PHILIP STEPHENS[1]

Portland, in English Harbour Antigua
9th. January 1776.

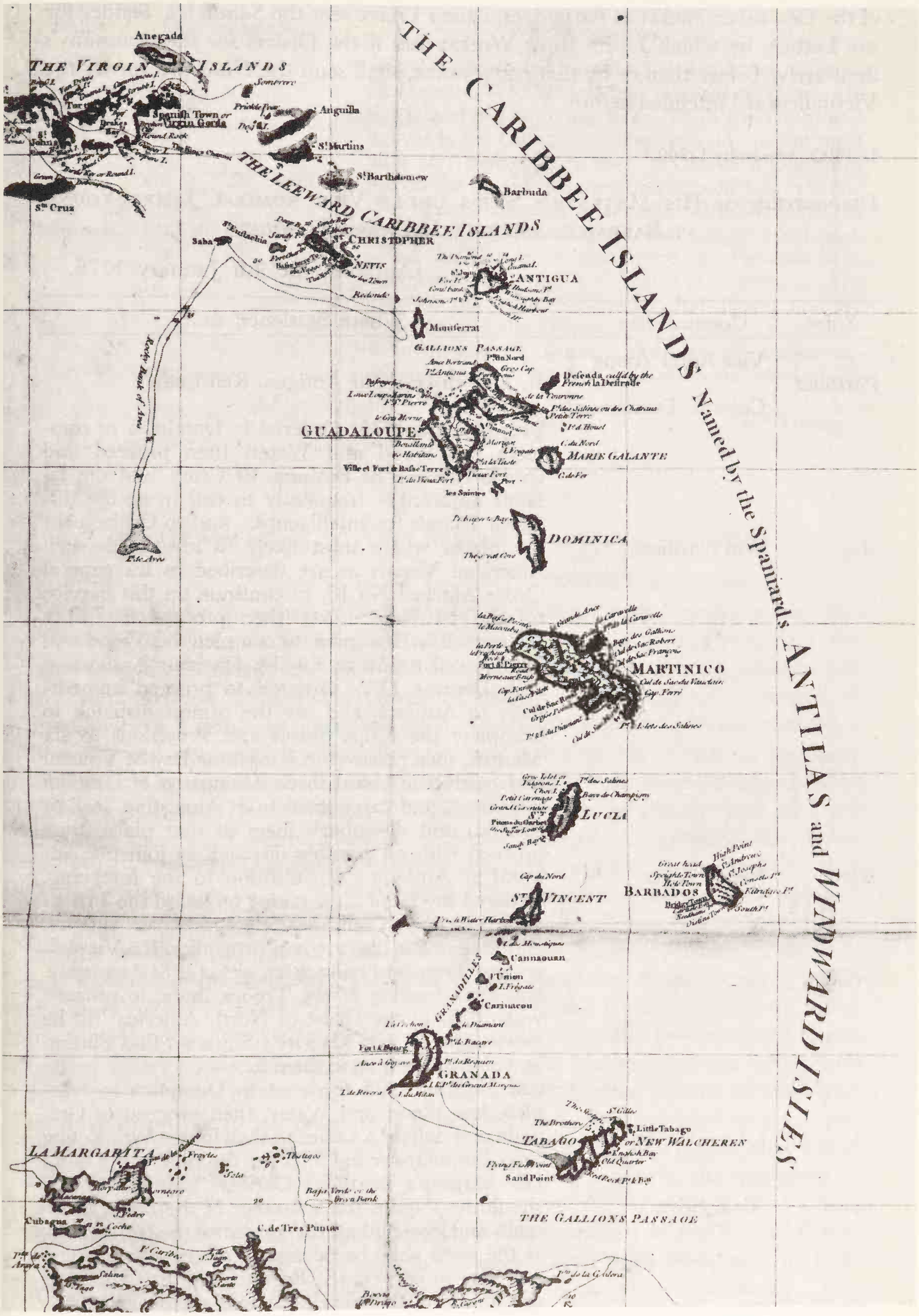
Sir.

Please to acquaint my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, I received their Order to send one of the Ships under my Command to St Vincent, to take on board three Companys of the 60 Regiment, and proceed with them to St Augustine in East Florida, and the *Hind* being the fittest Ship for that purpose, sent for her in from a Cruize, and as soon as She is Victualed for that purpose, she will proceed and put those Orders in Execution, and also must acquaint their Lordships, that the several Victualers and Transport in the inclosed List, having by stress of Weather on the Coast of North America being forced to bear up for this Island, I have thought it fit for their security, and the good of the Service, to Order the *Hind* on her return from St Vincent, after taking on board the Troops, to call in at St John's in this Island, and take under her care and protection the said Victualers and empty Transport, as far at St Augustine, and after Captain [Henry] Bryne has there landed the Troops, to proceed on with them to the Coast of North America 'till he meets some of His Majesty's Ships on that Station, and deliver them up to them to proceed to Boston, but in case he meet's none, to see them safe there himself, or any other Port the Fleet may Rendezvous at, and then to make the best of his way back to this Port, which I hope their Lordships will approve of.– I have not yet been Able to Visit the rest of the Islands, as being at Barbadoes intending to do it; was there informed of Ships being drove into this Island, therefore thought best to return here to forward them away again as soon as possible, as they all want some refitting. doing which, shall give them all the assistance I can and will not leave this place till they are gone.

I have likewise inclosed the State and Condition and Disposition of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels under my Command. I am Sir [&c.]

Jam^{s} Young

P S. Since writing the above, I find the Commanding Officer of the 60 Regiment, Captain Garnadier, who is here has no Orders for Embarking three Companys of that Regiment to go to St Augustine, nor that Orders are at St Vincent for that purpose, as the Packet that brought mine to Barbadoes is now arrived here, and has been at St Vincent; therefore shall detain the *Hind* till the Arrival



THE CARIBBEE ISLANDS Named by the Spaniards ANTILLAS and WINDWARD ISLES
THE VIRGIN ISLANDS
Anegada
Sombrero
Spanish Town or Virgin Gorda
Anguilla
St Martins
St Bartholomew
Sta Cruz
THE LEEWARD CARIBBEE ISLANDS
Barbuda
Saba
St Eustachia
St CHRISTOPHER
NEVIS
Redondo
ANTIGUA
Montserrat
Rocky Bank of Aves
I. de Aves
GALLIONS PASSAGE
Desada called by the French la Desirade
GUADALOUPE
Basse Terre
MARIE GALANTE
les Saintes
DOMINICA
MARTINICO
St LUCIA
BARBADOS
Bridge Town
St VINCENT
Cannaouan
l'Union
Cariuacou
GRANADILLES
Fort & Bourg
GRANADA
Little Tabago
TABAGO or NEW WALCHEREN
Sand Point
LA MARGARITA
Frayles
Testigos
Cubagua
Coche
C. de Tres Puntas
Bajo Verde or the Green Bank
THE GALLIONS PASSAGE
Pta de la Galera

of the December Packet at Barbadoes, where I have sent the *Sandwich* Tender for my Letters, by which I gain three Weeks; and if the Orders for the Company's dont arrive before then or by that conveyance, shall send the *Hind* to Convoy the Victuallers as I intended before.

J. Y.

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1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

DISPOSITION OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIPS UNDER VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG AT BARBADOS AND THE LEEWARD ISLANDS [1]

[Antigua] the 9th January 1776.

Ships	Commanders.	Where Stationed &c.
Portland.	Vice Adml Young Capt. T. Dumaresq	In English Harbour Antigua, Refitting.
Argo.	Wm Garnier.	24th Novemr 1775. Ordered to Dominica to complete her Wood and Water, then proceed and Cruize between St Eustatia, St Croix, and the Islands adjacent:– frequently to call in at the different Islands for intelligence.– and to Cruize near the places where most likely to meet with such American Vessels as are described in his general Order Marked No 10, to continue on this Service till the 1st Feby. next; then proceed to Prince Rupert's Bay Dominica, to complete his Wood and Water, and return to English Harbour Antigua.—
Hind	Heny. Bryne.	28th Decemr 1775. Ordered to proceed immediately to Antigua, and use the utmost dispatch to Complete the Ships Stores and Provisions to six Months, then proceed to Kingstone Bay St Vincent and receive on board three Companys of the 60th Regiment, and carry them to St Augustine, in East Florida, and disembark them at that place, then proceed with all possible dispatch to join the Admiral at Antigua.– In addition to the foregoing, Ordered the *Hind* after taking on board the Troops at St Vincent, to call in at St John's Road Antigua, and take under his care and protection the Victuallers and Transport lying there, as far as St Augustine, and after landing of the Troops there, to proceed with them to the Coast of North America 'till he meets some of His Majesty's Ships on that Station and deliver them up to them &c.—
Lynx.	Alexr Scott.	22d Novemr 1775 Ordered to Dominica to complete her Wood and Water, then proceed to Grenada and deliver a Letter to the Honble Wm Young Esqr Commander in Chief for the time being of all His Majesty's Southern Caribee Islands &c. and should he require the assistance of the *Lynx*, to remain and give him all the assistance she can, so long as the same shall be necessary, afterwards proceed and Cruize between St Eustatia and St Croix, &c. to remain on this Service as long as the Provisions

Ships	Commanders.	Where Stationed &c.
		will last, then return to English Harbour Antigua.
Pomona.	Wm Young.	28 Decmr 1775. Ordered to proceed to Roseau in the Island of Dominica, in search of the *Hind*, and deliver to her Captain a Letter. should She not meet with Her there, She is then to Cruize in Search of her on the Station assigned to her, which is between the Islands Dominica and St Vincent, and the French Islands Guadaloupe, Martinique & St Lucia, when this Service is performed the *Pomona* is to Complete her Wood and Water at Dominica, then proceed and Cruize between that Island and St. Vincent, and the French Islands Guadaloupe Martinique, and St Lucia, and use his utmost endeavours to execute his General Order Marked No 10, &c.&c.&c.

Jam^s Young

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1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

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10 Jan.

Phillip Callbeck to Vice Admiral Molyneux Shuldham[1]

Sir, Halifax 10th January 1776.–

I beg Leave to acquaint you, that on the Seventeenth November last, two Privateers belonging to Beverly, one of them Armed with Six Six Pounders, the other four Six Pounders, and each of them with a number of Swivels, and Seventy five Men, Arrived at Charlotte Town, the Capital of His Majesty's Island of St John (where I reside as Commander in Chief, the Governor being absent on Leave:) and immediately made Preparations to fire on the Town, at the same time their Commanders with armed Partys landed.– Not having heard that the Colonys had fitted out Privateers, I judged them to be Pirates, and by their Conduct they were Actually such. Therefore in order to preserve the Town from being burnt, I determined Singly to face them, not having force of any kind to make resistance. Upon their landing they made me Prisoner, and instantly conveyed me on board one of the Privateers; after which they proceeded to commit the most wanton and flagrant Outrages on Governor [William] Paterson's and my House, possessed themselves of the whole of my Property, after which made a Prisoner of a Mr [Thomas] Wright one of the Council, and then Sailed for New England. We landed at Winter Harbour, and proceeded to Cambridge, where, upon relating our distresses to Mr Washington, our being torn from our Families in the most cruel manner, and I being robbed of all I had, he thought proper to release us, and I am thus far in my way back to re-assume the Government. The reason, they assigned for their Conduct, was, that I had recruited for the King's Army, and sent the People, I got, to the assistance of Quebec.

Prior to their attacking the Island they had remained in the Gut of Canso sometime, during which they took five Vessels laden with Fish, and in their return they took three more, without meeting with the least opposition.

I have taken the Liberty, Sir, to trouble you with this detail, in order to excuse my observing that if there had been last Summer, a Frigate cruizing as usual in the Gulph of St. Lawrence, our Persons and Property, and the unfortunate Owners of the Vessels before mentioned, would have been secured against the hostile Depredations, we have had the misfortune to experience; at the same time to make my most earnest request, that you will be pleased to order a Frigate to be as early as possible in the Spring at the Island, and to remain there as long as the Season will permit; Otherwise the Gentlemen belonging to His Majesty's Government and Myself will be under the disagreeable necessity of departing from our duty, and abandoning our Fortunes, most of which have been expended on the Island in Improvements. To take this Step, Sir, will naturally occur to you to be very disagreeable to us; Yet our Preservation so much depends upon being secured in the manner I have made free to point out, that unless you are pleased to give me hopes that our Request for Protection will be granted, we certainly shall, as I have said before, be obliged early in the Spring, to take the sad alternative of seeking an Assylum else where.

I am to observe, Sir, that if you should be pleased to grant my request, it will not only be a means of making us happy in being secured, but it will also prevent the Rebels from making an Acquisition of Sixteen Nine Pounders, one eight Inch Mortar, some Cannon ball, and Grape Shot, which are now at Fort-Amherst, at the entrance of Port la Joye – If there were no other Temptations for making a second Visit, the object of gaining this Artillery, would to them be a sufficient Inducement, not to Add the Gratification of their avowed revengefull Disposition (on those who in a manner assist the Crown:) by ruining several Gentlemen's Settlements, their Tenantry and others on the Island. These Gentlemen were Inhabitants, but stimulated by Loyalty to His Majesty, immediately enter'd his Service, and have taken off Recruits, all of whom are now on Duty in different parts of America.

There was a Circumstance took place while I was Prisoner, which I think my Duty to communicate to you. A Transport from London called the *Jenny,* Captain William Foster, was taken by a Privateer, who decoyed her by an Imitation of one of the King's Armed Schooners. The Master after he found his mistake, threw overboard his Pocket book in which he had the Signals. This he did five Leagues from the Coast. In two days afterwards, I saw the Pocket book, which was found a Shore. Of course the Rebels are in Possession of the Signals.

I am sensible, Sir, that your Vigilance in your important Station, inclines you to procure every necessary Information, and that you will not think I too far encroach on your time while (as a faithfull servant of the Crown) I endeavor as briefly as possible, to communicate to you a few Observations I made, while I was in New-England: The trade they carried on, surprised me exceedingly. At most of the Ports east of Boston, while I passed, and repassed, there were daily Arrivals from the West-Indies, but most from Saint Eustatia; every one brings more or less Gun-Powder. Some Vessels had Sailed, Numbers were fitting out, loaded with Fish, Lumber, and some with Specie, all I believe bound for the West Indies, and Saint Eustatia. At Portsmouth there were four ready to Sail.

at Sacho two Brigs. I suppose they will be on their return in March, and most of them will bring Gun-Powder. At Cape Ann, Marblehead and Beverly, they have Forts, and now some Powder; the second is a st[r]ong one. Salem and Newberry have Vessels sunk, so, as to confine the Channel to a narrow Pass. Portsmouth has the same, besides a boom and three strong Forts. From Portsmouth to Casco every harbour and Creek has some insignificant Redoubt, Log-wall, or other defence, and upon the least alarm, the Country People come in, but from their appearance and Preparation, I should imagine their stand would be of short duration.

I have nothing further to add, but my Request that you will be pleased to favour me with an Answer directed to this place, where I shall wait for it, and that I have the honor to be with great respect, Sir, &ca

Phill: Callbeck.

[1] PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

JOSHUA WENTWORTH TO GEORGE WASHINGTON [1]

Sir, Portsmouth, Jany 10t[h,] 1776

Yesterday came to Town, from London last from Pool in England, (via Casco Bay) four masters of Vessels belongg to this Port,[2] from whom I have collected all the News Papers I Possibly cou'd, with Sundry packages & Letters, and as I have it in Direction from your Excellency to forward any letters that arrive here I take the readiest method of the[s]e reaching your Excellency, by dispatching my Young man –

The news papers are much defaced previous to there coming to my hand, the anxiety of Americans, occation'd a frequent Perusal, which I hope may appologize for there present state

The Captains Intend setg out for Head Quarters in a day or two, who have Verbal Informations to your Excellency from some Gentlemen of Note in London –

In the Interim I have to inform your Excellency that a number of Transports sail'd on or about the time these Gentlemen left England, (say the 6t[h] Novr) with Stores for Boston, without Convoy, Three of which were large Ships formerly in The service of the [East] India Compy [&] are defenceless – I sincerely wish some of the American Arm'd vessels may conduct them safe to other Ports than there first destination – I am with much respect Your Excellencys [&c.]

Josh^{a} Wentworth

[1] Washington Papers, LC.
[2] See *Essex Journal,* January 12, 1776.

JOSHUA WENTWORTH TO STEPHEN MOYLAN [1]

Sir, Portsmouth Jany 10th 1776

I have dispatch'd my young man with sundry packages, Letters & News Papers to His Excellency General Washington, that came to hand by some Masters of Vessels lately arrivd at Casco Bay from England – These Captains will set off for Head Quarters in a day or two to wait on the General, & deliver verbal messages they have from some Gentlemen of Note in London I hope it will be usefull

I have discharged the potateo Vessel[2] by Storeing about 550 bushels in a cellar, soon as disposed off I shall transmit you Sales &c. remaining with much Esteem Sir, [&c.]

Josha Wentworth

P.S. Mr King sends by this oppty Invoice of the Flour.[3]

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1. Washington Papers, LC.
2. Schooner *Rainbow,* John McMonagle, master, taken November 25, 1775, by Washington's schooner *Warren.*
3. The flour inventory covered the cargo of the ship *Prince George,* from Bristol, which blundered into the Piscataqua river in October, 1775, and was seized by the Portsmouth Committee of Safety. See Volume 2.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO LORD STIRLING [1]

My Lord

Cambridge Jany 10. 1776

Having received undoubted Intelligence of the fitting out of a Fleet from Boston, & of the embarkation of Troops from thence, which from the season of the year & other circumstances, must be destined for some expedition South of this; And having such Informn as I can rely on, that the Inhabitants of Long Island or a great part of them are inimical to the rights & liberties of America, & by their conduct & professions have discovered an Apparent inclination to Assist in Subjugating their Countrymen & fellow Citizens to the System of tyranny, Administration are attempting to establish, there is the greatest reason to apprehend, that this Armament, If not immediately designed against the City of New York, is nevertheless Intended for Long Island.

Knowing it to be of the last importance to the Interest of America, to prevent the Enemy from getting possession of these places, & the North river, which would give them the Command of the Country & a free communication with Canada, I have dispatched Major Genl [Charles] Lee with orders to repair to New York with such Volunteers as he can raise on his way (having no Troops to spare from hence) to put the City & the Fortifications up the river in the best posture of defence, the season & situation of Affairs will admit of & for taking proper steps agt such persons on Long Island & elsewhere whose conduct hath rendered them suspected of designs unfriendly to the views of Congress –[2] I have directed him to apply to you for the Troops of New Jersey under your Command in the Continen[ta]l pay or such of them as he may think necessary for effecting the purposes of his going – I beg and am assured that you will afford him every assistance in your power, for facilitating this business, as far as may be consistent or not repugnant to the Orders you shall [have] received from Congress, and with all possible expedition. I am, My Lord [&c.]

To The Right Honbl The Earl of Stirling

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1. Washington Papers, LC.
2. The instructions to General Lee and a letter of warning to the New York Committee of Safety were written by Washington on January 8.

STEPHEN MOYLAN TO WILLIAM BARTLETT [1]

[Cambridge] 10th Jany 1776

by Col. [John] Glovers acct I find that Capt. Manly & Capt [William] Burke have engaged, what in my opinion will with the Officers be a sufficient number for these Small vessells – if the Guns belonging to Capt. [John] Darby Cannot be purchasd – they must be replaced out of the two vessels that are not in Such forwardness – we shall afterwards think of Suplying them, there are two ps at Cape Ann out of the Ordnance Store ship & two at Beverly out of the *Concord* [2] – these are good Guns & will help, indeed I think be as good as six for the purpose these vessells are fitted out the Treasury is at present very Low, you must therefore wait for money until a remittence Comes from Phila we are every day expecting it Col Glover tells me that both Manly & Burke engaged to advance a months pay, it was wrong except the people engaged for twelve months – if they do not I dont think them entitled to it – however if you find it will retard the sailing of these vessells – I wish you woud raise money & advance it to them yourSelfe as the General will not chuse to have their accounts blended with the accounts of the Army Which must be the Case, if Colonel Glover advances the money to them – it will Save much trouble and at Same time be your own interest to Keep all the accounts of these vessells in your own hands –

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[1] Washington Papers, LC.

[2] The ordnance brig *Nancy,* and the ship *Concord,* taken by John Manley in Washington's schooner *Lee* in November and December, 1775.

LIEUTENANT JOHN KNIGHT, R.N., TO GEORGE WASHINGTON [1]

Sir

Northampton Jany 10th 1776

Many reasons as well as the unexpected lengthening time of my Captivity induces me to take the liberty of addressing you on a Subject the propriety of which I must leave to your Judgement. Freedom from being a Prisoner, is the ultimate of my request, and as this great indulgence I conceive lyes entirely with yr Excellency. I must beg your attention one moment – to my reasons – for this presumption. – I have been employed in America since the year 1763 on the Survey of the Sea Coasts, and since 1770 until the hour of my Captivity commanded a Kings Vessel on that Service only, during all which time I can declare I never did a single injury to an American, or ever detain'd one of their Vessels (even in an Illicit Trade) tho' often in my power; on the contrary I dare believe there are several will do me the Justice to acknowledge having received assistance from me when in distress. The Work I was then engaged on, was of a publick Nature, and intended for the Advantage of all, but as this unhappy dispute must necessar[i]ly put a Stop to that Service, there is not the least probability of my being employed (Should your goodness indulge me with my Liberty) there being so many Young Gentlemen with the Adml waiting for promotion, and many more seeking Employment, which to a Man in my Situation, having a familly in America, would admit of no invitation.– I should trespass on your patience to relate the particulars of my being made Prisoner at Machias, which I am confident, would appear most favourable for me, and no doubt influence you sir in a great measure to acquiesce with my entreaty. – If Captain Stephen Smith the principal person of that place was near your Excellency, he [*sic* you] would Gain positive inform, that the proceedings with me there & the Surgeon Mr McFadjen belonging to the *Diligent,*[2] was altogether contrary to every practice in War.

I beg leave to Submit these facts to your Excelcys consideration and am with respect. Your Excellency's [&c.]

John Knight

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1. Washington Papers, LC.
2. H.M. Schooner *Diligent,* on surveying service out of Windsor, Nova Scotia, had put into Machias, apparently unaware of the seriousness of the rebellion in July 1775, and was seized.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES [1]

[Watertown] Wednesday, January 10, 1776.

Mr. Speaker communicated to the House a Letter from his Excellency General Washington, inclosing a Copy of Peleg Wadsworth's Account of Cape-Cod Harbour.

Read, and Sent up.

Afternoon.

The House proceeded according to the Order of the Day to the Choice of a Committee on the Part of the House, for the Purposes expressed in a Resolve brought in by Mr. [Elbridge] Gerry. And Col. [Elisha] Porter and Mr. [John] Brown of Boston being nominated, were appointed.

The Resolve, being amended, passed the House, and is as follows, *viz.*

Resolved, That Col. Porter, and Mr. Brown of Boston, with such as the Hon. Board shall join, be, and they hereby are appointed a Committee to settle the Accounts remaining unsettled on the Books of the late Committee of Supplies, and to collect or pay the Balances that may be due to or from the Colony on said Accounts; also to take the care of the Brigantines *Rockingham* and *Unity*'s Cargoes, and such a Part of the Schooner *Macaroni,* as belongs to the Colony; also to see that the Order of this Court be complied with by Capt. William Johnson, late Commander of the Schooner *Brittania,* relative to his delivering to the Commissary of said Colony, the neat Proceeds of the Cargo of said Schooner, consigned him by the said late Committee of Supplies, exclusive of what he shall produce Receipts of having delivered agreable to any Order of said Court: And they are further directed to receive from the Files of said Committee of Supplies, all the Papers relative to said Vessel, or any of the Persons having Accounts unsettled as aforesaid, and upon the Arrival of any of them, to cause the Proceeds of their Cargoes (if vested in Military Stores) to be delivered to the Colonial Commissary, and take his Receipts therefor, and to certify to the standing Committee of Accounts, the Sums which they shall find necessary to dicharge the Portage Bills, Hire, and other necessary Charges attending the said Voyages, that shall be due from the Colony aforesaid. And the standing Committee on Accounts are hereby empowered to pay and discharge the Portage Bills, Hire of Vessels, and other Charges that shall be examined and certified by the Committee now chosen as aforesaid, they to be accountable to the General Court for their Doings.

1. Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN ALEXANDER GRAEME, H.M.S. *Mercury* [1]

You are hereby required and directed to receive on board his Majesty's Ship under your Command (for Security) such Ordnance Stores as Lieutt Col. [Samuel] Cleaveland of Artillery shall desire to be sent from the *Kitty* Transport, and you are to direct your Gunner to receive them into his Charge and sign Receipts for the said Stores, which he is to require upon their being delivered to any other Ordnance Officer by your Order and that of the Commanding Officer of the *Mercury* for the time being.

Given under my Hand on board his Majesty's Ship *Preston* at Boston 10 Janry 1776
Sam^l Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 115–16, BM.

COLONEL JEDEDIAH HUNTINGTON TO JABEZ HUNTINGTON [1]

[Extract] Camp at Roxbury 10 Jany 1776

a Deseter came to our Guards last Night, a Corporal, and a sensible Fellow – says 200 Marines & two light Companies are embarked on Board some Transports & orders were expected to have all the Grenadiers join them supposed to be destined to Virginia – that there has been no Arrivals since the *Chatham* which brought Admiral Shuldham – says General Howe was very angry at the Conduct of his Troops at Charlestown when the Houses were burnt by our People – that 18 Regiments of Foot & 2 Battalions of Marines make the whole of their Force – that they have 3 lb Pork p Man p Week 5 oz Butter & 1 Gill Oil – &c. – that they expect more Troops but not till Spring –

1. Jedediah Huntington Letters, ConnHS.

JOURNAL OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO BUILD TWO CONTINENTAL FRIGATES IN RHODE ISLAND [1]

[Providence] Jany 10. 1776

Meeting in Being according to Adjournment.

Voted. That Mr Moses Tyler be desired to go to Cambridge and the Neighbouring Towns and engage all the good Ship Carpenters he can to come here to work on the ships the [*sic* that] he offer 4/6 pr day, they boarding themselves and that he be allowed a reasonable sum for his time and Expences for doing the said Business for Masterworkmen a higher price will be given

Voted. That Mr Sylvester Bowers make a Draught of the Large ship as soon as may be.

Reckoning 22/ LMy paid By Joseph Nightingale
Meeting adjourned to Fryday evening 6 o'clock

1. Journal R.I. Frigates, RIHS.

Meredith Stewart to Joshua Hempstead [1]

Sir New London, January 10th. 1776

You having command of my Sloop *Lizard* and consignments of my part of Cargo – woud have you (after delivering the Soldiers at Reedy Island) proceed to Newbern North Carolina there dispose of your Cargo to the Best advantage – and if can sell the Sloop for Two Hundred & twenty Pounds Lawful Money or more woud have you do it as it will be as Safe and safer for you to risque the Money for the obligation of your half in Charter party – then risque the Vessell back, and if shoud sell the Vessell woud have you bring home the Money for her and Cargo in the way you think Safest – If you coud not sell the Vessell for money and had an offer from a good man there on a credit not exceeding six Months with Interest afterwards woud Sell her so rather than not Sell at all if agreable to you – or if cou'd Charter her in the Colony Service (and no Opportunity to sell) woud get her Valued at a good Price and let her go so provided they'll give Six Shillgs Lawl Money pr ton pr month and risque her – or if Capt Saltonstall shoud want her in the Continental Service either to buy or hire woud sell the Cargo to him at a reasonable rate and let him improve her – but as you are equally concern'd in Vessell you'll do everything as you'll think most advantageous for both – I shou'd much rather for my part dispose of the Vessell out & out & you'll oblige me to endeavour to do it in the best Manner you can if they make you anything of a generous offer – If you are Offer'd less than £220 or even only £200 the Comsns for selling Vessell and your part of Charter reckon'd will amount to more than the odd £20 besides what you'll make by your part of carrying the Soldiers however if you are offer'd pretty near I had rather ease of a little myself than not sell her – But if can't sell nor Charter to advantage woud have you lay out my part of effects in Rice or Indico and return as Soon as possible endeavouring to get freight for what my effects falls short of loading my half I wish you a safe prosperous Voyage & speedy return & am yr friend & Hble Sert.

M Stewart

I've 73 bbls. Cyder in all on board 2 of which let Saml Watkins have and 2 Danl Talbot which leaves 69 of mine in bbl. which charg'd in Invoice

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[1] HH.

Major General Philip Schuyler to John Hancock [1]

[Extract]
Copy Albany January 10th 1776.

Sir I take the Liberty to enclose You an Extract of a Letter from General [Richard] Montgomery to me of the 18 Ult; I fear his next will announce the disagreeable Account of his having been obliged to raise the Siege, as soon after the Date of his Letter the Weather became most intensely cold in Canada. Congress will perceive by the first Part of the second Paragraph of his Letter that he expected Troops from this Quarter, I had mentioned to him that I had taken the Liberty to recommend to Congress to send a Body of Troops into Canada this Winter. I am so well convinced of the Practicability as well as the Necessity of It, that altho' I am much indisposed I would willingly undertake to conduct them to the

South End of the Bay of Missisque to which Place I can get with the Necessary Provisions in sleds, from whence the Traverse across that Bay (which is by this Time passable on the Ice) to Windmill Point is easy & thence on the Narrow Part of Lake Champlain no Obstacles will intervene & the Distance only about twenty four Miles to St Jchns . . . .

Two of the heaviest Cannon broke the Ice in Crossing Hudsons River, the one is got out & the Other will be so in a Day or two, the Others are all gone on & I hope will reach Cambridge by the Sixteenth. –

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, I, 388–90, NA.

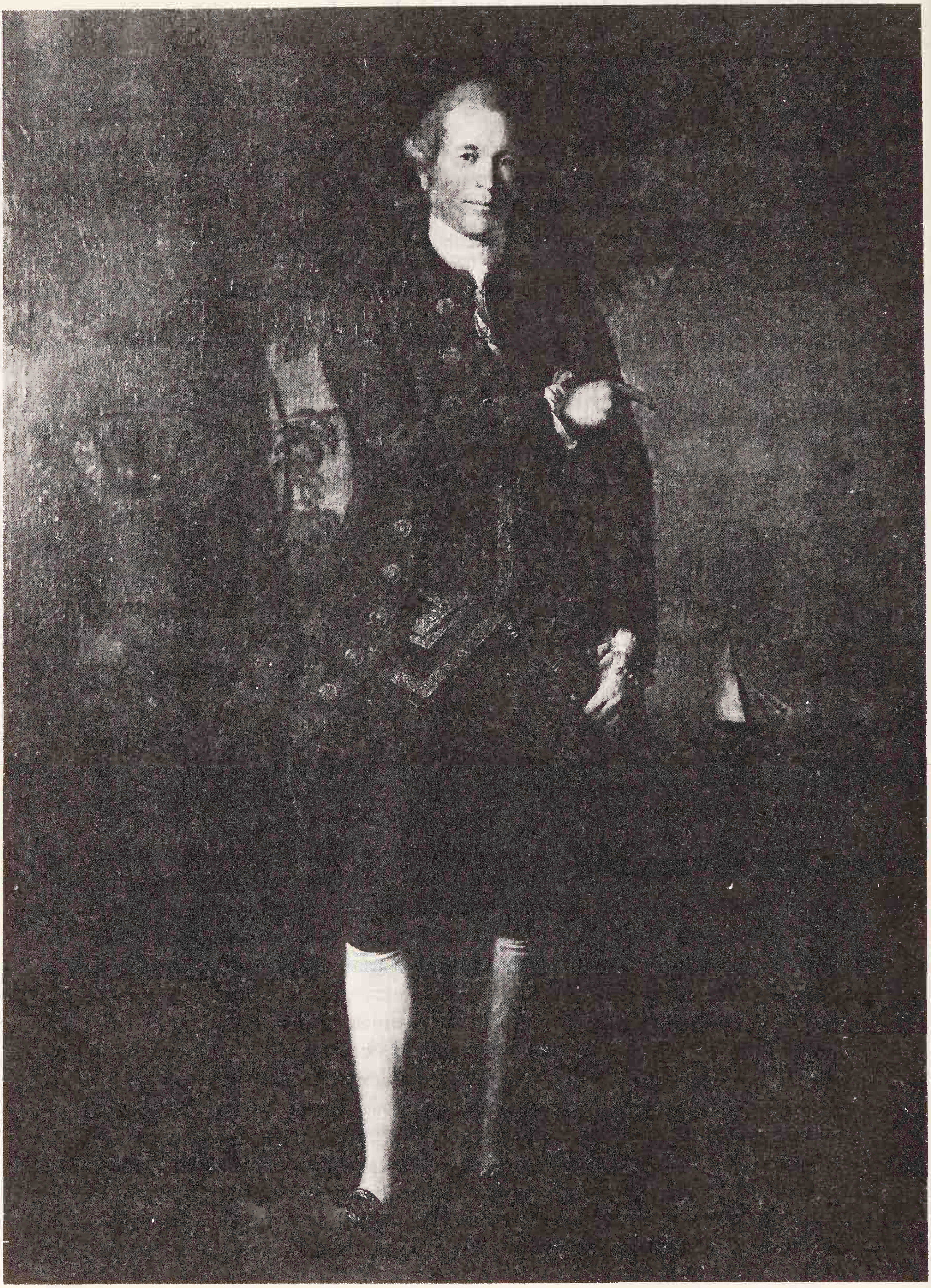
MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

[New York] Die Mercurii, 10 HO.A.M.
January the 10th, 1776.

Mr. Nichs. Low, attending at the door, was admitted; he informed the Committee that he had received information that Lord Sterling had a design to use the vessel of Mr. Isaac Governeur, now at Elizabeth Town Point, to seize despatches from on board of the ship bound for London, and under the command of Capt. Cooper.

Thereupon a draft of a letter to Lord Sterling was read and approved of, and is in the words following, to wit:

> In Committee of Safety for the Colony of New-York,
> During the recess of Provincial Congress,
> New York, 10th Jany. 1776.
>
> My Lord – While we entertain the highest sense of your zeal in the public service, permit us to inform you, that we have this moment received advice of your design to employ a sloop now loading at Elizabeth Town Point, under the protection of this Committee and the direction of Mr. Nich. Low, of this city, to seize the despatches now on board Capt. Cooper; though we do not altogether rely on this advice, yet, lest it should be well founded, we beg leave to inform you, that such an expedient will, in our opinion, be prejudicial to the common cause. You doubtless know, my lord, upon what errand she came to this Continent. Should any steps be taken on our part that may embarrass those of our friends abroad, who are running risks to serve us, we must necessarily lose their assistance in an article of the utmost importance to us. We can divine no reason why that sloop should be preferred to many others in New-Jersey equally fit for the service, unless it is that the few swivels she has mounted may denominate her an armed vessel; should this be the reason for preferring her to any other, the purpose may be effectually answered by borrowing those swivels and mounting them in some other vessel. If your design should be such as we have mentioned, we beg that the expedient proposed by us may be adopted in preference to the one which will naturally discourage our friends abroad from continuing their friendship towards us.[2]
>
> We are, with great respect, my lord [&c.]
> By order of the Committee of Safety.



Captain William Stone, Continental sloop Hornet *in background*

P.S. We beg leave to inform your lordship, that we have understood the ship will be convoyed to sea by a company of marines in a pilot boat.

Ordered, That a copy thereof be engrossed, and signed by the Chairman, and delivered to Mr. Low.

N.B. Mr. Low having discovered that the information he had received was without any foundation, and this letter unnecessary, returned it to the Committee of Safety on the 11th, and it was ordered to be destroyed.

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1. *New York Provincial Congress,* I, 242.
2. See Minutes of the New York Committee of Safety, January 8, 1776.

SAMUEL ADAMS TO JAMES WARREN [1]

[Extract] Philadelphia, January 10, 1776

My Dear Sir, – I wrote to you the 7th Instant by Mr. Anthony by the way of Providence, and should not so soon have troubled you with another Letter but to inform you, that upon looking over the Journals of Congress I find that the Recommendation of the 26th of October, to export Produce for a certain Purpose, is confind to the foreign West Indies; and the Resolution to stop all Trade till the first of March is subsequent to it. This last Resolution prevents your exporting your Merchantable Fish to Spain for the purpose mentiond, which I am satisfied was not intended, because I am very certain the Congress means to encourage the Importation of those necessary Articles under the Direction of proper Persons, from every Part of the World.

I design to propose to my Colleagues to joyn with me in a Motion to extend the Recommendation so as to admit of exporting Fish to any place besides the foreign West Indies.

1. *Warren-Adams Letters,* I, 203–04.

ROBERT MORRIS TO MAJOR GENERAL CHARLES LEE [1]

[Extract] Pha. Jany. 10th. 1776

we had some Success against Dunmore but he is now reenforced with Naval Strength & we dare not look at him by Sea no more than he dare set his foot on Shoar, our Fleet however will pass over the Cheavaux de Frize Channell this day I hope but their Destination is not yet known to any but our Naval Committee. I have undertaken to build four Frigates here & expect to produce four fine Ships by the Month of May next.

1. Robert Morris Mss., Bank of North America Papers, HSP. Morris was a Pennsylvania delegate in the Continental Congress.

NAVAL COMMITTEE TO CAPTAIN WILLIAM STONE [1]

Sir Philadelphia 10th January 1776

We are ordered by Congress to signify to you, that you are with the *Hornet* & *Wasp* under your Command to take under your Convoy such Vessels as are ready for the Sea as shall be committed to your Care by the Comee of Safety at Maryland, & see them safe through the Capes of Virginia & without a Moments Loss of Time after this Service is done you are to go to the Capes of Delaware, & proceed upwards till you join the Fleet, or in Case of its having Sailed receive such Orders as may be left for you by Esek Hopkins Esqr Commander in Chief of the Fleet of the United Colonies – wch you are to Obey –

Stephen Hopkins Silas Deane
Christr Gadsden Joseph Hewes –

To Willm Stone Esqr Commander of the Sloop *Hornet* In the Service of the United Colonies

1. Hopkins Papers, RIHS.

Christopher Gadsden to Commodore Esek Hopkins [1]

Dr sir Philada 10th Janry 1776

Inclosed is Copy of an Order from the Committee to Capt [William] Stone sent by Directions of Congress on an Application from Maryland wch it is necessary you shou'd have –

I also take the Liberty to send you a List of the Field Officers & Captains of two Regiments of Foot & three Companies of Artillery all Provincials station'd at Charles Town So.Carolina, shou'd you go there, upon your Arrival off the Bar the Pilot will informe you what Officer is at Fort Johnson or any of the nearest Batteries to you, from whom you may depend on all the Assistance they can give, they are most of them Gentlemen of considerable Fortunes with us who have enter'd into the service merely from Principle & to promote & give Credit to the Cause, they take it by Turns to be at the Fort, & the Zeal & Activity of all of them are such that you can't happen amiss let who will be there –

In Charles Town my particular Friends Mr [Rawlins] Lowndes, Mr [Thomas] Ferguson, Coll [George Gabriel] Powell, Mr Benja Elliott, Coll [Charles] Pinckney, Mr [William Henry] Drayton, Mr [Peter] Timothy & the Revd Mr [William] Tennant a Countryman of yours will introduce you to many others, who will all be glad to have an Opportunity of obliging you & promoting the Service – I wrote yesterday to Mr Ferguson one of the Gentn just mention'd by Way of Georgia, by a Gentleman I can depend on who will destroy my Letter shou'd he be taken, in this Letter I have hinted to look out for you, & be ready to assist you at a Moment's Warning – The two large Ships seen off of Virginia the 29th of last Month we are told were not bound there, however you will know more certainly by the Time you get out of the Capes I make no doubt – I hope you will be able to effect that Service, but whether you may or not, sooner or later I flatter myself we shall have your Assistance at Carolina, where you may depend on an easy Conquest, or at least be able to know without Loss of Time when off our Bar the Strength of the Enemy, & shou'd it be too much for you prudently to encounter wch I hardly think probable if soon attempted wth the Assistance to be depended on from us you may in such Case Retreat with great Ease, Safety & Expedition –

Wishing you every Success you can possibly wish yourself – I am Dr sir [&c.]

Christ Gadsden

P.S. Pray make my Complimts to Capt [Dudley] Saltenstall & the Rest of your Captains, & shall be obliged to you if you go to Carolina to introduce them to any or all the Gentlemen I have mention'd who I am sure will be glad to shew them every Civility in their Power – I hope Capt [Abraham] Whipple is better –

One of the Maryland Gentn Mr [Robert] Alexander a Delegate of that Colony tells me their is a very good Ship of about 20 Guns there[2] easily fitted out wch he is in hopes will join you with the *Hornet* & *Wasp,* & that he shou'd press it to be done this I mention by the by, –

[Enclosure]

Field Officers & Captains of the 1st & 2d Regiment of foot in the Provincial Service of South Carolina –

First Regiment
Collonel Christr Gadsden
Lieut Coll Isaac Huger
Major Chas C. Pinckney
Captains, Wm Cattel
Adam McDonald
Thos Lynch Junr
Wm Scott
John Barnwell
Thos Pinckney
Edmund Hyrne
Roger Saunders
Benjn Cattel

Second Regiment
Collonel Wm Moultrie
Lieut. Coll. Isaac Motte
Major Alexr McIntosh
Captains, Francis Marrion
Peter Horry
Daniel Horry
Nicholas Eveleigh
James McDonald
Isaac Harleston
Wm Mason
Francis Huger
Chas Motte

Officers of Artillery

Lieut. Coll. Owen Roberts Esqr Honle Barnard Elliott Esqr Major – Barnard Beekman, Charles Drayton & Syms White, Captains.

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1. Hopkins Papers, RIHS. Gadsden was a South Carolina delegate in the Continental Congress.
2. The Maryland ship *Defence.*

Gilbert Barkly to Sir Gray Cooper [1]

per Express to New York [Philadelphia] 10th January 1776

Sir The two ships and tuo briganteens I mentioned in my last fell down the river the 4th Currt.[2] the ships has 250 men including marine's each of them, and the Briganteens 100 men each, they are Joined by a sloop of 12 guns from New England, there is also a Briganteen, and a Sloop fitted out at Baltimore in Marry land which Joins them before they leave this river:[3] the reason (no doubt) for their shiping such a great number of men, is that they intend to board their antagonists sword in hand: they have hoisted what they call the Ammerican Flag viz the British Union, with thirteen stripes red and white, for its field, Representing the thirteen United Collonies:[4] there is a Ship on the Stocks and nigh finished to mount 20 heavey Cannon, to support the fort on the Island,[5] a floating battery is also a building to mount 25 heavey Cannon, and a Strong Iron Chain, is a making to be put across the Chas'm betwixt the Island battr'y and the Cheaux de Frise, there is also above thirty five floats preparing to be made use of as occation require. Three Frigates to mount 36 guns each are apreparing to put on the Stock's, and are expected to be ready for launching in April or May, and it is said, the other Colonies are to Build twelve more [6] . . . a Ship arrived tuo days ago from France, with sixty tons of salt Petre, and another is hourly expected with arms and military Stores, and above Fifty tons of gunpouder has arrived since my last; it is very extraordinary that this river, (the most Consequential in Ammerica) has been so much neglected by the Kings ships: . . .Tuo French gentlemen [7] (but are called Noble men) arrived about eight days ago in this City, they made their first appearance in general Washingtons Camp, and he recommended them to the Congress, with whom they have been frequently and it is said they are authorized to offer the assistance and protection of that Crown with Supply's of Arms Ammunition etc etc provided they (the Congress) agree to grant them a free trade: one of them (Im told) is to return directly to France, and the othir is to Continue at this place, to negotiate the affairs of that Perfidious Kingdom, who great Britain may be assured, watches every opportunity to involve and distress, though at the same time they are Sensible, they are plunging thousands into death and destruction, but this they matter not Provided they carry their diabolical ends . . .

This is forwarded by Express to New York, to be forwarded to you by the governor. . . .

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1. *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, LXXXV, 28–30, from the collection (Sir Henry Barkly Papers) of Mrs. Mona MacMillan of Long Whittenham, Berkshire, England.
2. The Continental fleet dropped down only to the fort below the city.
3. The sloop *Providence,* originally the *Katy,* from Rhode Island, and the sloop *Hornet* and schooner *Wasp,* from Baltimore.
4. The Grand Union flag.
5. The Pennsylvania ship *Montgomery.*
6. Barkly was in error regarding the number of frigates to be built; four rather than three in Philadelphia, and nine elsewhere.
7. Penet and Pliarne.

Journal of the Virginia Convention [1]

[Williamsburg] Wednesday, January 10, 1776.

A petition of John Goodrich was presented to the Convention, and read praying, among other things, that the Committee of Safety might be directed to pay him the balance of his account against the public.

Ordered, That the said petition be referred to the committee appointed to inquire into the conduct of the said John Goodrich, relative to the importation of gunpowder, and other articles for the use of the colony.

Resolved, That the cargo of the brig *Fanny,* lately taken by captain [Richard] Barron, and carried to Cumberland, be disposed of, as the Committee of Safety shall direct, for the use of this colony; the said committee being directed to pay captain Barron one tenth of the value of the said cargo, another tenth to the mate and sailors, allowing three shares to the mate.

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1. *Virginia Convention,* 91.

PINKNEY'S *Virginia Gazette,* WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 1776

Williamsburg [January 10].

Mr. Pinkney,

You, or your correspondent, made a great mistake in your paper of the 30th of December, in your account of lord Dunmore's cruelty to the poor Highlanders, in saying that they arrived after the battle of the Great Bridge, for they really were brought to Norfolk, pressed into Dunmore's service, promised land and every necessary, were armed against us, and a report industriously propagated, which had reached our camp, that they were a reinforcement of 500 Highland soldiers, and this report was in a great measure the means of saving the remains of the regulars at the bridge. But when his lordship found that this report, and these poor people, could do him no farther service, he turned them adrift to perish, for what he cared. The slaves may judge from this what they might have expected from his lordship's promises, if he pays so little regard to those made to his own countrymen.

Gosport, since our last, is burnt by our people, on which account old [Andrew] Sprowle has lost considerable property. No material news has been received from that quarter this week.

CAPTAIN TOBIAS FURNEAUX, R.N., TO PHILIP STEPHENS [1]

Sir

Please to acquaint their Lordships of my arrival at Cape Fear, in His Majesty's Ship *Syren* under my Command on the 3d Inst after a very disagreable passage of seven Weeks and four days from Plymouth sound, and that Evening sent the Dispatches to Governor [Josiah] Martin by the hands of Captain Perry [Francis Parry] of His Majesty's Sloop *Cruizer,* the Governor being on board the *Scorpion,* and as it would be a few days, before I should be able to procure the Pilots, thought it most prudent to run the Ship in over the Barr for her more security, as the road is very dangerous Lying in Winter season it being quite open to the Southward and Easterly winds which thro' in such a swell as would render it impossible for Anchors to hold, having had several heavy Gales from that Quarter since we have been on this Coast. – We had not less than 16 feet of Water on the Barr and then not high Water. – On my Waiting on the Governor I received a Letter from him desiring a small supply of Powder and Musquet Ball, which request I have Comply'd with, taking care to keep a sufficient Quantity for the Use of His Majesty's Ship *Syren*; – And in Consequence of a Letter from Captain Parry wherein he acquaints me he had no Boat on board that was fit for service, have supplied him with the Extra I reced at Chatham, which I hope will meet with their Lordships aprobation, since which I have been detained by contrary Winds, but now am under sail for South Carolina. – I am Sir [&c.]

Syren Cape Fear Jany 10th 1776: Tob^{s} Furneaux

[Endorsed] 29 Mar [1776] own rect & approve

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 1/1790.

PROCLAMATION OF GOVERNOR JOSIAH MARTIN [1]

A PROCLAMATION.

Whereas a most daring, horrid, and unnatural Rebellion has been exerted in the Province against His Majesty's Government, by the base and insidious artifices of certain, traitorous, wicked, and designing men, and the same is now openly avowed and declared, and actually threatens the sole subversion of the laws and Constitution of the said Province, and the liberties and privileges of His Majesty's subjects, inhabitants thereof, I have thought fit to issue this Proclamation, hereby to signify to all His Majesty's liege subjects within this Province, that I find it necessary, for the safety and preservation of the rights, civil and religious, and for the maintenance of His Majesty's government against the said desperate, unnatural Rebellion, to erect His Majesty's Royal standard, and to collect and unite the forces of His Majesty's people under the same, for the purpose of resisting and subduing, with the assistance of the Almighty, the said impious and unnatural Rebellion, and to restore the just rights of His Majesty's Crown and Government, and the liberties of his people; and I do, hereby, exhort, require, and command, in the King's name, all His Majesty's faithful subjects, on their duty and allegiance, forthwith to repair to the Royal standard, hereby promising and assuring every aid, encouragement, and support to all such as shall come to vindicate and support the violated laws and Constitution of their country; at the same time pronouncing all such Rebels as will not join the Royal banner, Rebels and Traitors; their lives and properties to be forfeited. All such as will join shall be forgiven any past offences, even admitting they had taken up arms, not doubting that every man who knows the value of freedom and the blessings of a British subject, will join his heart and hand to restore to his country that most glorious, free, and happy Constitution and form of Government, which the most desperate and abandoned Traitors only can wish to disturb or alter; or, in times of danger, like the present, forbear to hazard every thing that is dear to support it.

Given under my hand and seal-at-arms, on board His Majesty's Sloop *Scorpion*, in Cape-Fear River, this 10th day of January 1776, and in the sixteenth year of His Majesty's reign.

Josiah Martin

God save the King.

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[1] Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, IV, 980–81.

JOSIAH SMITH, JR. TO JAMES POYAS, LONDON [1]

[Extract] [Charleston] January 10th 1776 –

Per Capt Smith in a Jamaica Snow & per Mrs Wells from Georgia

Dear Sir My last to you was by the *Portland* Capt Wilson, dated 21st September since which I have been favourd with yours of 14 August, and was hopeful of hearing from you by the Packett Boat [2] also, who arriv'd in our Road on Christmas day, but the Mail was not brought up to town till the 3d Instant, being detain'd by our hopeful Governour. Mr Wm Hayward the only Passenger onboard, was also detain'd some days, and the letters he had in Charge taken from him before he was suffer'd to quit the Ship, since that day 6th Instant, said Packett with the *Tamar* &

Cherokee Men of Warr hath quitted us, with Lord William [Campbell] & his Family onboard, the former having a Mail onboard for New York,[3] 'tis thought the Lady & Children with some Torys driven from Georgia, and one or two Slipped away from hence, are gone Passengers in her for England. – but where the Governour intends for we know not, however, his Room will prove much more agreeable than his Company as his actions have continued to be very mean toward us, for a number of Valuable Slaves have been Induced tis thought, to quit their owners here through encouragement from him & the Commanders of the Men Warr, and protected by them on Sullivants Island, to which place 50 or 60 of our People three weeks since paid a visit at Night, and early in the Morning sett Fire to the Pest house, took some Negros & Sailors Prisoners, killed 5 of the former that woud not be taken, and unfortunat[ely] lost near 20 that were unseen by them till taken off the Beach by the Men Warrs Boats some of whose People Fired on ours without effect, but were suffer'd to return without any other Injury than much frighted by the whooping & appearance of a party from our Indian Company, who had they been permitted to Fire (being all Rifle Men) must have killed every Sailor that appear'd in the Boats. – the day before this Action the *Scorpion* Man Warr with Governor [Josiah] Martin of North Carolina on board, and a large Transport (who had a number of Cannon taken from Forts there & at Bermuda) and with Forty of our Negros with them, Sailed hence 'tis thought for Boston, as they carried with them one of our Winyaw Coasting Schooners, and two Bermuda Built Sloops seiz'd by them, altho the two latter legally clear'd from the West Indies, one from Jamaica with Rum & the other from St Kitts in Ballast, and about 300 half Jo[s] in Cash, this Money Lord William took into his own Custody, and tho demanded [by] a Notary, woud not deliver it to the Owners, the which Scandalous action occurd [torn]riv'd, who Immediately Seizd upon the Carriage & Horses, sold the latter for good Prizes, and will do the same with his furniture &ca if not redeem'd by his friends. – this repeated Insolence of his Majesty's Servants, at last determind our Council of Safety to refuse tham a further supply of any kind of Provisions, the want of which I fancy has occasion'd them to Shift their Quarters for the Present, but suppose we shall be again visited by them after they have collected a Force Sufficient to make head against us. – but by that time hope we shall be better prepared to oppose them as our disturbances in the Back Country are now happily at an end, the Insurgents being in General Subdued & disarmed . . . the Publick News receiv'd by the Packett affords nothing Pleasing for America, and as the last Petition from the General Congress to the King, tho' couch'd in very tender Terms, is like to receive the Same Fate of their former applications, there is little Room for America to hope for any thing less than Bloody Work the coming Spring, which may God in his great Mercy Prevent. – but if our Oppressors are resolv'd to go on in their cruel designs, our Cause being Just, will naturally inspire us with Courage to oppose them, for better had we die in the defence of our Just Rights, than cowardly submit ourselves, our Offspring, and all that is dear to us, to the Will & controul of a haughty and abandoned Sett of Rulers. – the Success of our Troops in the reduction of Canady to our Alliance (a Province which the Ministry seem'd so Sure of as to expect the raising of some Thousand Men there to annoy New England) I hope will weigh not a little with the Cabinet in our favour, and so disappoint their former hopes, as to Soften their hearts, and induce them to listen to a Just & equitable accomodation, and of which I shall rejoice to hear from you. – for 'tis very Melancholy to see Trade once so very flourishing here now quite at a Stand, our Bay & Wharves always at this Season of the Year filled w[ith] Commodities for Exportation, now quite bare and deserted, not a Vessell to be seen at any [?] Wharf, the Merchants Stores Shut up, Scarce One family in Ten now appearing in Town, excepting the Males capable of Bearing Arms, and who by Turns are continually upon Guard both Day and Night, In short business of no kind in a Publick way to be done, but that of Fortifying the Harbour & fitting out of Vessells for Defence. of which we now have [here] a Ship of 24 Guns from 4 to 12 Pounders, a Briggt of 16, and a Schooner of 14, 4, 6, & 9 Pound[ers] besides Swivels, and for whom we hope to have Sailors Soon from the Northward compleatly to Man them, the Ports of George Town & Beaufort are also Fortifying with Cannon, and our Friend D.D. for whom you so tenderly express your fears, is not a little active in the present Crisis, tho' [yet] not a Principal in the [sphere] you mentioned. – Our Continental Congress have prohibited the export[ation] of Rice, and every other commodity till the first of March, and if then there shoud appear no prospect of an accomodation, imagine the Stoppage will continue 'till there is. – this Obliges me to draw upon you (tho later than I expected when I last wrote you) Two Bills, one in favour of Alexander Taylor for £150, and the other in favour of Mary Cooper for £350, say Five hundred Pounds Sterling, payable Thirty days after Sight, the appearance of these Bills may not be Pleasing to you, but as I have so long Forbore from drawing them, hope the payment of them will not bring upon you unspeakable Difficulties. I can Assure you that I have not wantonly done this, but being under Promise to Mr Taylor & Mrs Cooper to make each of them a Remittance at the Close of the Year, necessity has obliged me to draw on you, as I cannot get Bills elsewhere, and no prospect of Shipping Produce for accot of the latter, the which I shoud have Done had there been a free exportation of Rice only – and if this obstruction shoud continue, I may be under the necessity of drawing again upon you in the Spring, but Sparing I will be long as I conveniently can, hoping by May next you will be able to close the Sale of our Indico, and thereby give me good right to trouble you with more Bills . . . nothing more of your debts hath been paid in to me since my last, and perhaps may not receive any while things remain in the present confused State, as no Person can be compelled by Law. – . . . there being no further Conveyance to you by Packett Boats, nor Vessells to load here for any Port of England, 'tis uncertain which way I shall get this letter to you, in the which I have been very lengthy, as desireous of informing you how matters in the present Contest are going on in this Quarter, and to which I will add, that by advices Just receiv'd from Rhode Island, Vessells of Force have been fitted & are now fitting out in almost every Sea Port of this Continent, some of whom have taken a number of Vessells bound to Boston & Quebeck, and among them a Store Ship valued at £30,000 Sterling, having onboard Cloathing, Blanketts, Arms, Powder, Lead & three large

Brass Mortars &c.[4] I say no more, but wish you every needful Blessing, & am Dear Sir Yours &ca

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1. Josiah Smith, Jr.'s Lettercopy Book, 1771–1784, UNCL.
2. The *Sandwich Packet.*
3. The *Tamar, Cherokee, Sandwich Packet* and two prizes, sailed from Charleston harbor at 7 A.M. January 6, and crossed the bar two hours later. See *Tamar's* journal January 6.
4. An exaggerated account of the cargo of the captured brig *Nancy.*

JOSIAH SMITH, JR. TO ALEXANDER TAYLOR [1]

[Extract] [Charleston] January 10th 1776

Mr Alexander Taylor/Calton Hill near Edinburgh/

Per Capt Smith in a Jamaica Snow to London & p Mrs Wells from Georgia

. . . Your House is again empty, Mr Miller having quitted it, with the Province the 11th November, and I fear t'will so remain both without a Tennant & a Purchaser, until the dispute between Great Brittain & America is finally Settled, and which I fear must end in much Bloodshed, for as the last Petition from the Continental Congress to the King (tho very Condecending) has been refused an answ[er] and Warlike preparations on the Side of Government still going on. – America thinks it necessary to follow their example, in preparing for the most Vigorous defence, having alr[eady] Secured the whole of Canada in their Interest, and possessed themselves of vast Military St[ores] and Ammunition by Importation, Manufacture, & Conquest. many Armed Vessells being now Cruising, to take every Transport & Storeship they can meet with, and in which they have already been very Successful. – this Province hath not been idle, having Three Armed Vessells near Ready, Two Reigments of Soldiers, and One of Artillery to Man the [illegible] Batterys [are] finishing at Gadsdens, Prideaus, and Beales Wharves, besides the Three Forts at Ropers and White Point, now in excellent Order, Fort Johnson is also very Strong, another Battery of heavy Cannon near finished, between that and Mr Lambolls Place, a small Battery is also fixed on Hadderrals or Barskdales [Barksdales] Point, and a large One Just begining on Sullivants Island, and all this to prevent Ships of Warr or Troops from coming up to Charlestown, where if they do get footing, we expect they'll immediately destroy it by Fire, and the fear of which hath already occasion'd a General Remove of Wives Children and other Valuables into the Country – so that Charles Town always heretofore lively & busy at this Season of the Year, is now Melancholy to behold, houses Shut up, Wharves & Stores all empty, Trade not carried on, Places of Worship almost deserted, Scarce a Woman to be seen in the Streets, Men continually on Military Duty, and no other Musick but Drum & Fife daily Sounding. – our trust I hope is ultimately on the Great Ruler of the Universe, whose Just Providence hath hitherto been favourable to our cause, & through his Strength hope we shall yet come off conquerors. – . . .

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1. Josiah Smith, Jr.'s Lettercopy Book, 1771–1784, UNCL.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

In the Council of Safety,
[Charleston] Wednesday, Jan. 10th, 1776.

Ordered, That Col. [William] Moultrie be desired forthwith to detach one hundred men, with proper officers, from the colony regiments under his command, to take post upon Sullivan's Island, and there remain to cover the men who shall be employed on the works resolved to be erected upon the said Island.

Ordered, That Capt. [Simon] Tufts, in the colony scooner *Defence,* do forthwith proceed to Fort Johnson, and there take on board and thence convey to Sullivan's Island, such detachment from the colony regiments as the commanding officer shall order to embark; and there remain for the protection of the said troops, until further orders.

Ordered, That the commanding officer of the Charles-Town Company of Artillery do hold a detachment of that company, consisting of an officer and twenty-four men, with two field pieces and the necessary stores, in constant readiness to embark and proceed for Sullivan's Island, upon such signal to be given from the colony schooner *Defence* as shall be agreed upon between the commanding officer of the said schooner and Fort Johnson.

Read a letter from the Provincial Congress at Wilmington, North-Carolina, 2d Jan., 1776.

Also read a letter from our delegates to the Continental Congress, dated Philadelphia, 1st Dec., 1775.

Read a letter from Arch'd Bulloch, esq., dated Savannah, 9th January, 1776.

The following letters, written by direction of the Council, were laid before the board.

> Charles-Town, Jan. 9th, 1776
>
> Gentlemen – your dispatches by [John] Halsal, under date of 6th instant, reached us but this morning.
>
> It is our advice and desire that the cargo of the brigt. *William* may be immediately landed and put into safe stores, under your inspection, and that the vessel may be secured under the command of Fort Lyttleton; and if Mr. Groves, who we apprehend is chief owner of the brigantine, and projector of the intended illicit trade, is in any degree troublesome, you will do well to send him to Charles-Town, under a proper guard, in order that he may be deprived of power to go about and do more mischief against the public. For all these acts you shall be indemnified under the resolutions of the Continental Congress, and the resolutions of the Congress of this colony.
>
> All reasonable allowances ought to be made to the master of the *William,* for his wages and and expences, until he is finally discharged – and as for the scooner [*sic* seamen], if they will come to Charles-Town, and apply to us with authenticated accounts of their demands, they shall be paid all that is justly due to them. We desire you will keep the letters

which were taken in the vessel unopened till we shall further consider this matter.

We shall pay into the hands of your messenger, according to your desire, the several sums of £275 2s. 6d., for charges of removing the brigt. *William* from Cockspur to Beaufort; £15 for an express, with our orders prohibiting exportation; and £20 for an express on the present service. We find no fault with the pay which you have stipulated for the light infantry, – but the £30 for four seamen, for four days, may want explanation in your next letter.

If you will be at the trouble of engaging Capt. [Richard] Ham and his boat, in the particular service which you have mentioned, and of making an agreement with him, upon reasonable terms, such agreement will be confirmed by this board, and the vessel will be put under your direction.

If the vessel loading rice at Cockspur belongs to Carolina, as the *William* does, we recommend that by all means you send for and secure her, in the same manner as you did the other; but if she is not owned here, it would be improper at this juncture, to interefere with her, because we are now waiting for an answer to a letter which we have lately sent to the Council of Safety at Savannah, by the hands of two gentlemen of their board, delegated to treat with us on the subject of exportation. That answer will probably be final on the point of union and confederacy. Besides, the article of rice to Europe will admit of some excuse, – very lame one in our opinion; but there can be no color nor pretence made in favour of indico. We shall write by this opportunity to the Committee of St. Peter's concerning exportation. We must not conclude without requesting you to return our thanks to the gentlemen who performed the service of securing the brigantine, and we are persuaded that your zeal and activity on that and other occasions will receive the approbation of Congress. In the meantime we beg you will accept our particular acknowledgements.

By order of the Council of Safety.

Henry Laurens, President.

The Committee for St. Helena, at Beaufort.

Charles-Town, Jan. 10th, 1776.

Sir – We have before us your several dispatches of the 3d, 7th and 8th instant; and with pleasure we say that your endeavour to promote public service appears in every instance.

The saving of the cannon and military stores which are now at Frederica, from falling into the hands of our enemies, we have much at heart, and will readily go into the expence necessary for guarding Capt. [John] Joiner against such attempts as he apprehends may be made upon his person. We think, as the business may be all performed without the ceremony of an herald, he will be in no danger. We are at a loss for a proper boat, but hope that one may be procured in your district or Savannah. We are told, Col. Heyward's scooner, Minot, master, will very well answer the purpose. We make no doubt but that the colonel will hire her for the service, if Capt. Joiner will engage in the business, and will call upon Lochlan McIntosh, esq., at Cat-head, Altamahaw; that gentleman, we are assured, will give all the assistance in his power.

. . .

By order of the Council of Safety.

Henry Laurens, President.

Col. [Stephen] Bull.

Charles-Town, Jan. 10th, 1776.

Gentlemen – We have before us your favours of the 3d and 6th instant. We think you have rightly determined in the several cases of the sloop from Rhode Island and that from Barbadoes. The duties on merchandize imported by the latter ought to be paid according to law, and the vessel to go away in ballast.

Capt. Darrell's brig may be loaded, if he pleases, upon public account. This offer was made to him, but did not meet with his approbation, and we learn that he is gone to George-Town.

Foreign coffee, sugar, and other foreign commodities may undoubtedly be imported and sold in this colony. Except wine from Madeira and the Western Islands, and slaves from any place. See Art. 1 and 2, Continental Association, 24th –, 1774.

We request you will cause the gunpowder imported in the brig to be properly examined as to its quality and contents, and very safely stored. We apprehend that from the imminent danger to which Charles-Town is exposed under displeasure of our enemies, and a positive order by the Continental Congress to defend it to the last extremity, as well as from a recent demand from North Carolina for two thousand pounds weight of gunpowder, accompanied by a strong recommendation from our representatives at Philadelphia, it will be expedient and necessary to withdraw the whole two thousand and six hundred pounds from George-Town, which we shall determine upon in a few days.

The safety of the whole colony is the subject of our continued study . . . Charles-Town is in continued danger. 'Tis here a formidable attack is threatened, and may be expected to be soon made by ships of war. It is our special duty to make all possible provision for defence, and to have the proper means at hand.

By order of the Council of Safety.

Henry Laurens, President.

The Committee at George-Town.

The Council issued an order for the payment of £310 2s 6d to John Halsal, an express messenger from Beaufort, viz:

£257	2	6	thereof amount of disbursements of the Committee at Beaufort, for transporting the brig *William* from Cockspur thither.
20			Expence of an express on that occasion.
£295	2	6	to be charged to brig *William,* John Merceir, master.
15			An express for disbursing notice concerning exportation by committee for St. Helena, to General Fund.
£310	2	6	

Said Halsal promising to deliver £290 2s. 6d. to the Committee at Beaufort.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society,* III, 159–64.

11 Jan.

Brigadier General Benedict Arnold to the Continental Congress [1]

Gentlemen

I take the Liberty, most heartily, to Condole with you, the Loss of great, Amiable, and brave, Genl [Richard] Montgomery, and those brave Men, who fell with him. by his Death, the Comand of the Army Devolves on me, of Course I have Carefully examined his Instructions From the Hble Continental Congress, and their resolutions Respecting this Country. I find it strongly recommended to him, to Conciliate the affections of the Canadians, and Cherish every dawning of Liberty, which Appears among them, and to assure them of the Friendship, and protection of the Congress, and to endeavour to form, on a lasting Basis, a firm Union between them, and the Collonies, by forming a Provincial Congress, & from that Body giving them, a full representation in the Grand Contl Congress, this I am Confident the Genl Laboured [for] with the greatest, Assiduity, and with as great a degree of Success, as could be expected, under the Present state of Affairs.

The Disposition of the Canadians is very favourable to your wishes, the Only Barr of Consequence is Quebec, as this is the key so in a great measure it governs the whole Country, who having been so long habituated to slavery, and having (as yet) but a faint Sense of the value of Liberty, are naturally timorous and diffident, and want every posable Encouragement to take an Active part, this Barr removed I humbly Conceive every other obsticle to a firm & lastg Union with Canada, will of Course be removed, so long as Quebec remains in the hands of the Enemy, it will not be in Our Power to Assist, and protect them, of Course We Cannot expect their hearty exertions in Our favour. Quebec appears to me an object of the highest importance to the Collonies, and if proper meth[o]ds are adopted must inevitably fall into their hands before the Garrison can be relieved. – The whole Garrison of Quebec including Men, Women, & Children, is suposed by Gentlemen who left town the begining of December, to be Four Thousand.

A Gentleman of Veracity Assures me, that Mr Alsop, the Kings Commissary, told him (in Confidence) that there was not One Thousand Barrells of Flour in the Town, and it was Notorious among the Merchants there was not eight Thousand Bushells of Wheat and no Conveniency for flouring it, Provisions of Meat were known to be much less, than those of bread, tho they had some quantity of Fish, it is generaly agreed they had, short of Four months Provision the 1 Decr this Cannot be exactly ascertained as the Govr denied the Inhabitants liberty of Viewing the Stores, or giving them Any Satisfaction in regard to the quantity. It appears a Blockade must Answer Our Purpose, it is posable it may not, will it be prudent to trust an object of Such Vast Importance to the Event, with Submission I think it will not, — what is to be done? a sufficient Force employed to reduce it by a regular Seige or Assault[?] If the first is Attempted, an Addition of three Thousand Men to Our Present Force will, I make No doubt be thought Necessary, if the Latter at least Five thousand, the Former with a vast expence and great waste of Ammunition, may prove unsuccessful, the Latter from the extensiveness of their Works, I think Cannot, and five thousand Men will hardly [be] a sufficient Garrison if the Place is taken. I beg leave, to recommend the sending a Body of at least Five Thousand Men with an experienced General Into Canada, as early as posable, and in the mean Time that every posable Preperation of Mortars, Howitzers & Some heavy Cannon, should be made, as the Season will Permit Our raising Batteries by the middle of March, which may very Posably be Attended with Success, as we can Place Our Mortars Under Cover within Two hundred yards of the Walls & within One Thousand of the Center of the Town, & if Supplied with, Shells, Carcases &c can Set fire to it whenever we please, which I make no doubt would, reduce the Garrison to Terms. I am well Assured more than One half of the Inhabitants, of Quebec would gladly Open the Gates to us, but are prevented by the Strict, Discipline, & Watch kept, Over them, the Command of the Guards being Constantly given to Officers of the Crown, known to be firm in their Interest. – The Garrison Consists of abt fifteen hundred Men, great Part of whom Govr Carleton Can place no Confidence in, or, he would, not Suffer, a Blockade, & every distress of a Siege, by Seven hundred Men, Our Force Consisting of no more at Present, Including Colo [James] Livingstons Regt of Two hundred Canadians, I have Aranged my Men In such Order as effectually to blockade the City, & to Assist each Other, as early as posable, if Attacked. The Men are obliged to lay on their Arms, constantly & to mount Guard every other night. Their Duty is exceedingly hard however the Men Appear Alert and Chearfull, tho wantg many Necessaries, which Cannot be procured here. –

I expect Genl [David] Wooster from Montreal with a Reinforcement, every minute, I have withdrawn, Our Cannon from the Battery, & Placed them round the Magazine, which Contains a Considerable Quantity, of Powder, & Ordinance Stores, which I am fearfull of removing, least it should make unfavourable Impressions, on the Canadians and Induce them to withdraw their Assistance and Govr Carleton, presuming on our Panick, to Sally out, I thought it most Prudent to Put the best face on Matters, & betray no marks of Fear. – We are in great want of Cash Our finances have never afforded any of Consequence to the Troops, who make heavy complaints, (not without reason) we have often been reduced to a few Joannes, & never able to Procure More than Ten days Sustinance before hand – Our whole Dependence has been on Mr [James] Price, who has done every thing in his Power and is the only resource, we have at present I have received two Petards from Monsr Pallasier at three Rivers, who, assures me he can supply Us with Shells, by the first of April,

Inclosed is a List of Officers, killed and Wounded, in the Unfortunate Attack on Quebec. – The Prisoners & missing, Amt to abt Four hundred, Govr Carleton has Permitted the Baggage of both Officers & Men to be Sent in, & (Strange to tell) Treats them with Humanity – I think myself in Justice bound to Acknowledge the good Conduct & Intrepedity of both Officers & Men, of my detachment who Undauntedly marched up in the face of the Enemys cannon, in Particular the Volunteers & Capt [Eleazer] Oswald who Signalized himself, in the Attack on their Battery, & is now a Prisoner.

I hope, Gentlemen, my being Confined to my bed with, my Wound, and a Severe fit of Gout, will, Apologize for the Incoherency, & Incorrectness of my Scrawl, & that you will believe me with the greatest Respect & Esteem, Gentlemen [&c.]

B Arnold

Camp before Quebec Janry 11th 1776

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1. Papers CC (Letters from General Officers), 162, I, 42–49, NA.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO JOHN HANCOCK [1]

Sir

Cambridge 11th Janua[ry] 1776

every Account I have out of Boston confirms the embarkation of troops mentiond in my Last, which, from the Season of the year and other Circumstances must be destined for some expedition to the Southward of this – I have therefore thought it prudent to Send Major General [Charles] Lee to New york, I have given him Letters reccomendatory to Governor [Jonathan] Trumbull, & to the Committee of Safety at New york – I have good hopes that in Connecticut, he will get many Volunteers, who I have Some reason to think will accompany him on this expedition, without more expence to the Continent, than their Mentainance, but Should it be otherwise, and that they Should expect Pay, I think it is a trifleing consideration when put in Competition with the importance of the object, which is to put the City of New york Such parts of the North River, & Long Island as to him Shall Seem proper, in that State of defence which the Season of the year & Circumstances will admit of, So as, if possible to prevent the enemy from forming a Lodgment in that Government, which I am afraid Contains too many persons disaffected to the Cause of Liberty & America – I have allso wrote to Lord Stirling, to give him all the Assistance, that he can, with the troops under his Com[m]and, in the Continental Service, provided it does not interfere with any orders he may receive from Congress relative to them –

I hope the Congress will approve of my Conduct in sending General Lee upon this expedition – I am Sure I mean it well, as experience teaches us that, it is much easier to prevent an enemy from posting themselves, than it is to dislodge them after they have got Posession –

the evening of the 8th instant a party of our Men under the Command of Major [Thomas] Knowlton were orderd to go and burn some houses, which lay at the foot of Bunker's hill, & at the head of Charles town, they were allso orderd to bring of the Guard which we expected Consisted of an Officer & 30 Men – They crost the Mill dam about half after eight o'clock, & gallantly executed their business, haveing burnt eight houses, & brought with them, a Serjeant and four privates of the 10th Regiment, there was but one man more there who makeing some resistance, they were obliged to dispatch – the gun that Killd him was the only one that was discharged by our men, tho severall hundred were fired by the enemy from within their Works, but in So Confused a manner that not one of our people was hurt.

Our Inlistments go on very heavily I am [&c.]

(Copy) G° Washington

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1. Papers CC (Letters from George Washington), 152, I, 411, NA.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR FITTING OUT MASSACHUSETTS ARMED VESSELS [1]

The Comtee of both Houses appointed to consider of a Plan for fiting out one or more Armed Vessels for the defence of American Liberty, have attended that service, & Report in the following Resolves, vizt John Adams Per order

Resolved that two Ships be built, as soon as may be, at the expence of this Colony; One Suitable to carry Thirty-Six Guns, vizt, Twenty Guns carrying twelve Pound Shot, & Sixteen Guns for Six Pound Shot; and the other Ship suitable to carry Thirty-two Guns, vizt Twenty Guns for nine Pound Shott, & Twelve for six Pound Shot; and that these Ships be built in a manner best calculated for swift sailing, & of Timber & all other Materials suitable for Ships of War of such a number of Guns & weight of Metal, & furnished with a suitable number of Officers, Seamen & Marines & that all kinds of necessary Arms, Ammunition & Provisions be furnished for such Ships.

Resolved, That [blank] with Such as the Honble House shall join, be a Comtee to carry the foregoing Resolution into execution as soon as possible, & that a Sum of Money, for that purpose, not exceeding [blank]be put into their Hands, they to be accountable to this Court for the expenditure of the same.

[Endorsed] In Council Jany 11th 1776 Read & sent down

Perez Morton Dpy Secry

[Second endorsement] In the House of Representatives Jan. 12th 1776 –

Read & order'd to be recommitted, & the Committee are directed to report an Estimate of the Expence of building & furnishing the Vessels above propos'd to be provided –

Sent up for Concurrence
J Warren Spkr

[Third endorsement] in Council Jany 12th 1776

Read & concurred

Perez Morton Dpy Secry

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[1] Mass. Arch., vol. 137, 58.

MAJOR GENERAL HENRY CLINTON TO GOVERNOR JOSIAH MARTIN [1]

Governor Martin Boston 11th January 1776.

I take the earliest opportunity of informing Your Excellency of my appointment to the command of His Majestys Troops destined to be employed in the Southern Colonies of North America, and that I shall embark from hence in a few days for Cape Fear within Your Excellencys Government in the Province of North Carolina, but as I mean to touch in my way at New York & Virginia it will probably be the latter end of the Month before I shall reach that Place –

My instructions inform me that five Regiments were ordered to embark from Ireland on the 1st of December, and that the Transports were directed to proceed with the Troops to Cape Fear River, And as they may possibly make the Coast before My Arrival, I am to request you will be pleased to communicate with the Bearer Capt [William Glanville] Evelyn of the 4th Regt (whom I beg leave to introduce to Your acquaintance as an Officer of great merit) and to consult upon such measures as may best afford assistance to the Transports on that Dangerous Coast at this inclement Season of the Year.

I shall be glad to receive any private information you may think necessary to give me by Letter, which Capt Eveyln will deliver to me on my arrival on the Coast I am with great Regard & Esteem &ca

H. Clinton

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[1] Sir Henry Clinton Papers (Miscellaneous Letter Books), CL.

NICHOLAS BROWN TO CAPTAIN PAUL ALLEN [1]

Capt Allen Providence Jany 11. 1776 –
Sr

I am not Certain whither I sufficiently urged the Advantages of Geting Powder & Guns with Bu[e]yonets especially the latter if to be got, tho' very high & more Especially if they Should be to be had On My Credit as Ordd As Also to Balist with Brimstone if to be got, & salt Peter is worth half a Dolr p lb here or More – You Will remember by a Resolve of Congress the Value of the Powder & Arms with Brimst & Salt Peter, May be Exported in any of our Country Produce Any where we please, this is now known to be the sense of the Congress, There will doubtless be very Considerable Advantages to be Made in a Voyage to bring what we please – All parts of a Gun as the Barrel Alone to one Compleet with Buyonets & gun Rammers will be Worth bringing & All the Old & New, or parts of Old or New Locks is worth bringing as Guns will be Much wanting as well as Cutlasses pistles &c If you Could get a pr or two or more Brass two to six pounders at Abot 2/ Likely wod be worth buyg Any Qty of Paper & [besides] All Course Linens Ducks Ozenbrigs Henderch[ie]fs Some Course Check & stripd Hds &c &c wch you May thing [*sic* think] May Ansr to be got on My Credit & wi[th] Powder &c to lode the Vessel before Sailing But dont meand by this but that you may bring of all or Anythings else Mention'd or Not In y[ou]r ordr Nevertheless as you thing will Ansr best

I am perswarded I need Not again Caution you to keep a Constant Good look Out till you get Home – I am &c

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[1] Nicholas Brown Papers, JCBL. Allen was factor on board the sloop *Unity*. The first orders for a voyage to any of the foreign West India Islands were issued by Brown on December 31, 1775.

Journal of the Continental Congress [1]

[Philadelphia] Thursday, January 11, 1776

Resolved, That it be recommended to the convention or committee of safety of New York, to endeavour to obtain a release of Lieutenant —— Tyley,[2] of Brigadier [David] Wooster's regiment, now confined on board the *Asia* man of war, by exchanging for him an officer of the same rank of the British troops in our custody.

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[1] Ford, ed., *JCC,* IV, 49–50.

[2] Ensign Edward Tilley was taken prisoner by Captain George Vandeput, of H.M.S. *Asia.* Vice Admiral Samuel Graves referred to him as "an Ensign in the Connecticut Militia, . . . I have directed to be detained and carried to England, considering him as an Officer although of low rank, in Arms against his Sovereign." Graves's Conduct, I, 156, BM.

—— Crafton to Robert Crafton, Merchant, London [1]

[Extract] Philadelphia 11th Jany 1776.

Dear Father, What is England grown so weak, that she cant govern her oun Subjects without foreign Aid! Surely she must be despised by her Neighbours. You depend much on their countenance in subjecting us, but be assured you are deceived. Governmentally they probably won't interfere, but every supply which we stand in need of, they will cheerfully furnish underhand. Our Coast is so extensive, you cant totally guard it. This Week we got into our River, Fifty Tons of Salt Petre, which will make about 60 Ton of Powder. Parcells from 3 to 10 Ton are continually coming into the different Ports, The Price we have published is so extremely high, that it will force its way here from all parts of Europe. . . .

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[1] PRO, Colonial Office, 5/40. An intercepted letter.

Receipt Relating to the Maryland Ship *Defence* [1]

[Baltimore]

Recd 11th Jany 1776 of Captain James Nicholson on Accot of Ship *Defence* Six pounds for work done on board the *Defence* by two hands Twenty two days (Negro Tom/sd James Ridley)

£ 6.– James Ridley –

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[1] Account Book, Ship *Defence* Papers, MdHS.

Journal of the Virginia Convention [1]

[Williamsburg] Thursday, January 11, 1776.

An Ordinance for raising an additional number of forces for the defence and protection of this colony, and for amending an Ordinance entitled an Ordinance for raising and embodying a sufficient force for the defence and protection of this colony, which had been fairly transcribed, was read a third time.

Resolved, That the said ordinance do pass; and that the title be, an Ordinance for raising an additional number of forces for the defence of this colony and for other purposes therein mentioned.[2]

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1. *Virginia Convention,* 92.
2. *Ibid.,* 108, that part of the ordinance relating to naval matters, reads:

> And for the greater security of the inhabitants of this colony from depredations of the enemy by water, *Be it ordained,* That the Committee of Safety shall, and they are hereby empowered and required to provide, from time to time, such and so many armed vessels as they may judge necessary for the protection of the several rivers in this colony, in the best manner the circumstances of the country will admit; and, to that end, to raise and take into pay a sufficient number of officers and man, as well sailors as marines, whose pay shall be settled by the Committee of Safety, not exceeding the following rates, to wit: to a chief commander of the whole, as Commodore, fifteen shillings, to a master ten shillings, a first mate seven shillings and sixpence, a second mate five shillings, a boatswain three shillings, a common sailor, two shillings, per day; a captain of marines six shillings, a lieutenant four shillings, a midshipman three shillings, a marine one shilling and six pence.
> *Provided always, and be it further ordained,* That, where the land service will admit of it, and the officers and soldiers of the regular forces shall be willing to enter upon any temporary expedition in such armed vessels, they may be allowed so to do, and shall receive pay according to the rates aforementioned; which officers, sailors and marines, may be removed or disbanded by the said Committee of Safety, as they shall judge expedient.

CAPTAIN HENRY BELLEW, R.N., TO PHILIP STEPHENS [1]

Sir, *Liverpool* off Norfolk in Virginia 11th Janry 1776

Not having an Opportunity to convey to Admiral Graves at Boston my Arrival here, nor any probability of one, I think it my Duty to beg you will be pleas'd to acquaint the Right Honble the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, after a Passage of fourteen Weeks from Spithead I brought hither the Brig, *Maria,* Ordnance Vessel, the 18th December, a most dull and heavy Sailor, and but for the indefatigable attention of Lieut Hemmings, my first Officer, in Distilling fresh Water, I should have been under the necessity of bearing away for the West Indies, having no more than one Cask of Water, excepting what was under the Cables and that only five Ton and impossible to be come at but in the fairest Weather.

I found here His Majesty's Ships *Otter* and *Kingsfisher,* whom, with the few Kings Troops, were debarr'd from all Supplies of Provisions by the strength of an Army of Rebels, to the Amount of about fourteen Hundred Men; my People from the length of the Passage falling down fast in the Scurvy, obliged me to condescend to send a Flag of Truce on the 24th of December to the Commander of these Men representing the terrible consequences which might ensue by a perseverance in such a Resolution; this answered no good purpose; humanity obliged me to send another the 30th. of December, their Centinels frequently firing into the Kings Ships and Guard Boats by night, and hourly insulting us by relieving their Guards within a Cables length of us, a Cop[y] of which I do myself the Honor of sending you, this was to as little purpose as the former, for on the 1st of Janry at 3 o'Clock in the Afternoon, in particular, their Centinels came to the Wharf very near me, from their Guard House, which was close to it, and used every mark of insult; I then ordered three Guns to be fired into the House,[2] it had its effect by setting them running; my Lord Dunmore sent (under those Guns) his Boats Arm'd to fetch off a Long boat they had taken from him, whose People set fire to some Store houses, which burnt a good number of Houses, the Rebels have since destroyed the greatest part of the Town.

His Excellency my Lord Dunmore, not being able entirely to unload the Brig *Maria,* of the Ordnance Stores, and being directed by their Lordships Orders not to open the Seal'd Pacquet 'till she was unladen and discharg'd from His Majesty's Service; I am constrain'd to remain here tho' perhaps design'd for other Service, and to act by Admiral Graves's Orders to Captain Squire of the *Otter* and Lord Dartmouths Instructions to Lord Dunmore, with whom I shall co-operate with in every thing for His Majesty's Service.

Lieutenant Governor [Robert] Eden of His Majesty's Province of Maryland has transmitted to my Lord Dunmore, information of three small Vessels well Arm'd being fitting out from that Province,[3] I shall use every possible step to intercept them and to keep those small ones, which His Excellency has already taken up, employed in the best manner for the Protection of His Majesty's faithfull Subjects and for the Annoyance of those who are not so.

Inclos'd is the State and Condition of His Majesty's Ships at this place. I have the Honor to be [&c.]

Henry Bellew

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1. PRO, Admiralty 1/1497.
2. See journals of the *Liverpool, Otter* and *Kingsfisher* of January 1, 1776, for the number of guns fired.
3. The Continental sloop *Hornet* and schooner *Wasp,* and the Maryland ship *Defence.*

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY[1]

In the Council of Safety,
[Charleston] Thursday, Jan. 11th, 1776.

Read a letter from Capt. Edward Blake of this date.

Ordered, That the commander of the colony ship *Prosper,* do order two good and proper men to go on board the pilot boat under the command of Capt. Smith, for the purpose of bringing into Charles-Town harbour such ships as now appear off the bar.

Ordered, That Wm. Alex. Elsinore be permitted and required to go on board the pilot-boat under the command of Capt. Smith, and use his utmost endeavour to pilot in such vessels as are now on the coast, provided Capt. Smith shall judge it safe and proper to board them.

The following order was issued to Capt. Blake:

In the Council of Safety,
Jan. 11th, 1776.

Sir – We have ordered payment of your amount, as you will find by an order thereon now returned to you.

By all means order a sufficient quantity of good flour to be baked into bread for public service, and lay in such quantity of provisions for the men expected from Bermuda, and in due time, as you shall judge will be necessary.

Orders for the scooner will be prepared and delivered to-morrow.

Capt. [Thomas] Smith, in the armed pilot-boat, is ordered to cruize as constantly as the weather will admit, off Charles-Town bar, for the benefit of friendly vessels inward bound, and to use great precautions against boarding or falling within the power of an enemy; and we desire you will give such orders to Capt. Smith.

By order of the Council of Safety.

Henry Laurens, President.

Consideration of the article of rum postponed.

Capt. Edward Blake.

Capt. [Simon] Tufts having informed the board, of a fit boat for the use of the scooner *Defence,* the following order was made:

In the Council of Safety,
Jan. 11th, 1776.

Sir – Capt. Tufts informs us, that you have a boat which is much wanted for public service, and that you are willing to sell her. Please to deliver the said boat and furniture, and we will order payment of such sum as Capt. Tufts may agree for, or the value according to a fair appraisement, in case you and Capt. Tufts shall not agree in the first instance.

By order of the Council of Safety,

Henry Laurens, President.

Mr. Thomas Rose.

The following permit was given to Mr. John Scott, to load a scooner at Santee, in the public account:

In the Council of Safety,
Jan. 11th, 1776.

The scooner *Polly,* belonging to Mr. John (son of Jonathan) Scott, is permitted to be loaded with a cargo of rice, by the said Wm. [*sic*] Scott or his agent, but with no other commodity or produce, but not to depart until the cargo is reported, and a further order by this board.

By order of the Council of Safety.

Henry Laurens, President.

The committee of St. James, Santee.

The committee for George-Town.

The Council issued orders on the Treasury for payment of the following sums:

To Edward Blake, balance of his account for use of the several armed vessels	£2144	2	8

In the Council of Safety.
Jan. 11th, 1776.

Sir – You are directed to order six good carpenters from the troops, who shall receive extra pay, with the detachment to Sullivan's Island; and that the commanding officers of the party give Doct. [David] Oliphant all necessary aid and assistance in erecting a temporary battery there.

By order of the Council of Safety.

Henry Laurens, President.

Col. [William] Moultrie.

[1] *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society,* III, 164–67.

MAJOR CHARLES COTESWORTH PINCKNEY TO HENRY LAURENS [1]

Fort Johnston [Johnson],[2] Jan. 11, 1776.
8 o'clock in the ev'g.

To the Honble Henry Laurens, Esq., President of the Council of Safety.

Dr. Sir, This morning between nine and ten o'clock we discovered from Fort Johnston Two ships & a sloop to the Northward of the Bar. The misty weather prevented us from distinguishing whether they were Ships of War or Merchantmen. The Fog not clearing up, about one o'clock I dispatched a boat to reconnoitre them and see what they were; from that boat I have this moment learnt, that there is a large ship, a smaller one, & a sloop off the Bar, that neither of them had Pendants, but one of them had a Whisp, in her ensign. It is not in my power to inform you whether they are Ships of Force or not, as the mist prevented the men from seeing whether they had guns or not, though our boat was near the Bar. This afternoon I stopped a Pilot Boat with a long Pendant as she attempted to pass the Fort, 'till I could be informed where she was going and her authority for passing. The Master of her behaved very insolently & told me I behaved exceedingly wrong in stopping him & that he would complain to your Board. I am not only warranted in what I did (according to my apprehension) by the order Congress of the 10th of Novr last, but the order of the late Council of Safety of the 17th of Sept. 1775 expressly directs the Commander of Fort Johnston to do all in his power to prevent people from going anywhere below Fort Johnston without a Permit from the Council of Safety giving him a good account of their intended business. I have the honour to be [&c.]

Charles Cotesworth Pinckney.

[1] *The Historical Magazine* (Morrisania, N.Y., 1868), 2nd series, III, 232.

[2] The two forts, Johnston at the mouth of the Cape Fear river, and Johnson in Charleston harbor, are frequently confused.

PROVISIONS FROM ST. AUGUSTINE FOR H.M. SLOOP *TAMAR* AND H.M. ARMED SHIP *CHEROKEE* [1]

His Excellency Governor [Patrick] Tonyn For the Use of His Majestys Ships *Tamar* & *Cherokee* lying at Charlestown

Dr To William Alexander

1776						
Jany 11th	For 9	Barls Pork abt 210 lb each	a 70/p Barl	31	10	–
	4	Trces Beef abt 300 lb each	a 80/p Trce	16	–	–
	7	Barls Peas contg 24½ Bushl	a 6/p Bushl	7	7	–
	6	Firkins Butter 360 lb	a 9/p lb	13	10	
	115	Gallons Rum	a 3/6 p Galn	20	2	6
	223	Ditto	a 4/9 p do	52	19	3
	4696	lb Flour	a 22/ p 100w	51	13	2
		Baking into 3815 lb Buscuit	a 8/ p 100	15	5	3
		paid for Casks to pack the Biscuits	a 1 each	1	16	–
			Sterling £	210	3	2

[1st endorsement] Received St Augustine 13th January 1776 of His Excellency Governor Tonyn Two Hundred & Ten Pounds three Shillings & two pence Sterling in full for the above Accot by a Sett of Bills on the Honble the Commissioners for victualling His Majestys Navy William Alexander

[2d endorsement] We the Underwriters being Merchants and Inhabitants of St Augustine, Do Certify, That, The above Provisions were purchased & bought at the lowest Market price of this place, as expressed against each Specie of said Provisions –

Given under our Hands the 13th day of January 1776

R Payne Will^{m} M^{c}Leod

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1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/556, 215.

12 Jan.

BRIGADIER GENERAL BENEDICT ARNOLD TO THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS [1]

Gentlemen Since writing the Enclosed,[2] Genl Wooster has acquainted me he Cannot leave Montreal, but has sent Down Colo Clinton, to whom, I shall resign the Command, untill my wound, will Permit my Doing Duty, which my Surgeon thinks will be four or Six Weeks – Colo Clinton, acquaints me, we Cannot expect more than, two hundred Men from Montreal. I have put on foot the raising a Regt of three or four hundred Canadians, which I make no Doubt of Effecting. They are to have the Same Pay, & to be Under the Same regulation, as the Continental Forces. I make no Doubt the exigency of our Affairs will Justify the Step I have taken, (tho without Authority For so Doing), & that it will be Approved of by the Hble Continental Congress –

I am most respectfull Gentlemen, [&c.]

B Arnold

Camp before Quebec 12 Jany 1776

PS The Forts of Niagara and Detroit, are an Object which I make No Doubt the Hble Congress have in View, Mr [Edward] Antill, now on his way Down, can Inform in regard to their Strength, Stores,&c &c B A

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1. Papers CC (Letters from General Officers), 162, I, 50–51, NA.
2. Letter of January 11, 1776.

GOVERNOR FRANCIS LEGGE TO COMMANDING OFFICERS OF THE MILITIA IN VARIOUS COUNTIES [1]

Circular Halifax 12th Jany 1776

Sir. As by Advice of Council it had been judg'd necessary to form a body of Troops for the defence of this Province, and particularly His Majesty's Naval Yard, & the Town of Halifax, which was threatned, and a number of Vessels fitted out by the Americans (now in Arms against his Majesty & Government) for its Destruction, The small number of Troops at that time in Garrison here, seem'd to require such a measure as necessary for its defence, but since so large an addition of his Majesty's Troops and Ships of War have arrivd here, as to put this place in safety, and it having been represented to me, that many untrue Suggestions have been entertain'd; That the Militia was design'd to be called together, In order to make Soldiers of them, & send them on Commands out of the Country. You may assure all the Officers & Soldiers under your Command, that no such measure was ever propos'd, or intended, or that the Militia should ever be put on any other duty, than merely for the defence of the Province, under their own proper Officers, in such parts of the Province, where necessity should require their attendance for the defence of themselves in Case of an Invasion.

And having confidence in the Loyalty to his Majesty & Government, & their Readiness to take up Arms in defence thereof and of themselves, and their property, you may inform them, that in no other Case, they woud be call'd upon; but that I shall be ready at all times to contribute all in my power for their defence and Security.

That being sufficiently appriz'd of their inability to defend themselves, or to contribute to the expences of maintaining a body of Troops (both which I fail'd not timely to represent to his Majesty). You may inform them that his Majesty has been pleas'd to empower me to raise a Regiment, purely for the defence of this Province, and to support and Maintain them on British pay, which I hope will enable me as soon as Compleated to afford Protection to them and their Families, from any Annoyance or evil designs of their Enemies.

That I have a Sollicitous Care to procure them Peace and Safety, and every Temporal Blessing – all which I desire you will faithfully represent to them. I am Sir [&c.]

(Sign'd) Fran^s^ Legge.

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[1] PRO, Colonial Office, 5/217.

GOVERNOR FRANCIS LEGGE TO LORD DARTMOUTH [1]

No 59 Halifax January 12th 1776.

My Lord I am just inform'd that the *Somerset* Capt: L Crass is under Sailing Orders for England, a Ship of Force which has been of Service in the preservation of this Place, That the *Roebuck* also is just ready to Sail for Virginia, and that there will remain only one Frigate the *Cerberus* for our Defence who is now on the Careen.

I cannot but suggest to your Lordship, that the preservation of the Navy Yard, & the Navigation of this Port, will greatly depend on a sufficient number of Ships posted here.

The Rebels have fitted out several Cruising Vessels and are continually on our Coast, intercepting the Transports bound from this Province with Refreshments for the Navy and Army, I am inform'd, that no less than three thousand Quarters of Beef, besides other Refreshments have been Shipped, and are Shipping within this month past, some of which have fallen into the hands of the Enemy, and it is past all doubt, that when they can have Intelligence of the Absence of the Ships of War, they design an Attempt on this place.

I beg leave also to remark that the principal Intention of the Rebels, from their whole proceedure, seems to be to cut off all Resource of supplies from his Majesty's Forces in America, for which reason they invested Canada, and will without all doubt Attempt this Province, the preservation of which will depend on the Force which may be sent here for its Defence, all which Circumstances I have thought an Essential part of my duty to represent. I have the honor to be with the greatest Respect. My Lord [&c.]

Fran^{s} Legge

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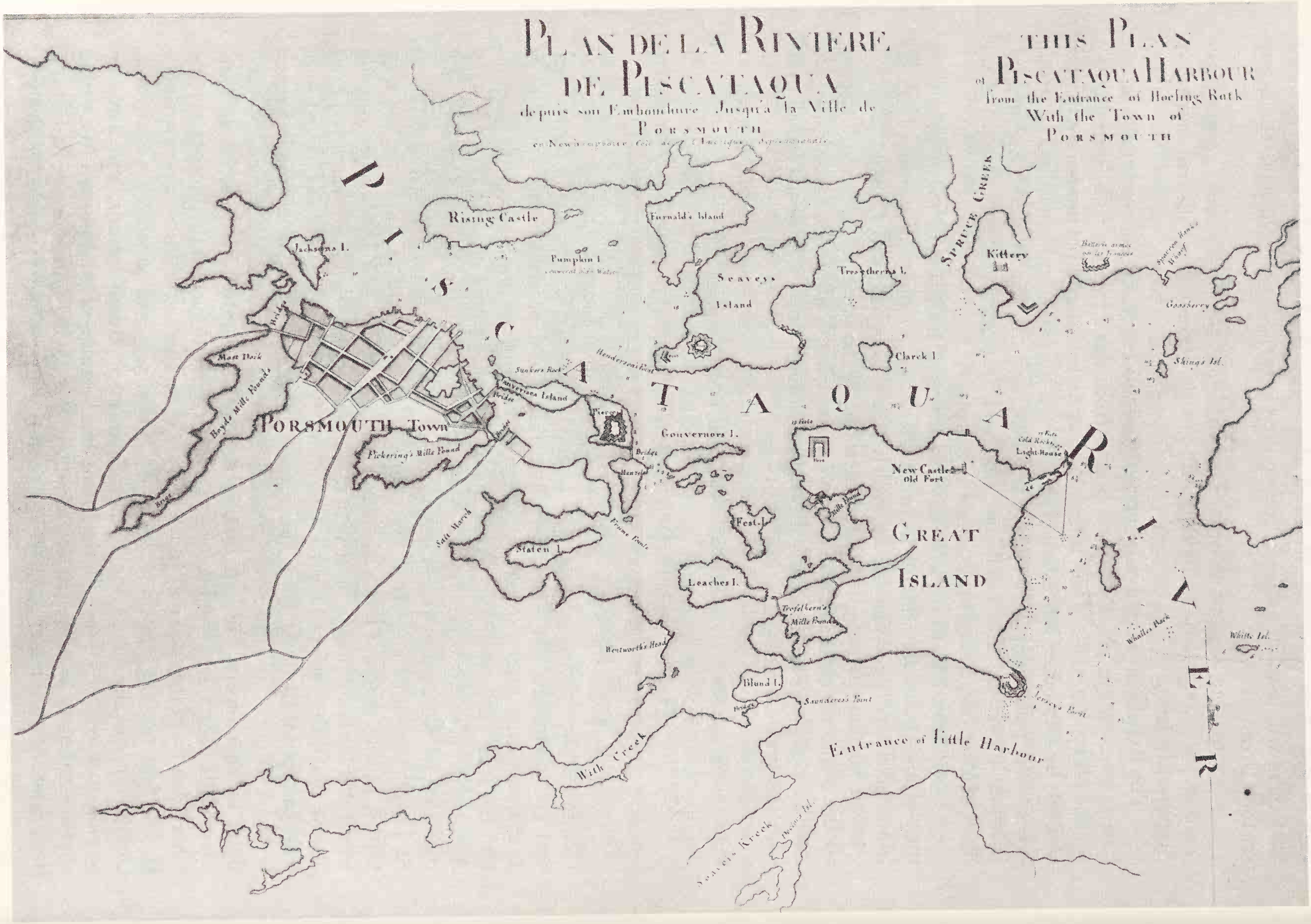
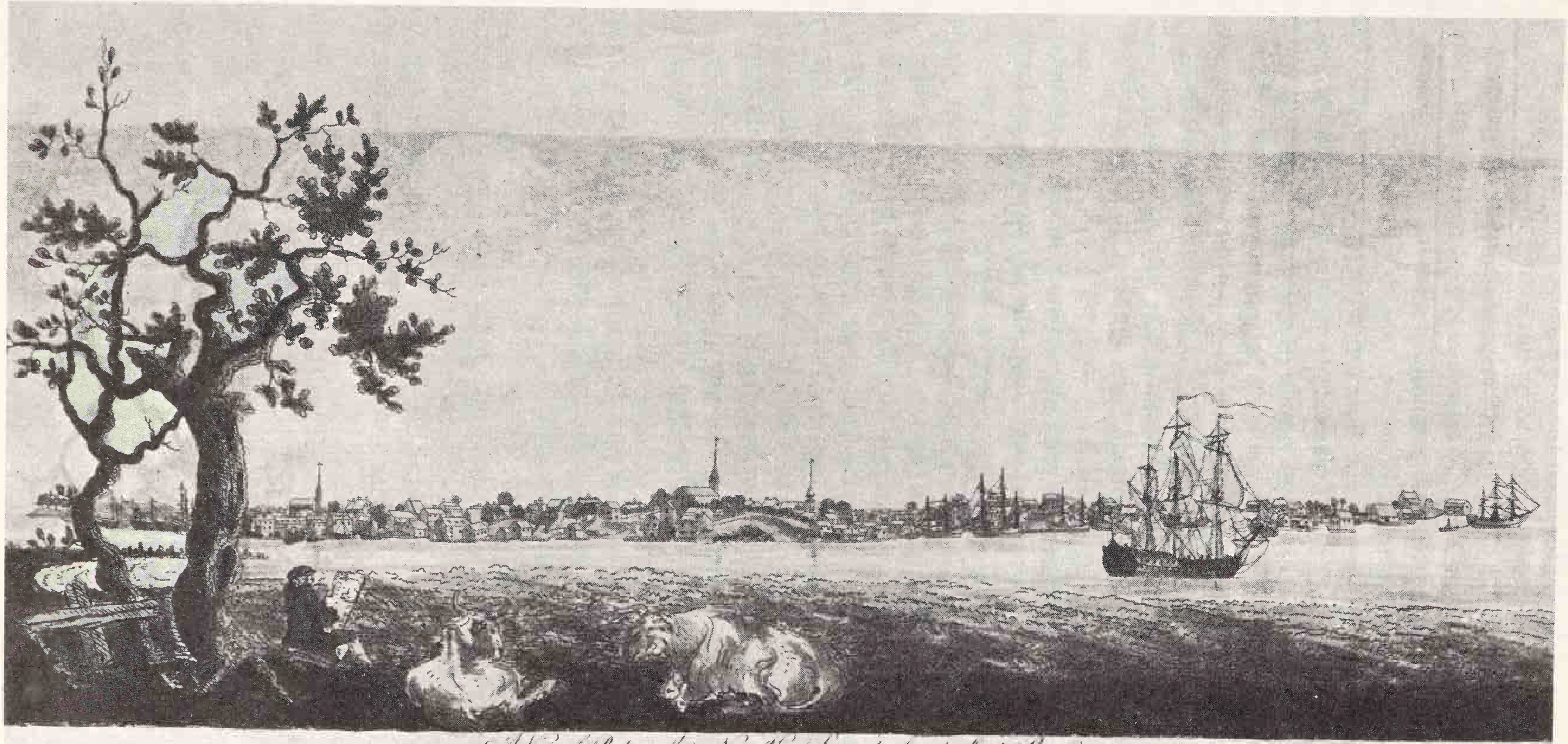
1. PRO, Colonial Office, 217/52, Nova Scotia Papers, DAC Photocopy.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CAPTAIN EPES GREENOUGH FOR A POWDER VOYAGE [1]

Portsmouth January 12th 1776

You are by us the Subscribers on Acct of John Langdon Esqr appointed to Command the Schooner *Eagle,* now Loaded, Victual'd and man'd fit for the Sea, you are to embrace the first good Opportunity and proceed to the Island of St Lucia, in Order that you may know the full intent and meaning of the Voyage, and the trust reposed in you. We acquaint you that your Cargo on board is to be Appropriated solely to purchase Powder for the use of the United Colonies, and therefore we Command your Observance of what follows. – When you arrive at St Lucia, you must enquire if Gun Powder is to be had in Exchange for your Cargo, at that place, if not, you must then procure the best Intelligence you can where it is likely for you to meet with the Article abovementioned, which you must always make the Object of your Attention. You'll observe Vessells loaded with Fish cannot at all times go to the French Islands, without being made French bottoms, which you may do at a small Expence if you find it Necessary – and think by that means you can Obtain the Article wanted, it is probable some Merchants in St Lucia will take your Cargo & agree to furnish the Powder at some other Island of that you will Judge and act according to the Information you get – If you find nothing can be done at St Lucia, you will proceed to Martinico, Guadaloup, to any or all the French Spanish or Dutch Islands, and leave no possible means untryed to fulfil the intent and meaning of the Voyage. We would advise you not to part with your Cargo without having Gun Powder in Return, the reason of this Injunction is. We think your present Cargo more likely to


PLAN DE LA RIVIERE
DE PISCATAQUA
depuis son Embouchure Jusqu'à la Ville de
PORSMOUTH
en Newhampshire Côte de l'Amérique Septentrionale
THIS PLAN
of PISCATAQUA HARBOUR
from the Entrance of Hoeling Rock
With the Town of
PORSMOUTH
PISCATAQUA RIVER
Rising Castle
Jacksons I.
Pumpkin I.
Fernald's Island
Seaveys Island
Tresetheres I.
Spruce Creek
Kittery
Batterie armee par les François
Spurren Hawks Wharf
Gooseberry
Shings Isl.
Clarck I.
Hendersons Point
Suakers Rock
Bridge
Mast Dock
Boyds Mills Ponds
PORSMOUTH Town
Pickering's Mills Pound
Salt Marsh
Staten I.
Frame Pouts
Pierce
Gouverners I.
Fort
New Castle Old Fort
Cold Rocks
Light House
GREAT ISLAND
Little Island
Fest I.
Leaches I.
Trefetherns Mills Ponds
Wentworth's Head
Blood I.
Saunderess Point
Jerrey's Point
Whalles Back
White Isl.
Entrance of little Harbour
With Creek
Seaveys Creek



A View of Portsmouth in New Hampshire taken from the East Shore.

command the Article wanted then the same amount in Money, but yet if you are Offer'd a high price in ready money to be dispatch'd immediately we would have you accept the first good Offer and then proceed with the Money on board in search of the Article wanted – [2] We do not restrict you to any prices either for the disposal of your Cargo, or the purchase of Powder &c, but if to be had it must be bought, Let the price be what it may. –

If after Cruizing over all the Foreign West Indies, and no Gunpowder to be had (which you must be well Assured of) you must then endeavour to purchase what Salt petre and Sulpher you possibly can, in the following proportion, for every Hundred pounds of Salt petre, twenty five pounds of refin'd Sulpher, or those two Articles in the rough but if neither powder, Salt petre, nor Sulpher, is to be had, you must then sell your Cargo, for the most you can for Gold and Silver Money – and make the best of your Way back to us in New England – We strictly forbid your takeing on board any Goods Or Merchandise of what kind soever, either on Freight or otherwise –

If you procure Powder and should put into any safe Harbour in the United Colonies, on your way home you must immediately dispatch an Express to us and detain your Vessell untill you receive our or Mr Langdon's instructions how to proceed – Excepting the Powder should be demanded of you by proper Authority for Continental use, in that case it must be landed and not risqued any further, this is to be Observ'd if you put into any Harbour to the Eastward of Boston, but if you put into aney Southern Harbour your Powder &c – must be landed at all Events, – and not risqued any further, and you must proceed immediately with your Vessell to Newberyport acquainting us of your proceedings. If you should land your Powder it must be put into the Hands of the Commissary or agents &c for Continental use, you takeing their receipts and forward it to us – We beg your most Streneous Exertions for Obtaining the needful and making the greatest Dispatch home again –

You are to be allow'd for Wages during the Voyage, Three pounds L money p month, Five p Cent Commission on the Sale of your Cargo, and Two and a half p Cent on the returns and One shilling L money primage on every barrell of Powder, and so in proportion for Salt petre &c – and nothing else. –

We wish you a safe Voyage and Quick return and are your Friends. &c

N.B. If you should put into any Harbour to the Eastward of Boston and receive Information of any Men of Warr, or Tenders being near, or any other Danger, you must then land your Powder and se[c]ure it – without waiting our Answer. –

[Endorsed]

The preceding is Copy of my Instructions which I Engage to follow

Epes Greenough

Signal, White pendant at the foretopmast head,

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1. John Langdon Papers, HSP.
2. These instructions are similar to those given by the same subscribers to Captain Thomas Peverly on December 28, 1775.

Essex Journal, FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 1776

Newbury-Port, January 12.

On Wednesday the 3d of January, arrived in Pemaquid harbour, the brig *Squirrel,* Richard Willis, master, from Poole, in England, which place he left the 6th of November, in whom came passengers the Captains [Thomas] Palmer, [Josiah] Shackford, [Stephen] Meeds and [John] Hart, of Portsmouth, and Capt. Gideon Crawford, of Providence, who on their Passage the 2d of December, in lat. 44, long. 38, spoke with the *Orpheus* Frigate of 32 Guns, from England, bound to America, but had met with a very hard gale of wind the 30th of November, by which she lost her Main and Fore-mast, and was then bound back to refit, she had been out 5 weeks when the gale took her.

Capt. Meeds informs us that Administration were determined to pursue vigorous measures against the Americans, but that the majority were daily leaving them; that the Noble Duke of Grafton, and Lord Littelton,[1] had already left them, and were determined to oppose all their measures against the brave Americans, even if they were reduced to Beggary by their opposition. He likewise informs, that a number of Transports had sailed, laden with stores for Boston, that one lay in the river, near him, with a number of hogs on board, out of which he saw 28 hove overboard which had died in one night, on account of their being crowded too close in the vessel; that immediately after the transports had sailed, there was as hard a gale of wind as was almost ever known, which dismasted some, but what other damage they sustained we have not yet learnt, tho soon after vast numbers of hogs were seen floating in the river.

Capt. Meeds was likewise at the meeting of Merchants at the Kings Arms Tavern, in London, where the meeting consisted of between seven and eight hundred, unanimous to a man in favour of the Americans: They petitioned his Majesty to have matters settled with America, and set forth in their Petition that destruction must be brought on the Land if the War was carried on; it was signed 1102 Gentlemen, and his Majesty was pleased to receive it very Graciously. Capt. Meeds also informs that our Friends increase daily, that we shall be no longer termed rebels, and that 'twas dangerous to speak a word in the Coffee Houses against the Americans.

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[1] Augustus Henry Fitzroy, 3d Duke of Grafton, and William Henry Lyttelton.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES [1]

[Watertown] Friday, January 12, 1776.
Afternoon.

The House considered the Report of the Committee appointed to consider a Plan for fitting out armed Vessels &c.

Whereupon, *Ordered,* That the Report be recommitted, and the Committee are directed to report an Estimate of the expences of building and furnishing the Vessels therein proposed to be provided.

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[1] Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch.

STURGIS GORHAM & OTHERS TO MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL [1]

Colony of the Massachusetts-Bay } To the Hon: the Council of said Colony –

The Subscribers humbly shew –
That they have a Sloop, named the *Lizard,* of about 32 Tons, which they intend at their own Expence, to fix out and equip for the defence of America, agreable to a late Act of the General Assembly – We take leave therefore to recommend to your Honors, Mr Benjamin Gorham – (who is part owner of said Vessell) as a proper & suitable Person to command the said Sloop – and request your Honors to commission him for that purpose –

And as in Duty bound shall ever pray –

Sturgis Gorham John Bores
Isaiah Doane Micah Nichols

Cohassett Jany 12th 1776.

In Council Jany 18th 1776 Read & orderd that the Above-named Benja Gorham be commissionated for the purposes abovementioned, on his given Bond with sufficient Surety to the Colony Treasurer for the Faithful performance of his Duty therein agreable to the Act prescribing the same –

John Lowell Dpy Secy P. T. –

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[1] Mass. Arch., vol. 164, 239.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN JOHN LINZEE, R.N.[1]

You are hereby required and directed to proceed, with the *Kitty* Transport, in his Majesty's Sloop under your Command to Cape Fear in North Carolina, And upon your arrival to facilitate an Interview as soon as possible between Captain [William Glanville] Evelyn and Governor [Josiah] Martin, Captain Evelyn being directed to gain all possible Intelligence of the Situation of the Kings Affairs in that Province. This done, Capt. Evelyn returned, and you having also obtained from Governor Martin every necessary information relative to the Entrance of Ships into Cape Fear River, you are to cruize off Cape Fear in the most likely Tract to fall in with a Fleet of Transports (containing 5 Regiments) expected from England; and you are to remain cruizing and anchoring occasionally on the Coast, by which ever means you can best preserve your Station until the Arrival of the said Transports or until you are relieved, keeping the *Kitty* Transport with you if it shall be found unsafe or inexpedient to leave her at Cape Fear.

And whereas Major General [Henry] Clinton is appointed to command his Majesty's Forces to the Southward, you are upon the Arrival of the Transports with the Troops aforementioned to direct them into Cape Fear River, or go with them to Virginia, which shall be found most expedient upon your consulting with Governor Martin, in case you shall not have received particular Instructions on that head from Major General Clinton, whom you are most heartily to co-operate with and assist to the utmost of your power in all things for the Kings Service.

You are also to give every possible Assistance to the Army in general in their Operations against the Rebels.

And whereas there is great want of skilful Pilots in the Fleet, you are to retain as many for any part of the Coast of North America from Halifax to the Southward as far as Cape Florida as you can procure, bearing them on a List for Victuals only.

And as a small good going Sloop or Schooner may be extremely useful to cruize for the Transports, to put Pilots on board them, you are to seize the first suitable one you can and employ her on that Service.

For all other Orders I refer you to my general and additional Orders and Instructions which are herewith delivered.

Given under my Hand on board his Majs Ship *Preston* at
Boston the 12th January 1776.
Sam^l^ Graves

To Capt: Linzee
of his Majs Sloop *Falcon*

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1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 116–17, BM.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN ALEXANDER GRAEME, R.N.[1]

As soon as Major General Clinton is embarked and ready to depart; You are hereby required and directed to repair with him in his Majesty's Ship under your command to New York where having remained such time as the General thinks necessary for the service he is upon, you are to proceed with him to Virginia, or to any port or place along the continent that Major General Clinton shall find expedient for his Majesty's Service to touch at; And as the Success of the expedition will in a great measure depend upon the punctual and ready assistance of his Majesty's Ships; You are therefore hereby required and directed most heartily to grant every aid in your power of Men, Boats, and Stores, (without regard to any distinction of duties) to Major General Clinton and to all other his Majestys Land officers in their intended operations against the Rebels. You are to continue upon this service with Major General Clinton untill you receive contrary directions from myself or any other your Superior officer For all other orders I refer you to my General and additional Orders and Instructions.

Given under my hand on board His Majesty's Ship the *Preston* at
Boston the 12th January 1776
Sam^l^ Graves

To Captain Graeme commander of his Majestys Ship
Mercury, or to the commander of the Said Ship for the time being
By command of the Admiral G. Gefferina
[Endorsed] Copy 19th Feby 1776 Attd A S Hamond

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[1] Hamond, Orders issued 1776–1777, UVL. Another copy in Graves's Conduct, II, 28, BM.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES[1]

[Boston, January] 12 [1776].

The *Falcon* having been cleaned and refitted, and now in all respects ready for Sea, Captain Linzees Orders were this day made out, and, being somewhat special, delivered him in a sealed Pacquet, acco[m]panied with an Order to receive and victual Captain [William Glanville] Evelyn of the Kings own Regiment, and likewise to take the *Kitty* Transport under his Convoy, proceed without Loss of time to Sea, and when to the Eastward of Cape Cod to open the said sealed Pacquet and pursue its Contents. The Admiral gave Captain Linzee private Signals besides, and a sealed Rendezvous for the Transport, cautioning him if possible not to part Company.

Captain Graeme also of the *Mercury* received Directions to receive Major General [Henry] Clinton, Lord [Francis] Rawdon, Mr [Richard] Reeves, Mr Roberts, Mr Martin, and Captain [Duncan] Drummond [2] with five Servants and five Soldiers, on board the *Mercury*, and to victual them as the Ships Company during their Continuance on board.

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1. Graves's Conduct, II, 361, BM.
2. Reeves was Clinton's private secretary; Captain Drummond, an aide; the other two not identified.

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEES OF CORRESPONDENCE AND INSPECTION, SANDWICH, MASSACHUSETTS [1]

At at meeting of a Number of the members of the Committee of Correspondence, & Inspection, of the Town of Sandwich, on January the 12th 1776. Mr Stephen Nye was chosen Chairman, and Benja Fessenden Clerk, Present Mess Stephen Nye, Eliakim Tobey, Lieut John Dillingham, Capn Simeon Fish, Elisha Pope, Nathl Fish, Seth Freeman, Esq, Lot Nye, & B. Fessenden.

Whereas these Committees, or at least a Number of each, were sometime past informed that a certain Sloop reputed to be owned by Soln Nye of Falmouth, Levi Barlow, Jesse Barlow, & Obed Barlow of this Town, was preparing to go on a Voyage to the West Indies contrary to the recommendations of the Continental Congress, & Provincial Assembly. And in Consequence thereof chose one of their Number to make enquiry into the affair; and in case it was found necessary to make application to the Commanding officer of the Troops stationed in this County for orders for them to Stop Said Vessell, Or something Similar to it, the proceedings at which meeting the Committee cannot now come at. In consequence of which Sd Member went & recd Assurances from the above Solomon Nye, & Jesse Barlow, that Said Vessell s[hould no]t proceed on Sd Voyage without Liberty from the General C[ourt.] Notwithstanding which we Last Week recd Information that s[aid sloop] had Loaded & Sailed on Said Voyage but meeting with contrary W[inds] was returned & then at Anchor. On which a Number of [said Committee] past the following Vote, Viz. That Capn Ward Swift [blotted] to repair on Board Said Vessell with Such Aid as he [blotted] necessary and Strip her of her Sails or take som[e good] Effectual method to put it out of their Power to Prosecute [s]d Voyage until they shall obtain Liberty. In Consequence of which Capn Swift hath attempted with a File of men to Stop Sd Vessell but before he could get on Board she came to Sail and is gone off.

Therefore Voted That Benja Fessenden be desired to write to the Speaker of the Honble House of Representatives & enclose to him a Copy this Vote.

Unanimously agreed to a true Copy from the minutes
att B. Fessenden

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[1] Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 190.

JOURNAL OF THE RHODE ISLAND ASSEMBLY [1]

Providence [January 12], 1776.

It is voted and resolved, that Benjamin Page, captain of one of the row-gallies, be immediately sent for, to appear before this Assembly, to answer for his conduct; and that David Arnold, Matthew Allen and Samuel Bosworth, be also cited to appear before this Assembly.

It is voted and resolved, that the town council of the town of Newport, be allowed to supply Captain Wallace, so long as he shall remain peaceably within the colony, without committing any depredations upon the islands, or upon any of the lands in the colony, weekly with two thousand pounds weight of beef; and with beer as usual, under the direction of the commanding officer of the forces stationed on Rhode Island; that he appoint the person to provide and deliver said provisions; and that no member of either House of Assembly be appointed to deliver the same, or to go on board of either of the ships of war, under said Wallace's command, on any occasion whatsoever.

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[1] Bartlett, ed., *Records of Rhode Island,* VII, 438, 439.

JOURNAL OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO BUILD TWO CONTINENTAL FRIGATES IN RHODE ISLAND [1]

[Providence] Jany 12. 1776

Meeting in being according to Adjournment. –

Voted. That John Brown John Smith and William Russell be a Committee to agree with the Ship Carpenters for the Wages they shall receive for working on the Ships. that they send them out to the different Farms to Cut timber immediately, and that they provide places for th[em] to Bord in when they shall arrive in Town.

Meeting adjourned to Saturday evening at 6 o'clock

Reckoning 12/ LMy paid by Joseph Nightingale

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[1] Journal R.I. Frigates, RIHS.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR SHIPS' CARPENTERS AND LUMBER FOR THE RHODE ISLAND FRIGATES [1]

Wanted immediately.

A Number of good Ship-Carpenters; also a large Quantity of Ship-Timber and Plank, for which Cash will be given on Delivery. For Terms apply to Messieurs John Brown, John Smith, Joseph and William Russell, or Clark and Nightingale.

Providence, Jan. 12, 1776.

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[1] *Providence Gazette,* January 20, 1776. Advertisement placed by the building committee for two Continental frigates in Rhode Island.

OWNERS' BOND OF SLOOP BOUND FROM RHODE ISLAND TO MARYLAND [1]

Know all Men by these Presents That we Richard Fry and Silas Casey both of East Greenwich in the County of Kent in the Colony of Rhode Island &c. Merchants are held & firmly bound unto Joseph Clarke Esquire General Treasurer of the said Colony in the Sum of Five Hundred Pounds Lawful Money to be paid to the said Joseph Clarke in his said Capacity or to his Successors in said Office for the Use of the said Colony: to which Payment well and truly to be made we bind ourselves our Heirs Executors and Administrators firmly by these Presents Sealed with our Seals Dated the Twelfth Day of January in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Six.

Whereas George Harrison Master of the Sloop [blank] burthen about Thirty Six Tons is bound by Permission of the Honble Nicholas Cooke Esqr. Governor of the said Colony on a Voyage from East Greenwich to the Province of Maryland with Forty barrels of Cyder, Two Hogsheads of Apples one Hogshead Pottatoes Three Hundred Pounds weight of Cheese and twenty Bushels of Salt: Now the Condition of the above Obligation is such – That if the said George Harrison shall proceed with his said Sloop to the Province of Maryland and there discharge his said Cargo and take on board the Produce of the Country or other Articles under the Direction of the Committee of Inspection of the City Town or County where he shall lade and take in his said Cargoe and also bring back proper Certificates both of Exports and Imports from them and lodge the same in the Office of the Secretary of the said Colony within three Days after the Return of said Sloop, and further shall not proceed to any Port or Place not being within the United Colonies (the Danger of the Sea and Seizure by an enemy always excepted) then this Obligation to be void or else in full Force.

Richard Fry Silas Casey

Sealed and delivered
in the Presence of
James Arnold Jur William Mumford [2]

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1. Maritime Papers, Bonds, Masters of Vessels, R.I. Arch.
2. *Ibid.*, two similar bonds were executed the same day and witnessed by William Mumford. One was that of Silas Casey and William Sweet, owners of the sloop *Greenwich*, of which Sweet was master. She was bound from East Greenwich for Connecticut and New York, in ballast, and bonded for three hundred pounds. The other was, Nicholas Brown of Providence, owner, and Christopher Gardner of Nantucket, master of the schooner *Sherburne*, bound from East Greenwich for Nantucket with a cargo of apples and cider, and bonded for five hundred pounds.

JOURNAL OF H.M. BRIG *Bolton*, LIEUTENANT THOMAS GRAVES [1]

January 1776 Hope Island S B W 1 Mile
Thursday 11 at 7 AM weighed & came to sail.

First part fresh breezes and hazy Wr middle Do with snow and sleet. latter Do breezes and fair Wr
turning down to Newport. at 3 PM joining us the *Swans* Tender. fired to bring too a small Boat, 2. 3 pounders. at 6 Anchd in Newport Harbour, in 7½fm water veer'd away ½ a Cable. found here the *Glasgow* Tender from Boston.

Friday 12 at ½ past 8 AM the *Rose* made the signal to unmoor at ½ past 10 weigh'd p Signal in Compy the *Rose Glasgow, Swan,* Tenders, Transports &ca at 10 came onbd Lieut [Edward] Sneyd, read his Commission and took Charge of the Brigg [2]

Thos Graves.

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1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4127.
2. The *Bolton* journal ends at this point. The subsequent journal was likely destroyed by Lieutenant Sneyd when the brig was captured by Esek Hopkins' fleet, April 5, 1776.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

[New York] Die Veneris, 3 ho. P.M., Jany. 12th, 1776.

Mr.[Comfort] Sands, who had informed the Committee that he had been disappointed as to the vessel he was about to charter to proceed to the West Indies, in pursuance to the order of the Provincial Congress, and was then endeavouring to procure another suitable vessel, reports, that he has engaged a sloop, belonging to Stephen Thorne, to go to the Island of St. Eustatia, at 70s. per ton, merchants' tonnage, the Congress to take the risk of seizures. Vessel valued at £500. That he could also engage Abm. P. Lott's schooner to go to Martinico, Guadalupe or St.Eustatia, at 70s. The Congress to take the risk of seizures. Vessel valued at £500.

The Committee approve of Mr. Sand's agreement for the first above mentioned vessel, made in pursuance of the directions of this Provincial Congress, and submit it to the care and prudence of Mr. Sands, (with such advice as he may from time to time request of this Committee,) to make the most advantageous agreement for the public benefit as to the other vessel.

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1. *New York Provincial Congress,* I, 248.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW JERSEY COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

[Princeton] Friday, January 12, 1776.

Whereas, a certain Richard Symonds, a midshipman, belonging to one of the King's ships of War, was in September last, taken on board a small tender at Barnagat, since which he hath remained a prisoner in the County of Monmouth.[2]

Ordered, That Richard Symonds be removed to Trenton, and there be admitted to remain a prisoner of war on his parole of honour, on the same terms granted to those officers who are already prisoners at that place.

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1. *Minutes of the Provincial Congress and the Council of Safety of the State of New Jersey* (Trenton, 1879), 333. Hereafter cited as *New Jersey Provincial Congress.*
2. See minutes of Monmouth County Committee of Observation, January 2, 1776.

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH [1]

[Philadephia] Friday 12 [January] In Grand Comee Govr [Samuel] Ward in the Chair, the point was Whether to open Trade to Foreign Countries on the First of March next, wherein much Ability was displayed for several Hours and at last it was postponed for a Week –

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1. Richard Smith's Diary, LC.

CAPTAIN JAMES NICHOLSON'S COMMISSION TO MARYLAND SHIP *Defence*[1]

In Convention

The Delegates of the Province of Maryland to James Nicholson Esquire

We reposing especial Trust and Confidence in your Patriotism Valour Conduct and Fidelity Do by these Presents constitute and appoint You to be Captain of the Ship called the *Defence* in the Service of this Province fitted out for repelling every hostile Invasion thereof and for the Defence of our Liberties, You are therefore carefully and diligently to dicsharge the Duty of Captain by doing and performing all Manner of things thereunto belonging according to the rules and Discipline of War the Usage of the Sea And the Instructions which may from time to time be given you –

And We do strictly charge and require all Officers Seamen Marines & others Under your Command to be obedient to your Orders as Captain

And You are to observe and follow all such Orders and Directions which You shall receive from the Convention of Maryland or Council of Safety thereof in pursuance of the Trust reposed in You –

This Commission to continue of Force until revoked by the Convention or Council of Safety of this Province

Given this [12] Day of [January] By Order of the Convention[2]
Attest. 1776

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[1] Executive Papers, Box 1, Md. Arch.

[2] The Convention adjourned January 18, 1776, and did not meet again until May 8, 1776. The actual date of Nicholson's commission is very much in doubt. That he was engaged to superintend the outfitting of the Maryland ship *Defence* as early as December 30, 1775, is evident by payments made by him for work done on that vessel. While his commission is blank as to date or month, the most logical date would be that upon which so much naval business was considered by the Convention.

ARCHIBALD BUCHANAN'S ACCOUNTS FOR LOADING BRIGS *Rachel* AND *Sam*[1]

1776 Dr Brigg *Rachel* in Accot with Archd Buchanan Cr

			Currency		
To 1064 Barrells Flour	wt 2156 3 18 lb	a 12/6	£1348	1	7½
Barrells		a 1/9	97	5	4
100 Ditto Ship Bread	12,630	a 12s/	75	15	7½
do.		a 2/1	10	8	4
3 M Staves		a £4.10 p Thousd	13	10	–
Bill of disbursements for Cooperage, Nails, Linning, Casks, Scow and dray Hire, Rum for Waggoners & Waggoning Flour			38	13	–½
		Errors Excepted	£1583	13	11½

Archd Buchanan

1776 Dr Brigg *Sam* in Account with Archd Buchanan

					Currency
To	1258	Barrells of Fine Flour wt	[2510 2] 11	a 12/6	£1574. 2. 7½
		Barrells for ditto		a 1/9	110 16 –
	128	ditto Superfine Flour	[128]	a15/6	165. 17 –
		do for do		a 1/9	11 4 –
	91	do of Bread	10, 699	a 12/	64. 3. 10
		do for do		a 2/1	9 9. 7
	2000	Staves		a 100/	10. – –
	do	do		a 90/	4 10. –
To Bill of disbursements for Cooperage, Nails, Linning Casks, Scow & Dray hire, Rum for Waggoners, Warehouse Rent &c					10 15. 7
		[Baltimore] January 12th Errors Excepted			£1960. 18. 7½

Archd Buchanan

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1. Executive Papers, Box 1, Md. Arch. Brigs were preparing for voyage to West Indies.

ARCHIBALD BUCHANAN'S POWDER ACCOUNT WITH MARYLAND [1]

Dr The Province of Maryland in Accot wth Archibald Buchanan Cr

1776			Currency
Januy	2	To Amount of Brigg *Hannahs* Accot	1295. . 12. . . –½
	4	To ditto of Brig *Rachels*	1583. . 13. . 11½
	11	To ditto of Brigg *Sam*	1960. . 18 . . 7½
		To ditto of Schooner *Dolphin*	596 . . 6 . . 2½
			5436. . 10. . 10
		Commission 5 P Ctt	271. . 16 . . 6
			£ 5708. 7. 4

1775		Currency
Decemr 18.	By Cash	5000. . –. –
	Balance due A. Buchanan	708. . 7. . 4
		5, 708. . 7. . 4

January 12, 1776
Errors Excepted
Arch^{d} Buchanan

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1. Executive Papers, Box 6, Md. Arch.

SAMUEL CHASE TO JOHN ADAMS [1]

Annapolis. Jany. 12th 1775 [*sic* 1776].

My Dear Sir The Business of our provincial Convention draws to a Conclusion, and the Session will end in a few days. I have Leave to visit my Family before I sett off for the [Continental] Congress, and I expect to take You by the Hand before 1st of Febry. – I cannot omit in the mean Time to express to You my opinion on the present State of our public Affairs, and the Measures I would wish to be adopted.

The early Attention and great Depend[e]nce of the Ministry on Canada evince the infinite Importance of that Country in the present Dispute, to obtain the Possession of that province is an object of the first Consequence. We mustn't at all Events procure and keep Possession of that province – Quebec must at every Hazard be ours, as Succours can arrive there before 1st May I would have a chosen Committee go to Canada as soon as the Lakes are frozen hard enough, let them call a Convention, explain the Views & Designs of Congress, and persuade them to send Delegates there. let a Body of 6,000 Canadians and 2000 Colonists be embodyed for the Defence of that province. I think the Success of the War will, in great Measure, depend on securing Canada to our Confederation. I would earnestly recommend Charles Carroll Esqr of Carrollton of this province to be one of your Deputies to Canada. his Attachment and zeal to the Cause, his abilities, his Acquaintance with the Language, Manners & Customs of France and his Religion, with the Circumstances of a very great Estate, all point him out to that all important Service. My Inclination to serve my Country would induce Me to offer my Services, if I did not esteem Myself unable to discharge the Trust.

I would have our Army in the Massachusetts encreased to 30,000, I would [have] 10,000 stationed in New York. and every proper place on Hudsons River strongly secured by Batteries of heavy Cannon and obstructions in the River, A Body of 3000 should be stationed in the middle Colonies. I would want every [Province?] to fitt out a Number of Vessells from 10 to 30 guns. I would cruise for the India & Jamaica Men, I would make prizes of every British Vessell whereever found. I would if possible destroy the army at Boston, tho the Consequence should be certain Destruction to the Town. The Colonies should either bear the Loss, or [illegible] the Damages in the Bill of Costs. – I would from Canada, if practicable destroy the Fur trade on Hudson's Bay. In short I would adopt every Scheme to reduce G.B. to our Terms. – Whether to open or to continue our Ports shut, I am undetermined. to starve the West Indies, and to ruin the Sugar trade ought not to be easily given up.

I have this moment seen the Kings Speech I am not disappointed. just as I expected.

I shall always be glad to hear from You, direct to Me in Fredk Coty. –
make Me remembered to your worthy Colleagues. Yours [&c.]

Sam^l Chase

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1. Adams Papers, MassHS.

PURDIE'S *Virginia Gazette,* FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 1776

Williamsburg, Jan. 12.

By advices from the army, we learn that all the mills at Tucker's point, with the Scotch distillery, and mr.[Andrew] Sprowle's houses at Gosport, are totally demolished; as is likewise the chief part of Norfolk, a few houses only remaining above the church, which are occupied by our troops.

Two deserters from the *Liverpool* frigate inform, that a tender is fitting out for James river, on a pirating voyage; and that all the vessels of war, but one, are shortly to come round to York town.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Otter,* CAPTAIN MATTHEW SQUIRE[1]

January 1776 Elizabeth River [Virginia]

Friday 12 A M hawld the *Sandwich* Schooner[2] alongside put two four Pounders on board her. At noon she hawld off again.

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

[2] Renamed the *Samuel,* tender.

GOVERNOR JOSIAH MARTIN TO LORD DARTMOUTH[1]

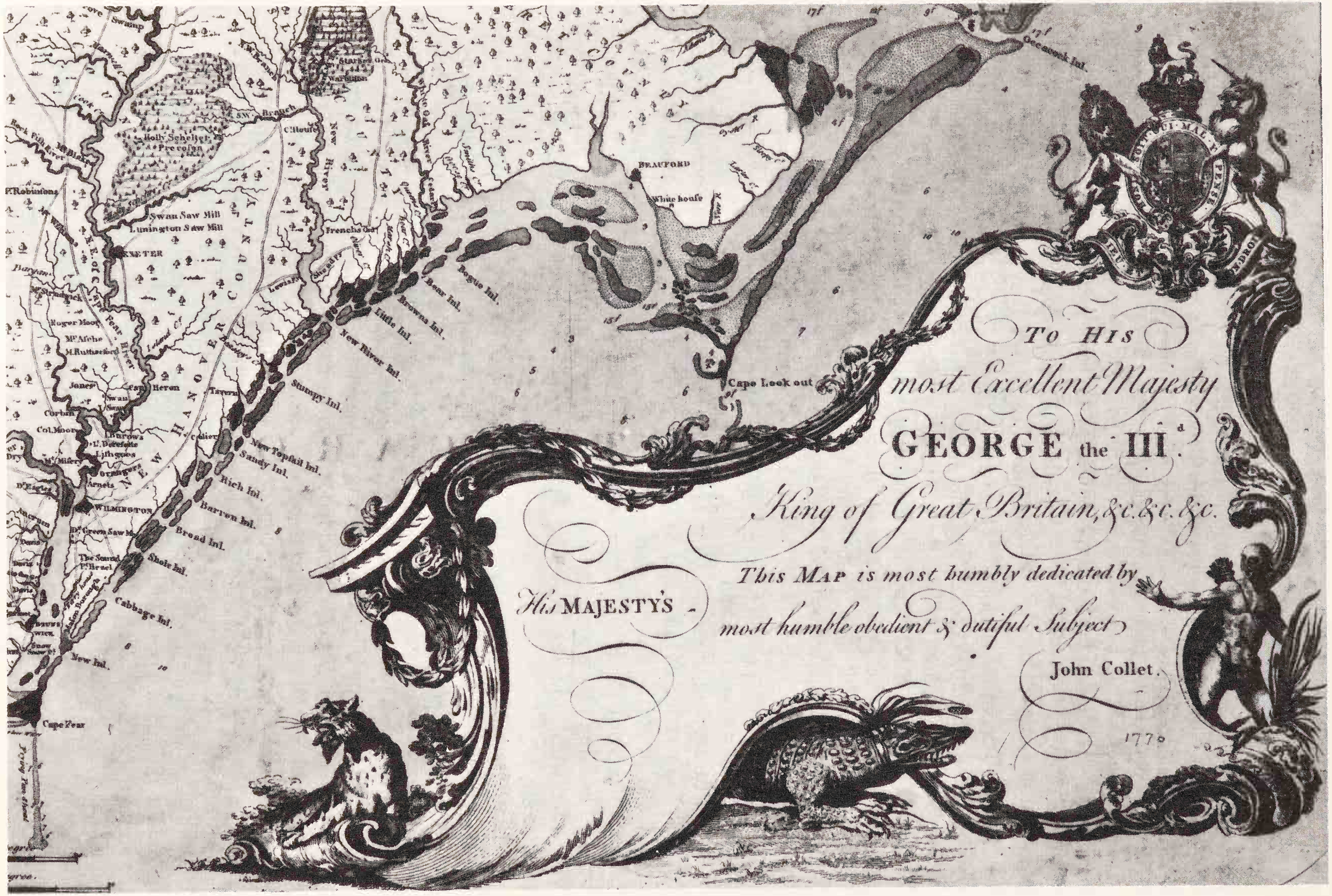
[Extract] No. Carolina *Scorpion* Sloop of War

No 43. in Cape Fear River Jany 12th 1775 [*sic* 1776]

My Lord, I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Your Lordships Dispatches numbered 20, 21, & 22 together with a Copy of Your Lordship's letter to Major General [William] Howe of the 22d of October, delivered to me by Captain [Tobias] Furneaux of His Majesty's Ship *Syren* who arrived here on the 3d instant, and proceeded on the Tenth to the Southward, in execution of his orders; having been delayed here 'til then, by contrary winds. Capt Furneaux took charge of Your Lordship's Dispatches to His Majesty's Governors of the Southern Provinces, that came enclosed to me; and those for Lord Dunmore, Governor [Robert] Eden and Governor [John] Penn, I had an opportunity of sending to Lord Dunmore, by a Tender which sailed on Saturday last.

The measure of sending a body of His Majesty's Forces to the Succour of the friends of Government here, and in the other Southern Provinces, I trust, will be attended with all the Success, and good consequences that His Majesty has been taught to expect from it and I can only lament, that it has not been tried earlier, before The King's loyal Subjects had received the checks and discouragements they have met with, and the Power of Rebellion had become so established, and formidable.

My Latest informations from the interior Parts of the Province, whence I have always represented to Your Lordship, that I expected to draw my principal support, correspond with my warmest wishes. The People called Regulators (for whom I hoped before this time to have received His Majesty's Pardon) to the number of between two and three thousand men have given me the strongest assur? ances of their joining The King's Standard whenever they shall be called upon, although not half of them are provided with arms, and I have no doubt that much greater numbers will be found to resort to it, besides the Scotch Emigrants. The progress of Rebellion here; the concurring good dispositions of a body of the People of the County of Brunswick in this neighbourhood, with the friends of Government in the back Country, and the notable exertions of The King's loyal Subjects at the same time in the upper Parts of South Carolina, had determined me before the receipt of Your Lordships late Dispatches to avail myself immediately of the strength of His Majesty's faithfull Subjects in this Province such as it might be, rather than hazard their total Subjection to the Power of Rebellion by waiting for Succour, of which I saw no prospect; and I had taken measures accordingly. but since I am informed by Your Lordship of His Majesty's design to Send a


TO HIS
most Excellent Majesty
GEORGE the III.d
King of Great Britain, &c. &c. &c.
This MAP is most humbly dedicated by
His MAJESTY'S
most humble obedient & dutiful Subject
John Collet.
1770
Cape Look out
BEAUFORD
White house
Bogue Inl.
Bear Inl.
Browns Inl.
Little Inl.
New River Inl.
Stumpy Inl.
New Topsail Inl.
Sandy Inl.
Rich Inl.
Barren Inl.
Bread Inl.
Shole Inl.
Cabbage Inl.
New Inl.
Cape Fear
Frying Pan Shoal
New River
Swan Saw Mill
Lumington Saw Mill
EXETER
WILMINGTON
Roger Moor
Mc.Afshe
M.Rutherford
Col. Moore
Holly Shelter Precosin
Ocacock Inl.
Swamp
Frenchs Cr.
N.W. Branch
Black River
Smiths Cr.

Cape Fear River and portion of North Carolina coast.

General Officer here with a body of regular Troops, and that they may be expected in a short time, I shall confine my views to the making every possible preparation in my power to favour and forward The Generals Plan of Operations, seeing it highly improper for me to hazard any check or *contretems* by drawing together The King's loyal Subjects prematurely and taking the field with them unprovided of almost every necessary for carrying on War, while I have assurance, and so near a prospect of Support, that will certainly render their exertions effectual.

The *Scorpion* Sloop of War on board which I had taken up my residence on her arrival here to relieve the *Cruizer,* being ordered by Captain Thornborough Commr of His Majesty's Ships in South Carolina to join him immediately under apprehensions of being attacked by Vessels the Rebels were fitting out at Charles Town against him, I found it expedient while I could effect nothing here to go there in her not only that Captain Thornbrough should have the Succour of The Ship in his emergency but that I might remonstrate against her detention from her Station here beyond absolute necessity while there was so great occasion for her in this Province, and have opportunity at the same time to inform myself of the measures for his Majesty's Service that Lord William Campbell had most pressingly invited me to consult with him upon by a letter I had received from him some time before. On my arrival at Charles Town I found Capt Thornbrough had ordered The *Scorpion* there at the instance of Lord William Campbell more than from any apprehensions he himself entertained of the Naval force of The Rebels: and on my representations he ordered her back to her Station here: but contrary winds detained us there so long, and our voyage from thence was so tedious, that at my return to this place I had been a whole month absent; during which I suffered a degree of anxiety and sollicitude, that it is impossible for me to describe to Your Lordship. happily however nothing had occurred here during my absence of the least consequence. I had the satisfaction to learn from Lord William Campbell, who had no particular object to propose to me that a most commendable Spirit of loyalty prevailed among The People in the interior parts of His Government, that they had actually defeated, and reduced a large body of The Rebels to treat, and were in expectation of further advantages, if the Rebels from this Country did not interpose which was then dreaded, and I have since had the mortification to hear that they marched a body of 600 men under Alexander Martin and Thomas Polk from the Counties of Mecklenburg, and Rowan, who put the Rebels of that Country in Sufficient force to disarm the loyal People who had made so noble a stand, and who were collecting strength so fast, that they must have carried every thing before them, if it had been possible to afford them the least Support. This check of the friends of Government in that Province is greatly to be lamented, but I am hopeful nevertheless that they will again put themselves in motion as soon as I erect The King's Standard here which I intend to do in time to hold The King's loyal Subjects of this Province in a state of readiness to join His Majesty's forces now in expectation immediately on their arrival as nearly as that event may be computed. . . .

This Harbour of Cape Fear River I understand from the Officers of His Majesty's Ships now here will receive Frigates, drawing not more than sixteen feet Water, which would at any time be sufficient to cover the landing of any body of Troops: but as no opposition is to be expected on their landing at present it is very immaterial whether Men of War come into this River or not.

. . . Your Lordship may depend I shall not fail to pay every attention to Your Dispatches No 15 and 19, which last has not yet reached my hands, and I shall use my best endeavours to forward the Success of Col. [Allan] McLeans Plan of recruiting out of the Scotch Emigrants here or to obtain them for the American Army in general.

Having no Amanuensis, it is out of my Power to transmit to Your Lordship Duplicates of my two last dispatches, which I fear are Still waiting at Charles Town for a Packet: a violent disorder in my eyes, with which I have been afflicted for some days, hardly permitting me to write with my own hand this letter. . . .

I have the honor to be [&c.]
Jo. Martin

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1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/318, LC Photocopy.

Major Charles Cotesworth Pinckney to Henry Laurens [1]

Sr Fort Johnston [Johnson] Jan: 12 – 1776 – one OClock –

Since my last of 12 OClock the Boat I sent out this morning to reconnoitre the Men of War has come back. After I fired at the Man of War's Boat she rowed away as fast as she could, & meeting with our Boat went along side of her. Our People passed as Fishermen & were taken by the Men of War's People to be so. From them we learn that there is a 50 Gun ship & a 28 Gun ship in the Offing, & a Sloop to lighten the 50 & that they are in no want of Pilots. I send this by Serjeant Redman who was on board of our Boat & will answer such Questions as you may please to put to him – The Pilot Boat is safe & coming up very fast, but it is impossible to overtake the Man of War Boat. I have the honour to be Sr [&c.]

Charles Cotesworth Pinckney
Major of the 5th Regt

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1. BPL.

Minutes of the South Carolina Council of Safety [1]

In the Council of Safety
[Charleston] Monday [*sic* Friday], Jan. 12th, 1776.

Read a letter from Major [Charles] Pinckney, dated Fort Johnson, 11th January, 1776.

Resolved, That Mr. Daniel Cannon do forthwith provide all the materials, workmen and labourers, that shall be necessary for erecting and completing the intended works upon Sullivan's Island, under the direction of Col [Owen] Roberts, with the utmost expedition: That, if the said works should unavoidably be discontinued, the public will indemnify Mr. Cannon, for all the materials that shall have beeen purchased at the time of such discontinuance; and that the public will make good any loss that may be sustained in boats, or by negroes killed, maimed, or lost in this service, by means of the enemy.

Resolved, That the sum of four thousand pounds be advanced out of the colony treasury to Mr. Cannon, for the more expeditious carrying on the works intended upon Sullivan's Island – to be accounted for by him.

An order for that sum was accordingly issued.

Upon an application by the Hon. Capt. [William Henry] Drayton, the following letter was written:

In the Council of Safety,
Jan. 12th, 1776.

Sir – As several of the men which come into this colony on board your vessel have entered into the service of the United colonies of America, on board the ship *Prosper,* commanded by the Hon. Mr. Drayton, who have wages due to them: 'tis our order that you do immediately adjust and pay such wages; and also, that you will not attempt to controul or hinder such other men from entering into the same service, who are willing to do so of their own voluntary disposition – as you will answer the contrary at your peril.

By order of the Council of Safety.

Henry Laurens, President.

Capt. [Thomas] Smith of the snow [*sic* schooner] in Stono river.

The following orders were then issued:

In the Council of Safety,
Jan. 12th, 1776.

Sir – We desire you will order the commanding officer of the detachment on Sullivan's Island, as soon as the temporary battery is in readiness, to fire upon any ships of war, boats, or other vessels belonging to the enemy, attempting to approach, pass, or land upon that island; and in the mean time to use all the force in his power to prevent the enemy's landing or passing by.

By order of the Council of Safety.

Henry Laurens, President.

Col. [William] Moultrie, or the commanding officer of the colony troops.

In the Council of Safety,
Jan. 12th, 1776.

Sir – You are to receive on board the scooner *Defence* a detachment from the troops under Col. Moultrie's command, and to conduct and land them on Sullivan's Island. You are to remain at anchor near the island, and to do every thing in your power to cover and protect the works intended to be carried on there, and to hinder and obstruct the approach, landing or passing by, any ships, boats, or other vessels belonging to the enemy.

By order of the Council of Safety

Henry Laurens, President

Capt [Simon] Tufts.

Read a second letter from Major Pinckney, sent express from Fort Johnson, with a further account of the vessels in the offing, and of a barge having come into the Road this morning.

Mr. John Coram, jun., attended the Council, and confirmed the account given in the above letter.

Capt. Thomas Smith, of the armed pilot-boat, attended, and reported, that having reconnoitred the vessels in the offing, he judged one to be a frigate of 36 guns, another a smaller ship, or bark, which he imagined might be a transport, and the third was a large sloop, which he imagined might be a tender; that he was very near them, but the weather too foggy, to distinguish clearly what they were: and that he fell in with and engaged the barge of one of them, at eleven o'clock this forenoon, and had received several shot in his sails.

Read a third letter from Major Pinckney at Fort Johnson, sent by Sergeant Redman, to whom the Council was referred for more particular information.

Sergeant Redman being called in, and also a Mr. Ellis – and examined – they respectively declared, that having been ordered out by Major Pinckney, to reconnoitre the vessels in the Offing, in a fishing-boat, they fell in the man-of-war's barge, which had been on board the Spaniard in the road, returning to her ship – that she lay along-side the fishing-boat near fifteen minutes, during which time some conversation passed between them (as fishermen) and the lieutenant, who asked several questions, concerning the fort – why it had fired at the barge? – threatening vengeance the first fair wind and tide – where were the *Tamar* and *Cherokee*? &c. and told them, that there was a 50-gun ship in the offing, and a frigate of 28 guns, to the former of which the barge belonged, together with a sloop to lighten the large ship, that she might come in over the bar – and that they had a black and six white pilots on board.

In the Council of Safety,
Jan. 12th, 1776, 5 o'clock, P.M.

Sir – We have before us your several dispatches, one of last night, and two by W. Belin and Sergeant Redman – your vigilance merits applause.

We desire you will as speedily as possible make a general return to this board, of your garison and camp – the number of effectives, officers and men, stores of every kind, including provisions; with such further intelligence, of the ships in the offing as you may have learned; together with any hints or information, which you may judge will be necessary or serviceable in the present conjuncture.

By order of the Council of Safety.

Major Pinckney. Henry Laurens, President.

Capt. Smith is sensible of his mistake and will act with propriety upon that occasion.

Ordered, That the detachment of one hundred men, ordered the 10th instant for Sullivan's Island, be ready to embark on board scooner *Defence,* by dawn of day to-morrow morning – to march to Champney's wharf.

In the Council of Safety, 12th Jan., 1776.

By order. Henry Laurens, President.

Col. [William] Moultrie, or the commanding officer of the colony troops.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society,* III, 167–71.

South Carolina and American General Gazette, FRIDAY, JANUARY 5 TO FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 1776

Charlestown, January 12.

Last Saturday sailed *Tamar* and *Cherokee* Men of War, the *Sandwich* Packet, the armed Schooner *Polly,* and the Prize Brigantine mentioned in our last.[1] It is pretty certain that the Packet is bound to New York; but the Destination of the others has given Rise to a Variety of Conjectures, the most probable seems to be, that after convoying the Packet to [some] Distance at Sea, they have steered for Georgia, in order to procure a fresh supply of Provisions Water and Fuel.

Yesterday Forenoon a large Ship, a Bark, and a Sloop, appeared off our Bar, where the Ship fired several Guns.[2] Early this Morning a Pilot went out to discover who they were, and met with a barge belonging to the Ship, which had been at the Spanish Snow lying in Rebellion Road.[3] A smart Discharge of Musketry ensued between the Barge and Pilotboat; without any Loss on board the latter. The Ship is thought to be a Frigate of about 28 guns. We have just heard that two more Ships are in the Offing.[4]

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[1] The *George Town* packet, Alexander Wyley, master, taken November 8, 1775.

[2] H.M.S. *Syren.*

[3] The *St. Michael,* Don Joachim de Laraquebel, commander.

[4] H.M. Sloop *Raven* and her prize, the ship *Rittenhouse,* Ambrose Bartlett, master, taken December 28, 1775.

PROVISIONS FROM ST. AUGUSTINE FOR H.M. SLOOP *TAMAR*'S MEN SHIPPED ON BOARD THE PILOT BOAT *TRYAL*[1]

His Excellency Govr Tonyn for Provisions supplyed 7 Men belonging to His Majestys Ship *Tamar* on board the *Tryal* Pilot Boat

Dr To William Alexander

1776				
Jany 12th For 32 Galls Rum	a 4/9 p Gal	7	12	–
526 lbs Flour	a 22/ p 100	5	15	8
Baking 91 lb Biscuit	a 8/ p 100		7	3
504 lb Fresh Beef	a 25/p 100	6	6	–
Sterling		£ 20	–	11

[1st endorsement] Received St Augustine 12th January 1776 of His Excellency Govr Tonyn Twenty Pounds and eleven pence Sterling in full for the Above Accot in a Sett of Bills on the Honble the Commissioners for Victualling His Majestys Navy

William Alexander

[2d endorsement] Received the above mention'd Provisions for the use of myself & the other Men belonging to His Majesty's Ship *Tamar,* Witness my Hand St Augustine 12th January 1776.

Geo Walker Commr

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[1] PRO, Colonial Office, 5/556, 219.

13 Jan.

JOHN KINNON TO GEORGE PHIPPS, CORK [1]

[Extract] Halifax 13. January 1776.

Publick not private Business brought me here, but is of a nature not to be disclosed at present, suffice it to say, if I am successfull it will be both honourable and advantageous to me. We were far from inactive at Boston, a secret Expedition sailed the Day I did under Major [James] Grant,[2] & Genl [Henry] Clinton was preparing to go with some Light Infantry, it was said to meet the Troops from the Mediterranean, to assist Lord Dunmore who makes some stand in Virginia, many other things were talked of, and People in high Spirits. Several of the Porter Ships arrived, and but two taken – several coming in daily, & the Coasts closely watched since Shuldham's Arrival.

John Kinnon.

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[1] PRO, Colonial Office, 5/40.

[2] Grant sailed in the *Scarborough* for Georgia to procure rice.

COLONY BOND FOR THE MASSACHUSETTS ARMED BRIG *Yankee Hero* [1]

1776 *Yankee Hero,* Armed Vessel. Tons; 120. Guns and Men, not
Jan. 13 stated

Commander: Thomas Thomas.
Bond: Colony, £1,000.
Bonders: Tho[ma]s Thomas, Mariner; Jona[than] Jackson, Nat[haniel] Tracy, and John Tracy, Merchants of Newburyport.
Owners: Not stated.
Witnesses: Robert Tracy, Edw[ar]d Jackson.

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[1] Mass. Arch., vol. 7,339. This is an abstract taken from the bond.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN JOHN LINZEE, H.M. SLOOP *Falcon* [1]

When the *Kitty* transport is ready to sail, you are hereby desired and directed to take her under your Convoy and proceed without Loss of time in his Majesty's Sloop under your Command to Sea, and when you are to the Eastward of Cape Cod open the sealed Pacquet herewith inclosed and follow the Orders therein contained for your further Proceedings.

Given under my hand on board his Majs Ship *Preston*
at Boston 13 January 1776

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[1] Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 117, BM.

VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO LORD SANDWICH [1]

[Extract] Boston, 13th January 1776.

Your Lordship will be surprised and concerned to hear how fast the armed vessels of the rebels have multiplied lately; how many of our storeships and victuallers they have taken; and how successfully they have defeated all our force, vigilance, and attention, by their artifice, but more by their being too early in possession of all the harbours, creeks, and rivers, on this coast, most of which they have already fortified. But if any are accessible to our ships, they shall be attempted, and every practicable measure taken that can contribute to our success.

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[1] Barnes and Owen, eds., *Sandwich Papers,* I, 104–05.

MASTER'S BOND FOR THE MASSACHUSETTS WHALING BRIG *FOX*[1]

Know all men by these Presents that we Peter Folger & Gilbert Folger both of Sherburn in the County of Nantucket are holden and stand firmly bound & obliged to Henry Gardner Esqr of Stow in the County of middelsex Treasurer of the Colony of the Massa Bay or his Successors in Sd office in the full & Just Sum of Two Thousands Pounds, to the which Payment well and Truly to be made, we bind ourselves our Heirs, Executors administrators & Assigns Jointly & Severally firmly by these Presents, Sealed with our Seals Dated this Thirteenth day of January in the sixteenth year of his Majestys Reign, Annoque Domminy, 1776. –

The Conditions of the above obligations are that whereas the Above named Peter Folger and Gilbert Folger is about to Adventure to Sea on a whaleing Voyage the Brig *Fox* Gilbert Folger Master if then the Sd Gilbert Folger or any other Person who may have the Command of the Sd Brig during the Sd Voyage Shall Carry out no more Provisions than are Nessasary for the Sd Voyage in the Judgment of the Select men of the Town of Sherburn and shall Also well and Truly Bring or Cause to be brought into Some Port or Harbour of this Colony other than the port of Boston or Nantucket, All the oil & whalbone that Shall be Taken by the Said Vessels Crew in the Course of their Voyage and shall within Eighteen months from the date hereof Produce a Certificate from the Select men of the Town Adjoining Such Port or harbour that he there Landed the Same, then the Above obligation is to be Void, and of no Effect, otherwise to abide and Remain in Full force and Virtue.

Peter Folger Gilbert Folger

Signd Sealed & Delivered in Presents of us –
Reuben Folger the 2d Nathan Folger

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[1] Mass. Arch., vol. 5, 287.

BENJAMIN FESSENDEN TO JAMES WARREN[1]

Hond Sir Sandwich, January. 13th 1776

In compliance with the desire of a Number of members of the Committees of Correspondence, and Inspection for this Town, I enclose you a Copy of the Vote Passed by them yesterday.[2] The Committee have done all in their Power to stop Said Vessel, referred to in the Vote, & have had repeated assurances that she should not Sail without Liberty. But as she has Sailed; Thought it a Duty incumbent on them to Give information of it to the Honble House, That if any thing further was necessary, They might give Such Order thereon as to them should in their Wisdom seem best. Mr [Stephen] Nye is a Member of our Commttee & to him I beg leave to refer you for a more particular account of the Conduct of the owners relative to their Sending away the Vessell. I am Hond Sir [&c.]

Benjamin Fessenden

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1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 191.
2. See Minutes of these Committees, January 12, 1776.

JOURNAL OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO BUILD TWO CONTINENTAL FRIGATES IN RHODE ISLAND [1]

[Providence] Jany 13 1776

Meeting in being according to Adjournment

Voted. That Jonathan Jenckes Esqr send Plank Loggs to Kents and Athertons sawmills and that he have them sawed into 4 Inch plank and as long as the Mills will admitt and that he provide two sawpitts and set proper men to work in them constantly in sawing 4 Inch plank at Pautucket landing and that he agree with Mill & pitt sawyers for the price of sawing that the same persons that bring the Loggs to the Mill are to engage to bring the plank to Town.

Reckoning 11/ L My paid By Coll Nightingale

Meeting adjourned to Monday evening 6 o'clock.

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1. Journal R.I. Frigates, RIHS.

JOHN JENCKES' ACCOUNT FOR THREE SLOOPS OUTFITTED FOR RHODE ISLAND [1]

Dr John Jenckes Esqr his Accot Currt wt the Colony of Rhode Island Cr

1776		
Jany 13	To Cash you recd of the General Treasurer p his Certificate	3811. 13. . 6
	To Amot 100 bbls Flour engagd by Jno Smith	186. . 4. . 6
	Ballance due to John Jenckes	462. 11. . 5¼
		4460. . 9. . 5¼

[Endorsed] Providence Feb 13. 1776 Then settled & Adjusted the above Accot by Order of the Honble General Assembly

A true Copy
Nath^{l} Mumford

Nath^{l} Mumford
Tho^{s} Greene

1776		
Jany 13	By Amot of Cargo & Outfitt Sloop *Liberty* Christo Lippitt Master	1011. . 5. . 6
	By Amot the Acct Cargo & Outfitt of Sloop *Diamond* – Soule Mr	2568. 16. 10
	By Amot of your Accot of Cargo & Outfitt of Sloop *Sally* N.Packard Mr	880. . 7. . 1¼
		£4460. . 9. . 5¼

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1. Hopkins Papers, RIHS.

Providence Gazette, SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 1776

Providence, Jan. 13.

Saturday last a Boat belonging to one of the King's Tenders at Newport, having on board a Midshipman and two Seamen, was taken at Brenton's Neck, by a Party from Head-Quarters on Rhode-Island – They were decoyed by a Negro, who hailed the Tender, and informed them he was disposed to go on board to serve King George. – The Prisoners have since arrived here.

Yesterday Afternoon Capt. [James] Wallace, with all the Vessels under his Command, arrived at the South End of Prudence and landed 250 Men. – The Minute-Men that were on the Island (about 47 in Number) marched and engaged the Enemy, who endeavoured to surround them. – After giving three Fires, our People retreated, finding themselves overpowered by Numbers, and were taken off by two Boats from Warwick Neck. – One Minute-Man was killed, and two wounded, and the Enemy it is said lost several of their Men. – They afterwards burnt eight Houses on the Island, with a Number of Barns and Cribs; and this Morning it is said they are arrived at Bristol Harbour.

On Monday last [January 8] the Bomb Brig, a ship (supposed to be the *Swan*) and four Tenders, left the Harbour of Newport, and came up the Bay: They fired a Number of shot at a House on the Narraganset Side, after which the Brig and Tenders came up as far as Warwick Neck, where it is supposed they intended to land some Men, for the Purpose of collecting live Stock, &c. – Advice being received here of this Movement about eleven o'Clock at Night, the Artillery Company immediately marched off with some Field Pieces, and arrived at Warwick early the next Morning, where they were joined by a Number of the Inhabitants, and a Company from East-Greenwich, with two Field Pieces. – Several Shot were fired at the Brig and Tenders, and a few were returned on the Part of the Enemy, who finding they could not accomplish their Purpose, returned to Newport on Wednesday, having in this Expedition lost two of their Boats, which were driven ashore near Warren. In coming up the Bay they took a small Sloop, with some Passengers on board.

Three Men of War and eight Transports, we hear, sailed from Boston on Sunday last [January 7].

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Glasgow,* CAPTAIN TYRINGHAM HOWE [1]

January 1776	A Brest of Cananicut ferry
Friday 12	Fresh breezes & fair at 7 AM unmoor'd at 10 weigh'd & Came to Sail in Compy the *Rose, Swan, Bolton* & Tenders – Do Wr with a hard frost at 3 PM Came too in 16 fm off the So end of Prudence sent the boats arm'd & all the Marines on Shore at 8 the boats returned after burning the houses Barns &c & brot off some hay
Saturday 13	at 7 AM weighd & anchor'd 2 Miles farther to the No ward & sent the boats & marines on Shore again Modt & fair Observ'd an irregular fire between the Rebels & our people we had 2 wounded one of which was taken prisoner

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 51/398.

Major General Philip Schuyler to John Hancock [1]

[Extract]
Copy Albany January 13th 1776 – 6 o'Clock P.M.

Sir. Within this half Hour Mr [Edward] Antill arrived with the unfortunate Account contained in the enclosed; My amiable and gallant Friend General Montgomery is no more, he fell in an unsuccessfull Attack on Quebec on the 30th Ult – My Feelings on this unhappy Occassion are too poignant to admit of Expression. – May Heaven avert any further Evils.

In the present critical Situation of Affairs, it is evident to me, that Nothing but the immediate March of a Body of Troops into Canada, can secure that province for the Canadians as I have heretofore observed, are not to be depended upon, only one hundred and sixty were at Quebec with Colonel [James] Livingston and those behaved ill as Mr Antill will inform you.

The very great Distance of Congress from here will apologize for a Request I shall immediately make to General Washington to send three thousand Men into Canada to march by the Way of Number four to Onion River from whence Lake Champlain is passable to Canada.

Congress undoubtedly conceives it to be advantageous to the Course of America to sit at Philadelphia; but they will be good enough to permit me to suggest the Necessity of a full empowered Committee immediately to repair to this place.

[1] Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, I, 396–98, NA.

Major General Philip Schuyler to George Washington [1]

Albany January 13th 1776

I wish I had no occasion to send my Dear General this Mellancolly Account, My Amiable Friend the Gallant [Richard] Montgomery, is no more, The Brave [Benedict] Arnold is wounded, and we have met with a severe Check, in an unsuccessful Attempt on Quebec; May Heaven be graciously pleas'd that the Misfortune may terminate here; I tremble for our People in Canada, and nothing my Dear Sir seems left to prevent the most fatal consequences, but an immediate Reinforcement, that is nowhare to [be] had but from You, & the only Rout that which I have pointed out in my Letter to Congress, Copy of which you have inclos'd, Nor do I think that a less number than which I have mentiond will suffice, Should your Excellency think proper to send the Troops, you will please to let me know It by Express, that I may send Provisions to Onion River.

Congress has wrote to me on the subject of my request to retire, our Affairs are much Worse than when I made the request, this is Motive sufficient for me to continue to serve my Country in any Way I can be thought most serviceable; But my utmost can be but little, Weak and Indisposed as I am

The Clothing is gone to Cambridge I am [&c.]

Ph: Schuyler

[1] Silliman Papers, YUL.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY[1]

[New York] Die Sabbati, Jany. 13th, 1776.

Lawrence Hartwick, brought before the Committee.

Capt. John Buchanan says, that he has heard that Lawrence Hartwick is very unfriendly to the liberties of America, and that he frequently went on board of the man of war; and it is reported that he carried the names of persons in this city on board who are active for their country. Capt. Buchanan says that he has heard Lawrence Hartwick declare that he had been on board of the man of war, would go on board again when he pleased, and would see who would hinder him.

Lawrence Hartwick says he wanted a musket, and went on board to buy a musket, and bought one of the armourer and paid the money for it; that the gun was to be sent to him by the pilot, but was not sent, and he went on board afterwards at different times for his money; that when he was on board the ship *Asia,* Mr. Tylee was there,[2] who asked him if he knew Capt. Tylee at the shipyards, and answered yes; and told him that he wanted to speak to him; that he told him he was not yet going on shore, and he might have an opportunity to speak to him; that after he came on shore he found a letter in his pocket directed to Capt. Tylee, which he delivered two days afterwards, but does not know how he received it; that he never showed the letter to Capt. Vandeput, or any of his officers.

Capt. Nat. Tylee says, he received a letter from the prisoner on a Sunday morning in November last; that Hartwick told him Lieut. Tylee had put it in his pocket in the gun room; that the letter had been sealed with a wafer and broken open, and resealed with a very large seal of wax; that on that evening the ship's decks were cleared and some person informed him they expected a party and were in readiness; the letter was read; it has evident marks of being opened and resealed; that he charged Hartwick with breaking open the letter, and Hartwick denied it.

Capt. Tylee gave the same information that was given to the Committee a few days ago, to wit: that Capt. Vandeput told Tylee, the prisoner, in the ship *Asia,* that he had seen his letter, and his friend had betrayed him; that he would not use him ill, but that he set another sentry over him.

John Rutter says, that about the same time, McDonnald and Hampton got on board the man of war, Hartwick came several times from on board of the man of war; that one evening when Hartwick and Leonard came from on board, they were told it was very wrong, and they said they would go on board when they pleased, and they would see who would hinder them; that Hartwick in particular said so; that he has understood in general that Hartwick is very much opposed to the measures of the Congress. Hartwick denies that he told Tylee that the letter was put in his pocket in the gun room.

John Hunter says, that Hartwick's wife declared that when he found the letter in his coat pocket, he said he would send it back on board of the man of war.

John Kell says, that one day last fall Lawrence Hartwick told him there was a fine wind, and troops expected; that they would give the whigs a drubbing presently; that he had advised Hartwick not to go on board of the man of war, but he persisted that he would go.

[1] *New York Provincial Congress,* I, 248, 249.
[2] Ensign Edward Tilley was taken prisoner September 17, 1775.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS [1]

[Philadelphia] Saturday, January 13, 1776

. . . a letter from the committee of safety of New York, dated January 3d, 1776, being received, . . .

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to take into consideration the letter from the committee of safety of New York, and to confer with Mr. [Bernard] Romans,[2] and report to Congress.

The members chosen, Mr. [Robert Treat] Paine, Mr. [Eliphalet] Dyer, Mr. [Thomas] Lynch, Mr. [George] Wythe, and Mr. W[illiam] Livingston.

The Secret Committee having made report respecting the purchase of the salt petre lately imported,

Resolved, That the said committee be directed to purchase the salt petre on the best terms they can, and have it manufactured into gun powder as soon as possible.

[1] Ford, ed., *JCC,* IV, 53.
[2] Engineer for fortifications at Martaeler's Rock. He had been engaged in a dispute with the Commissioners in charge of those fortifications.

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH [1]

[Philadelphia] Saturday 13 Jany. Debates Whether Bernard Romans shall be called in and examined about his Fortifications on Hudsons River were terminated in a Reference to 5 Members –

[1] Richard Smith's Diary, LC.

JOSIAH BARTLETT TO JOHN LANGDON [1]

[Extract] Philadelphia, Jany 13th 1776.

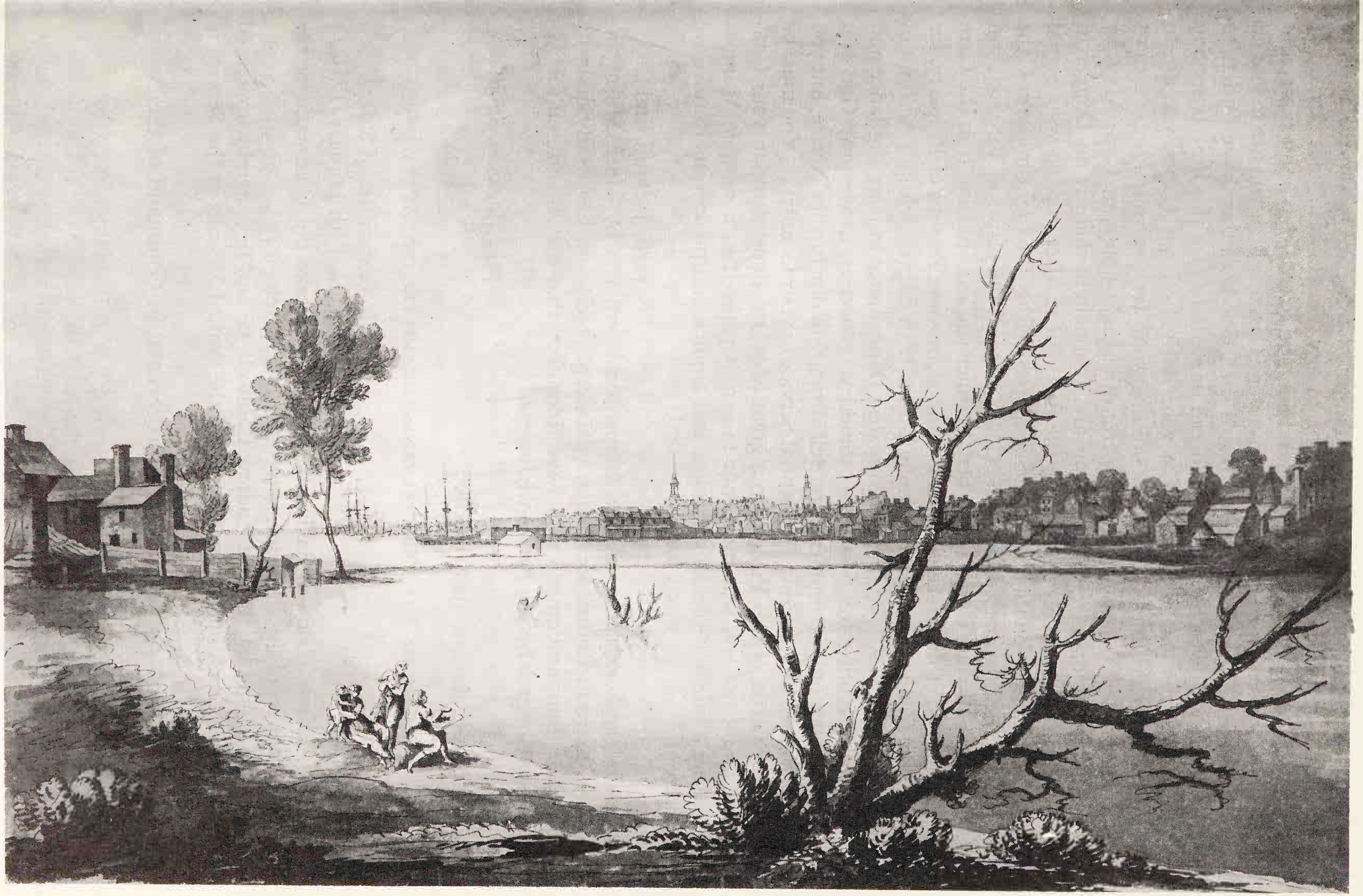
Last evening the draughts of the several ships of war were laid before the Marine Committee and approved of; and they have ordered one for each of the Contractors to be forthwith made out. But it is so large I know not how to send it to you, it cannot be sent in a letter and what other way to contrive I know not, but will do the best I can as soon as I can procure it.

[1] William Whipple Papers, Force Transcripts, LC.

BAYARD, JACKSON & COMPANY TO CAPTAIN WILLIAM MESTON [1]

Sir, Philadelphia, Jan. 13, 1776.

Our snow *Dickenson* being now loaded and ready for Sea, we hereby direct you to proceed in her with all possible Dispatch from this Port to the Port of Nantz, in France: On your Passage you are to improve Wind and Weather to the best



A view of Philadelphia, 1777.

Advantage, constantly endeavouring to make your Passage in as short a Time as possible, and carefully avoiding to speaking to any Vessel. On your Arrival at Nantz, you are to apply to Messrs. Montandouin and Frere, Merchants there, and to whom you are consigned; they will receive your Cargo, which you are to lose no Time in delivering, and there take on board such Goods as they have Orders to ship in Return,, with which you are to proceed immediately for this Port, observing the Directions given you as above. On your Arrival off our Capes, you are to stand off, and on making a Signal, by hoisting your Jack to your Fore-top-mast head, when you will be answered, either from the Light-house, or Cape May, by a Sheet hung out; upon seeing this, you are to conclude there is no Danger in your Way, and immediately proceed up the Bay; but if, after making your Signal for six or eight hours, you should see no Signal, from either the Light-house or Cape May, you are then to proceed along the Coast, towards the Capes of Virginia, and endeavour to land your Cargo in the best Manner you can, putting it in the Care of the Committee of the Place where it is Landed, or some Persons of Property, for the Use of the Congress, and immediately Dispatch an Express with an Account of your proceedings to us. We have the greatest Dependance in your Vigilance and Activity in prosecuting this Voyage: should you succeed, as we pray God you may, you will not only recommend yourself strongly to our further Notice, but you will be considered as rendering an essential Service to your Country. You must be sensible the Success of this Voyage, in a great Measure, depends upon your Conduct; we doubt not you will endeavour to acquit yourself in a suitable Manner. Wishing you a safe and pleasant Voyage, and a quick and prosperous Return, we are, Sir [&c.]

Bayard, Jackson, and Co.

P.S. Besides the Goods that may be shipped on board you by Mess. Mo[nt]andouin and Frere in Return for Cargo, you are to receive on board any quantity of Arms and Ammunition you may have Room for, that may be offered for Account of the Congress by any Person whatsoever.

Bayard, Jackson, and Co.

1. *Public Advertiser,* London, April 11, 1776.

Minutes of the Pennsylvania Committee of Safety [1]

In Committee of Safety.
Philada, 13th January, 1776.

Capt. Andrew Caldwell having been applied to take the Command of the Fleet in the Service of this Province, and consenting thereto, it is.

Resolved, That he, the said Andrew Caldwell, be and he is hereby appointed Commander-in-Chief, or Commander of all the Armed Vessells in the Service of this Province.

Resolved, That a Person be appointed Second in Command of the Armed Vessels in the Service of this Province.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records,* X, 456.

PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO CAPTAIN ANDREW CALDWELL [1]

In Committee of Safety [January 13].[2]

To Andrew Caldwell, Gentleman:

We, reposing especial Trust and Confidence in your Patriotism, Valour, Conduct, and Fidelity, do by these presents constitute and appoint you to be Commodore and Commander-in-chief of all Ships, Vessels, Boats, floating Batteries, Firerafts, and other Naval Armaments and Equipments now fitted, and that shall or may be fitted out, by this Province, for the Protection thereof, and of the Commerce of the River Delaware, against all hostile Enterprises and for the defence of American Liberty. You are, therefore, to take into your charge the whole Fleet of Ships, Vessels, Boats, floating Batteries, Fire Rafts, and other Naval Armaments and equipments made, and that shall be made, and fitted out by this Province, and carefully and diligently to discharge the duty of Commodore and Commander-in-Chief by doing, &c.

[1] Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives,* 2nd series, I, 380.

[2] "Capt Andrew Caldwell having been applied to take the Command of the Fleet in the Service of this Province, and consenting thereto, it is *Resolved,* That he, the said Andrew Caldwell, be and he is hereby appointed Commander-in-Chief, or Commander of all the Armed Vessells in the Service of this Province," Minutes of the Pennsylvania Committee of Safety, January 13, 1776, *Pennsylvania Colonial Records,* X, 456.

WILLIAM WALL TO COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS [1]

Dear sir

Baltimore Jany 13th 1776 –

This will be handed You by Capt [William] Stone of the *Horenet* Sloop of War at my Arrival here I found my Vessel Agreeable to my Expectations which gave me great Satirsfaction and After that I waited on Capt Stone and Gave your complyments to him And Deliverd Your Message which I hope may prove Satisfactory My Byseniss is so at Present that I Cant Come to you by the Oppertunity of Capt Stone or otherwise would with all my heart But after this Byseniss is Done will gladly Emb[ark] with You with all the Chearfullness in the World and therefore Beg if any Vacansy Should Offer you would be kind Enough to keep it for me Consisting with your honor and Cons[cie]nces so Wishing you all the Success Amaginable I am [&c.]

W^{m} Wall

NB As for News I Refer You to Capt Stone — My Best Complymts to Brother John & Abraham Whipple

W.W.

To Admiral Hopkins On Board the Ship *Alfred* pr favour Capt Stone

[1] Hopkins Papers, RIHS.

SAMUEL PURVIANCE, JR. TO THE NAVAL COMMITTEE [1]

[Baltimore] 1776 Jan. 13

Since writing the annex'd, I have Just now recd by Express from Annapolis a Line from Mr [William] Paca inclosing your Orders to Captn [William] Stone which I expect to deliver him in a few Minutes. – My Bror is Just now returnd from the Harbour after geting the Sloop & Schooner [2] under Way, having ordd them to drop dow[n] 3 or 4 Miles this evening to be clear of Ice, & ready to sail tomorrow. – I have had a Person all day at the Furnace, who assures me the Remdr of the Shot & Hand Granades are finishd & will be sent in very early in the morning, so that I know of nothing to prevent the Vessels from Sailing. I am with great Respect Gentlemen [&c.]

Sam^l Purviance Jun^r

To Stephen Hopkins, Chrisr Gadsden, Silas Deane & Joseph Hewes Esqrs In Philadelphia

[Endorsed] Samuel Purviance junr Esqr Lettr Jany 13th 1776

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[1] Silas Deane Papers, ConnHS.

[2] The Continental sloop *Hornet* and the Continental schooner *Wasp*.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO CAPTAIN ELIJAH LUCE [1]

Sr Annapolis in Maryland 13th Jany 1776.

Your are to proceed in the Brigantine *Hannah* of which you are Master with all Expedition to the Island of St Eustatia in the West Indies and there deliver your Cargoe to Mr Abraham Vanbebber to whom you go consigned & proceed further and act as he shall there direct you – If Mr Vanbebber should not have arrived by the Time you get there you are to wait for him but if he should not arrive within six Days after your getting there then dispatch an Express to St Pierre in Martinico with the Letters for Mr Richard Harrison & Mr William McCreary and wait the Answer of one of them either of whose Orders you are to follow – yet if Mr Vanbebber should arrive before you are taken up by one or other of those Gent. you are to be subject to him – if you should send Express to Martinico advise Messrs Harrison & McCreary of the price of the Commodities you carry at Statia & whether any Quantity of Powder or other Warlike Stores may be had there & the price. – You must on your Arrival at Statia call at the House of Richd D. Jennings and in Case of his Death or Absence at the House of Chalott & Bease where you may expect to meet with Mr Vanbebber or his Orders.

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[1] Executive Papers, Box 1, Md. Arch.

DIXON AND HUNTER'S *Virginia Gazette,* SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 1776

Williamsburg, Jan. 13.

The brig from Corke, taken by Capt. [Richard] Barron last week, was bound for Boston, loaded with pork, potatoes, eggs, wine, porter, cheese, and dried beef and is supposed to be worth 5000Lsterling.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA CONVENTION [1]

[Williamsburg] Saturday, January 13, 1776.

Mr. [James] Mercer, from the committee to whom the representation of the committee of the county of Isle of Wight was referred, reported, that they had inquired into the conduct of the said John Goodrich therein named; and that it appeared to them, that the said John Goodrich had drawn on him, and two of his sons, the resentment of Lord Dunmore, by assisting the country in the importation of gunpowder, who caused them to be seized and confined, but upon their engaging to be no farther concerned in that business, the said John Goodrich, and his son John, on the parole of the former to appear on board Lord Dunmore's ship every tenth day, or oftener, if required, that the said John Goodrich has since resided at his plantation in Nansemond, and has been on board his lordship's ship four times, agreeably to his engagement, passing in his vessel unmolested by any of the navy; that the said John Goodrich acknowledged he intended to move some corn from his plantation in the county of Isle of Wight, to his plantation in Nansemond, but says the quantity was but a few barrels which his family was in want of, and that he had no conveniency of carrying it but by water; and that they had come to the following resolutions thereupon, which he read in his place, and afterwards delivered in at the clerk's table, where the same was again twice read and agreed to.

Resolved, That the said Joseph [*sic* John] Goodrich hath been active in favour of this colony, and hath suffered considerably on that account; that nothing in his conduct appears to be inimical to the common cause; but that no grain, or other article of provision, should be water borne in the neighbourhood of the enemy.

Mr. Mercer from the Committee appointed to inquire into the conduct of John Goodrich, William Goodrich, and John Goodrich, Junr. relating to the importation of powder, and other articles for the use of this colony, reported, that the Committee had, accordingly inquired into the same, and that it appeared to them, that the linens imported into this colony on board the schooner *Fanny* were on the joint account of the said John Goodrich, John Goodrich, Junr. and Bartlet Goodrich; that it farther appeared, from the information of the said John Goodrich, Junr. and an invoice of the said cargo produced by him, that the said Bartlett, when at Antigua, about the first of October last, purchased British goods, consisting of checks, cottons, ginghams, striped holland, jeans, Scotch thread, printed linens, Irish linens, white lead, and linseed oil, to the amount of £.291 16s 10 sterling, imported there from Liverpool by a return ship from Guinea, of which the said Bartlet was fully apprized; that the said Bartlet carried them to St. Eustatia, had them reviewed and packed in rum puncheons, and sent into Potowmac river in this colony, addressed to John Goodrich and company, where the said John Goodrich, Junr. took them into his possession, and offered them for sale, knowing them to be of British manufacture; that there farther appeared to be several erasures in the invoice of the said goods, intended to conceal the place from whence they were originally imported, particularly the words Liverpool and Antigua, which are yet legible, the latter having been altered and St. Eustatia inserted, the words Scotch and Irish erased, and the word Dutch inserted; that the said John Goodrich alledged, to justify this importation, that his brother Bartlet, being anxious to supply his brother William Goodrich with powder for the use of this colony, and meeting with about fifteen hundred weight on board the Liverpool ship, offered to purchase it, but the captain refused to sell it, unless he would take the aforesaid British goods, which the said Bartlet thought it better to purchase than to lose so much powder for the use of this colony, that from the testimony of Connoway, master of the said vessel, it appears he received the goods aforesaid, together with the powder, on board his vessel, when at St. Eustatia, and delivered the powder to William Goodrich, and was then informed by the said Bartlet Goodrich, that he was obliged to purchase the said goods, or go without the powder which cost three shillings, and two shillings and nine pence per pound, at Antigua; that it farther appeared, that the afore-named John Goodrich was employed, in the month of July last, to purchase and import powder for the use of this colony, and for that purpose was introduced [*sic* entrusted] with bills of exchange to the amount of £.5000 sterling; that he sent his son William to the West Indies for the same, and imported into North-Carolina, some time in the month of October last, about four thousand weight, which being discovered by Lord Dunmore, he caused the said William to be seized and detained in custody till some time in December last, when it appeared, that being greately intimidated, he was prevailed on by Lord Dunmore to make a discovery of the whole transaction, and the agent who assisted him in the West Indies in this business, whereupon Lord Dunmore sent an armed vessel, with the said William Goodrich as a witness, to demand the value of the powder imported, and the money remaining in the said agent's hands; that it farther appeared, the said William Goodrich is lately returned to Norfolk, and was discharged by Lord Dunmore; but, upon his hearing that the said William intended to Williamsburg, he was again seized; and is still detained in custody; that they cannot obtain any certain information of what passed between him and the agents in the West Indies, but are informed by the said John Goodrich, and John Goodrich, Junr. that the said William had brought neither powder nor money; that the said William Goodrich, by an account lodged in the treasury office, upon oath, hath charged four shillings and sixpence West India currency for the powder purchased at St. Eustatia; that the said John Goodrich, Junr. accounted for this by saying, that Bartlet Goodrich purchased the said powder for his own use, and afterwards sold it to William Goodrich at four shillings and six pence per pound; and had come to the following resolution thereupon; which he read in his place, and afterwards delivered in at the clerk's table, where the same was again twice read, and agreed to.

Resolved, That the said Bartlet Goodrich, and John Goodrich, Junr. have manifestly violated the first article of the continental association, in the importation of the said British goods, and that the same ought to be forfeited to the use of this colony.

Ordered, That the foregoing report, and resolution, be published in the *Virginia Gazette,* and that all persons be warned to have no farther dealings with the said Bartlet and John Goodrich, Junr.

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1. *Virginia Convention,* 95–96.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY[1]

In the Council of Safety,
[Charleston] Saturday, 13th Jan., 1776.

Ordered, That Capt. [Edward] Blake use his utmost endeavours immediately to get afloat a large flat now lying aground at Col. Gadsden's wharf, laden with military stores and that Capt. Blake do procure labouring men for this purpose, and if needful apply to Col. [Owen] Roberts who will order some of the men of his regiment to give assistance – for which Capt. Blake will reward the men as he shall think reasonable.

Ordered, That Capt. Blake do also forward the said stores in the flat, or other boats, to Sullivan's Island immediately.

Resolved, That all the seamen belonging to the brigantine *Comet,* be forthwith, for present service, put on board the ship *Prosper;* and that the said brigantine be immediately removed up Ashley river, there to remain till further orders.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society,* III, 171–76.

"A RETURN OF THE STORES AT FORT JOHNSON AND THE ADJACENT BATTERY – 13TH JANY 1776 [CHARLESTON]" [1]

Lower Battery

64 – 26 Pound-Cartridges – 75 – 18. Pound Cartridges – 17 Powder Horns & Prickers – 15 Lint Stocks – 22 Spunge Staffs & Ramrs – 5 Ladles – 4 Worms – 62 – Handspikes – 1 – Searcher. 161 – 26 – Pound Shot 108—18. Pound Barr Shot—356 Round Ditto – 4 – 9 Pound Barr Shot 400 – 12 – Pound Shot – 5 – Boxes Grape Shott Hyrnes Battery –

10 – 26 – Pound Cartridges – 10—18 – Pound Ditto – 6 – 9 Pound Ditto – 51 – 9 – Pound Shot – 22 – 18. Pound barr Shott – Magazine—

Match about 10 lb – Em[p]ty Cartridges – 191 – for 24 Pounders 1 – 18 Pound – 23 – 12 Pound – 43 – 9 Pound – 43—6 Pound – Small Cartridges. 183 Dozen—3 Powder horn's – 2. Boxes of Grape Shot—4 Horn Lanthorns.—2. Glass Ditto Powder – 2 – Casks 100 lb Each 50 lb – About 70 lb in 3 Other Casks—1 – Buge Barrell With Cartridge Powder—2 – Measures – 1 Small Box of small Balls

R' Bks Roberts Lt Artill. Regt

1. *South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine,* IV, 9.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Syren,* CAPTAIN TOBIAS FURNEAUX [1]

January 1776	[Cape Fear Harbor]
Wednesday 10	A M at 5 got lower Yards & Top Gallt Masts & Yards up, at 7 Weighed and made Sail, but falling Calm Anchd again, at 8 Weighed and made Sail, Sounded 19 & 19½ ft Water on the Bar. Light breezes – P M at 7 saw a light on the Stbd Quar Various Soundings,
Thursday 11	Cape Fear No 51° Et 36 Leagues A M at 9 saw 3 sail in the N W gave Chase; Punished Michl Ramsey for Quarreling, Wm Glinn & Edwd Conroy for Drunkenness (with 12 lashes each) regular Soundgs from 10 to 5 Faths Sandy Bottom Light Breezes & thick Hazey Wear – P: M: at 1 fired 2 Shot at a Sloop in Shore & spoke a Ship from Whitehaven, at ½ past bro't to the Sloop from St Augustine bound to Cape Fear at 3 Anchor'd with the Best Bowr in 5½ Fathom Water, sandy Bottom, fired 2 Guns as Sigls which were not Answer'd.

Friday 12 Sullivan's Island NW½Wt Charles Town Light House Wt: Diste: off Shore 5 or 6 Miles

A M at 7 sent the 1st Lieut: in the Pinnace Man'd and Armed into the Harbor, who (not finding the *Tamer* there) on their return were Attacked by a Pilot boat, which got under way, stood after, & fired at the Pinnace which was returned and after about 10t Engagemt she bore away for the Harbor, the Pinnace chaced, but could not come up with her, they had on board the Pilot-Boat about 30 Men & mounted 6 Swivels and several Musquetoons. The Fort fired 2 Shot at the Pinnace, which we (imagining were Guns fired on board the *Tamer*) fired one Gun in Answer to, the Wear being very thick & hazey could not see the Harbor — Exercised Great Guns & Small Arms –

Do Wear.

at 2 P: M: the Pinnace retd having learnt from a Spanish Ship that the *Tamer* & *Cherokee* had sailed from thence with Ld Wm Campbell 7 or 8 days before: Saw 3 Sail in the Offing hove short on the Bt Bowr broke the Messenger twice, fired 2 Guns as Sigls (Imagining the Ships in sight to be the *Tamer* & others) which was Answd –

Saturday 13 A M at 7 Join'd Co His Majesty's Sloop *Raven* from Boston bound to Savannah Georgia, they had not seen the *Tamer* –

Thick hazy Wr –

P: M: at 2 purchas'd our Anchor & bro't up again with the small Bower Cut 13 Faths from the Best Bowr Cable, being very much rubbed.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/930.

JOURNAL OF THE GEORGIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

At a meeting of the Council of Safety [Savannah],
Jan. 13th, 1776.

The President sent a letter to the Council of Safety for South Carolina, informing them of the arrival of the *Tamar* off Tybee Light house and that the other vessels were in the Offing, and had fired several guns, but whether from the haziness of the weather, or their being in distress, we could not be certain.

1. Candler, comp., *Georgia Records*, I, 97–98.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Pomona*, CAPTAIN WILLIAM YOUNG [1]

January 1776 The body of Desiada NWBW dist 4 Leagues

Friday 12 at 8 A M the extremes of Mari Gallante from SWBW to NBS 3 or 4 Leagues

Modt and fair

at 1 P M Saw a sail to the No ward and gave chase at 4 do fired two Swivells & one Gun to bring too the Chace. Hove too Main Topsail to the Mast and sent an Officer on board the chase which proved to be the *Polly and Betsey* Sloop from Connecticut, Seiz'd Do as a Prize and made Sail for Antigua.

Saturday 13 At 11 A M came on board the Pilot and took charge accordingly at half past came to Anchor in the Entrance of English Harbour in 4 fatm with the best Bower in Company with the Prize took her Men on board

Moderate and Cloudy

P M employed in Warping into Freemans Bay and mooring – Found here the *Portland Hind* and *Lynx* sent three Men to the Hospital.

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1. PRO, Admiralty 51/702.

"A LETTER FROM ON BOARD THE *Anna Teresa* AT BASSETERRE, ST. KITTS" [1]

[Extract] Jan. 13

. . . The Islands begin greatly to feel the Effects of the unhappy Disturbances between England and America, and the King's Ships keep a good Lookout after the American Vessels; several of which have been taken and condemned. Captain Garneir [William Garnier] of the *Argo,* sailed from hence this Morning. He has taken five or six Sail. One of his Prizes, a Sloop, was condemned, and sold here Yesterday.

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1. *Public Advertiser,* London, March 1, 1776.

14 Jan. (Sunday)

BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID WOOSTER TO MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER [1]

Copy Montreal Jany 14th 1776

Sir Your Letter of the 31st Ulto I received per post, also a Number of Letters for General [Richard] Montgomery all which I opened, not knowing but they might contain something of a public Nature – The Private Letters I shall enclose with this; You will doubtless send them to his Friends.

I am glad to hear that we may soon expect a pay-Master, we have drained our Friends here of most of their Cash and it is next to impossible to do any Thing without it.

Some of the persons that you sent back, have really behaved very illy, one Sears, especially whom I have now in Confinement, immediately upon coming into the Country circulated a Report that the Colonies had given over the Thoughts of keeping this Province – That there were no Soldiers at Ticonderoga nor Fort George nor any expected, and so few at St John's that it would be an easy Matter to take it and indeed all the rest – A Story very illy calculated for us in our present delicate Situation – some others of the prisoners which were sent back, I hear have made themselves very busy in reporting Stories to our prejudice I shall therefore be obliged to return to you some of them and perhaps some others Ringleaders of the Tories in this Country with the prisoners who were left here in a few Days.

The four Fuzees taken by Major [James] Lockwood are put up in a Box according to Capitulation and are now at St. John's ready to be sent over the Lakes. – It was a Mistake of Col. [Edward] Fleming's or the Fuzees would have been taken from all the Officers.

They capitulated upon the same Conditions as the Garrison of St John's: and if You look into that you will see that the Officers were all allowed their Side Arms but their Fire Arms were to be put up in a Box and delivered to them when these unhappy Disputes were ended unless they chose to dispose of them before. I have great Hopes, however arduous and difficult it may be, that our little Army at Quebec will keep up the Bloackade till they can be relieved, provided a Reinforcement is sent on in a short Time – I have sent them an hundred and twenty Men from this Garrison which was all that could with prudence be spared. Col. [James] Clinton has gone down with Mr [James] Price I dare say they will take every possible Measure for the Safety of the Army and preserving the Blockade – I inclose you Copies of two Letters from Col: [Benedict] Arnold with the Translation of one sent by Lonodier Out of Quebec recd since my last.

Just after Mr [Edward] Antill left this Place, I dispatched an Express to Onion River in Order to get a Reinforcement from the Green Mountain Boys. I wrote to Col: [Seth] Warner in the most pressing Manner to bring a Regiment into this Province and remain here under Continental pay, till they can be relieved, a Measure which the present Exigency I think will justify – Whether they will come or not you know is uncertain.

Quebec is strongly fortified and so well stored with provisions that many think they will be able to hold out till they can be relieved in the Spring. It is a great Chance if they do not make out to get in some provisions should the River there take [*sic* break] before our army can be augmented.

How then are we to take the place, We have at St John's two 24 Pounders Brass, I understand they have a Number of 32 pounders at New York – Will it not be well to send for them (if the heavy Cannon are taken from Ticonderoga & Fort George and with such Mortars as you have with proper Ball Shells &c &c Send them forward as quick as possible I am of the Opinion that heavy Cannon will be necessary in taking of that place – I wrote you in my last that we had but a Trifle of powder – We have at Quebec a Hoitzer which throws an 8 Inch Shell – I am informed that one Pelliseir at three Rivers can cast Shells Shot &c of any Size but whether he will be able to do it soon enough I cant yet find out.

All Kinds of Liquors and West India Goods are so extravagantly dear here, that I am confident they may be brought over the Lakes to great Advantage.

In Order therefore in some Measure to remedy the great difficulty in procuring hard Cash, suppose Rum & Sugar should be encouraged to come over with every Kind of Article wanted in the Army, for which we are obliged to pay hard Money here at the most extravagant Rates – The sutlers would be able to sell them to us full as low and many Things much lower and take in pay Continental Money. The people in the Country seeing the Money pass freely among us perhaps will be induced to give it a Currency.

By the inclosed Letters especially the one which was wrote in French to General Montgomery while he was at Quebec and before the unhappy Defeat, since when, our Enemies are more bold in thir Measures against us, You will see the great Necessity of sending many of their Leaders out of the province and of forwarding a Reinforcement immediately not only for continuing the Blockade of Quebec but, for preserving the Country I am Sir [&c.]

Dav^{d} Wooster

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, I, 464–67, NA.

Brigadier General Benedict Arnold to George Washington [1]

Dear Sir

Camp Before Quebec 14th Jany 1776

I make no Doubt you will, soon hear, of Our Misfortune, on the 31. Ulto, and be very Anxious to know Our Present Situation. – Our loss, and repulse struck an Ama[z]eing Panick, into both Officers & Men, and had the Enemy improved their Advantage, Our affairs, here must have ben Intirely ruined It was not in my power to Prevail on the Officers to Attempt saveing Our Mortars, which had ben placed in St Roque's, – of Course they fell into the hands of the Enemy. – Upwards of One hundred Officers, and Soldiers, Instantly set of[f] for Montreal and it was, with the greatest difuculty I could persaude the rest to make a stand.– The Panick soon subsided, – I aranged the Men in such Order, as effectually to Blockade the City, and enable them to Assist each other if Attacked. – It was urged by the Officers, to move Our Ammunition, and Artillery Stores Of which we had a large quantity and tho' the risque was great, I could not Approve the measure, as it would undoubtedly, have made Unfavourable impressions on the Minds of the Canadians, and Induced them to withdraw their Assistance, which must have ended in Utter Ruin, I therefore put the best face on Matters and betrayed no marks of Fear. – I have withdrawn the Cannon from Our Battery and placed them round the Magazine, Our Present force is only Seven hundred I am in Daily expectation of a reinforcement from Montreal of two or three hundred Men, I expected Genl [David] Wooster, but find he Cannot leave Montreal, Colo [James] Clinton is Just Arived, I have put on foot the raiseing A Regt of 2. or 3 hundred Canadians, which I make no Doubt of effecting, Our finances are very low, however I hope we shall be able to rub along, Mr [James] Price is our Only resource, and has exerted himself, I wait with great Anxiety the Arival of a reinforcment from below, I have Wrote the Honble Congress, my Opinion that five thousand Men will be Necessary to Insure us Quebec, tho it may posably be reduced with a less Number, it Appears a Blockade may Answer the Purpose, I think Quebec an Object of too Much Consequence, to trust it to the event, if reduced Five thousand Men will be Necessary for a Garrison

Your favr of the 5. Ulto is Just Come to hand It gives me a most sensable pleasure, to have your Approbation of my Conduct, I beg you'd accept my Thanks for the Notice you have ben pleased to take of me, and my Officers, in your New Establishment Most of them are provided for in an unexpected manner, Not very pleasing to me. – Inclosed is a List of the killed and wounded, Both officers, & Men behaved with the greatest, Intrepidity, and had not the Genl [2] ben basely deserted by his Troops we should doubtless have Carried the Town, my Detacht had Carried the First Battery, (my being wounded) & the loss of their Guides retarded them much, after the Death of the Genl, they Sustained the Force of the whole Garrison for a Considerable Time, who fired From under Cover and had every Advantage of Situation, their Retreat was Cut of[f] by the Enemy's gaining a Narrow Defile thro' which they were obliged to pass, they were overpowered by Numbers, and obliged to resign, tho deserveing a Better Fate. – Govr [Guy] Carleton treats them with Humanity, & has given leave for their Baggage to be sent to them. – I heartily Congratulate you on the Success of your Privateers I think the ballance of the last years Accot is still in Our favour, tho' we have met a severe Check here, I hope soon to have the pleasure seeing Genl [Charles] Lee or some experienced officer here, I heartily Wish you the Protection & blesing of the Almighty & am with very great Respect & Esteem, Dr Sir [&c.]

B. Arnold. –

[Enclosure]

List of Killed Wounded & Prisoners In the Attack On Quebec
Decr 31 1776 [*sic* 1775]

The Brave and Amiable Genl Montgomery		killed
Capt	McPharson [John Macpherson] his AidedeCamp	do
	[Jacob] Cheesman, first Battlion Yorkers	do
	[William] Hendricks Pensilvania Rifle	do
Lieut	[John] Humphreys Virginia do	do
	[Samuel] Cooper Connecticutt	do
Colo	Arnold	Wounded in the leg
Major	[Matthias] Ogden	in the Shoulder
Capt	[John] Lamb, of the Train	in the head
	[Jonas] Hubbard	Slightly
	[John] Topham	do
Adjutant	[Archibald] Steel	do
Qr Master	Taylor	do

Non Commission Officers & Privates killed & Wounded About Sixty Names Unknown The whole Detachment Prisoners except Capt [Matthew] Smith, [Aaron] Burr, & [David] Hopkins, 7 Subalterns & abt Two Hundred Privates Sick & on Command –

1. Washington Papers, LC.
2. Brigadier General Richard Montgomery.

George Washington to John Hancock [1]

[Extract] Cambridge January 14. 1776

In my Letter of the 4 Inst I wrote you, that I had received certain Intelligence from a Mr Hutchinson & others, that 2 of the 5 Regiments from Cork were arrived at Hallifax, one at Boston, & the 2 others had sailed for Quebec, & had not been heard of – I am now assured as a matter to be relyed on, by four Captains of Ships, who left England about the 2d of November, & who appear to be men of veracity, That the whole of these Regiments (except the three Companies that arrived at Boston some time agoe) when they sailed, were at Milford

Haven, where they had been obliged to put in by a violent Storm the 19 of October – that they would not be able to leave It for a considerable time, as they were under the necessity of repairing their Vessels & getting some New ones taken up. Such is the Incertainty & contradiction in what I now hear, that It is not possible to know, what to believe or disbelieve.

I do myself the honour to send you Sundry News papers I received from the above mentioned Captains, as they may be later than any you have seen, & contain some Interesting Intelligence. I have the Honour to be [&c.]

G° Washington

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[1] Papers CC (Letters from George Washington), 152, I, 415–17, NA.

George Washington to Joseph Reed [1]

[Extract]

Cambridge January 14, 1776.

I am exceeding sorry to hear, that your little fleet has been shut in by the frost. I hope it has sailed ere this, and given you some proof of the utility of it, and enabled the Congress to bestow a little more attention to the affairs of this army, which suffers exceedingly by their overmuch business, or too little attention to it.

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[1] Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington,* IV, 240–41.

Memorandum of a Letter from Lieutenant Colonel Robert Hanson Harrison to Joshua Wentworth [1]

Cambridge [14th] Jany 1776

acknowledgd receipt of his & Mr King's Letter of the 10th inst. the Later Covering Invoice for [blank] bars & halfe bars flour, given to S. Moylan, by order of General Washington

desired Mr Wentworth to dispose of 550 bushells of potatoes taken in the schooner *Rainbow* [2] at any price rather than have them perish – to Libel Sd Schooner agreeable to Resolves of Congress Sent him herewith

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[1] Washington Papers, LC.

[2] A schooner of 45 tons, John McMonagle, master, taken November 25, 1775 by Captain Winborn Adams in Washington's schooner *Warren.* See Volume 2.

Lieutenant Colonel Robert Hanson Harrison to Joshua Wentworth [1]

Sir

Cambridge January 14. 1776

I am commanded by his Excellency to acknowledge the receipt of your favour of the 10th Inst, with Sundry Newspapers, packages &c by your Young man, & to return you his thanks for the same, & your great attention to the directions he has given you – he is much Obliged for your Information respectg the Store ships, & wishes with you, that they or some of them may be brought safe into port by our Armed Cruizers, as they will be of immense value to us. I am Sir &c.

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[1] Washington Papers, LC.

JAMES WARREN TO SAMUEL ADAMS [1]

[Extract] Watertown, January 14, 1776

. . . our Naval Operations have been for a while suspended, the Privateers mostly hauled up. I can therefore give you no Account of any late Captures. I hear they are again fixing and hope they will soon have their usual Success . . . . A ship is arrived at Falmouth which left England the beginning of November. by her we have the Addreseses of both Houses in the usual state, some Additions to the Minority. Parliament and Administration going on the same way as usual, etc., which are things of no great Consequence. The passengers relate some Interesting Facts: that the People begin to feel and stirr themselves; that 1800 Troops sailed for Boston were drove back by hard gales of wind in a shattered Condition; that 13,000 Sheep and Hoggs were shipd and sailed for Boston drove back and lost, which are to be ranked in that Train of Events Providence has ordered for the Salvation of this Country. . . . what is become of your Fleet. what is the destination of the French Armament in the West Indies, and whether you cant Improve so favourable a Circumstance to our Advantage, etc., . . .

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1. *Warren-Adams Letters,* II, 430–33. This letter was continued January 17, 1776.

CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE, R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM [1]

Sir, *Rose* at Rhode Island 14th Janry 1776. –

The Rebels having for some time past kept from one to two Hundred Men upon the Islands, to prevent our Supplies – and by a Law, making it Death for any one to Supply us, have put us to a great inconvenience, being much in want of Hay, – One Friday Morning the 12th Instant I stood up the Bay, with His Majesty's Ships *Glasgow*, *Swan*, and Tenders, in order to procure some. – At about 12 at Noon, being a breast of Prudence, we saw a Body of Armed Men, with a Field Piece, who followed us as we Sailed along. – At the South end of the Island, I saw a Quantity of Hay, and determined to Land and Seize it, – this they perceived, and set fire to the Stacks, and retired to their Stone Fences to oppose us, (every Field has stone Inclosures) – We landed beat them from fence to fence, for four Miles into their Country, firing and wasting the Country as we advanced along; We burnt Twelve or Fifteen Farm Houses, took a great deal of Stock, when, Night coming on, we gave over the pursuit, and retired back to our Ships, bringing with us the Stock. When we got back to our Boats, the People were fatigued and Cold, and fearing they might be Frost Bit, Ordered them to Embark and leave the Cattle behind 'till next Morning. – Next Morning we landed again to bring the Cattle off, but, during the Night, reinforcements of five or six hundred Men had been sent on, and drove the Cattle to the other extremity of the Island, and large Bodies of armed Rebels stood behind stone Fences to oppose us. – In this situation we contented ourselves with taking off some Haystacks in their sight, and Embarked our Men again. In the attack the first day, we killed two of their Men, and took two Prisoners, both of them Wounded, – with only three of our Men Slightly Wounded. The next day, some of the *Swan*'s and *Glasgow*'s Men, straying too far from the Main Body, fell into an Ambush, and one Man of the

Swan's was killed, two Mortally wounded, and one Slightly – One Man of the *Glasgow*'s was Shot through the Thigh, and fell into the hands of the Rebels, and one slightly wounded. Our loss would have been less, had our People have had less Spirit. The Country is kept in Alarm all round. I am, Sir &ca

Signed, Jas. Wallace

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1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484. Enclosed in Shuldham to Stephens, January 28, 1776. Wallace wrote the same letter to Vice Admiral Graves, *ibid*., 458.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO JOHN HANCOCK [1]

Sir

Albany January 14. 1776

Thro the great Hurry in which the Express was sent off from hence, the Enclosed was forgot. I am Sir [&c.]

Ph: Schuyler

[Enclosure]

Sir I have Sent Colo [Seth] Warner to throw In to Canada what Ever Number of Men he can procure upon what are Commonly Called the New Hampshire Grants; And In order to Incourage them to March without Delay I have Offered fourty Shillings lawful as a Bounty to the Men, and a Months pay to the Officers and an Allowence of one Sixth of a Dollar per Day from their leaving home untill they Can receive Continental provisions –

I hope the Congress will give their approbation of this Measure I am as above Yours &c.

P Schuyler

The Hono: John Hancock Esqr

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1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, I, 402, NA.

JOHN PRINGLE TO CAPTAIN NICHOLAS BIDDLE [1]

Sir

Philada 14 Jany 1776

Agreeable to promise I appl'd to get The Swords at Kingsinton, but they Gentn wou'd Not part with one, howr I got ten as at foot Which I hope will be of Service & I dont think there Is many more for Sale unless new, there is no [illegible] Lead here, only wht is in the Comittees Stores You may get it by Sending a note to [Robert] Towers the Comissary, My Boy I send down to proceed [wi]th you, please to keep Liquor from him [I am] told he is Smart, but likes tht perniss Article, I wish you Success, health & a s[a]fe return Sir [&c.]

John Pringle

Three Swords Cost	1– 0 – 0
Two do do.	15
Five do do.	2– 2 – 6
Dr Capt Biddle	£3–17 – 6

For the Use of the Brigantine

To Capt. Biddle at the Fort

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1. Nicholas Biddle Papers, HSP.

Journal of the Maryland Convention [1]

[Annapolis] Sunday 14th January 1776.

[Resolved, That one battalion of regular troops, to be composed of] one Colonel, one Lieute[nant-colonel, two] majors – one Adjutant, one Quarter-Master, and nine Companies, one of which, of Light Infantry, and also seven Independent Companies of regular Troops, two Companys of Artillery, and one Company of Marines, be immediately raised, and paid, and supported, at the Expence of this Province, for the Defence of the liberties thereof . . .

That the Pay of the said . . . Marines, by the Kalender Month be, as follows.

[torn]	[Dollars]
Every Drummer and Fifer	6
Surgeon	40
Surgeon's Mates each	20
Chaplain	20
Every Private	5⅓

That the Pay of the said Artillery Companies, by the Kalender-Month, be as follows.

	Dollars
Each Captain	26⅔
Every Lieutenant	18⅓
Every Sergeant	6⅔
Every Corporal	6

That the Pay of the Officers, Seamen and others (except the Marines) in the Pay of this Province, in the Marine-Service by the Kalendar Month, be regulated by the Council of Safety –

That the Allowance to the Officers and Men employed in the Marine Service, be such as may be hereafter settled by [the Council of Safety.]

[That Charles Wallace, Esquire, be paymaster of all the land forces and marines when in land service, raised or to be raised in this province in the pay thereof, and shall be entitled to the pay of forty dollars per kalendar month. . . .

That all non-commissioned seamen and landsmen, retained in the pay of this province, for the naval service, shall be entered by their voluntarily subscribing the following engagement, to wit. "We whose names are subscribed, do voluntarily enter ourselves as seamen, or landsmen, as the case may be, in the naval service of the province of Maryland, for the full term of six months next following, unless sooner discharged by order of the convention or Council of Safety of Maryland, or by the captain or other chief officer of the ship or vessel in which we may be employed; hereby subjecting ourselves to such rules and regulations as are or shall be made by the Convention of this province, for regulating and governing the forces in the pay thereof. Witness our hands the dates affixed to our names respectively."

That one month's pay be advanced to each person who shall be so inlisted or entered as aforesaid, and that over and above the pay of the non-commissioned officers and privates of the battalion, independent companies, and companies of artillery and marines, each of them be yearly found and allowed, at the expence of this province, a new hat, short coat, waistcoat, pair of breeches, and hunting-shirt; out of their pay there may be reasonable stoppages for necessary shirts, shoes, and stockings.

That the uniform of the land forces and marines be hunting-shirts; the hunting-shirts of the marines to be blue, and those of the land forces to be other colours.]

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1. Proceedings December Convention Dec. 7, 1775 – Jan. 18, 1776, Md. Arch. Text in brackets is either torn or missing in manuscript, and has therefore been taken from *Proceedings of the Convention of the Province of Maryland, Held at the City of Annapolis, on Thursday the seventh of December 1775* (Annapolis [1776]).

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

In the Council of Safety,
[Charleston] Sunday, Jan. 14th, 1776.

Mr. President laid before the board, the following letters written by their direction:

Charles-Town, January 14th [*sic* 13th] 1776,
½ past 4 o'clock, P.M.

> Sir – The day before yesterday a ten-oared barge came into Rebellion-Road from sea, a lieutenant and fourteen armed men in her. The officer went on board the Spanish snow and asked many questions relative to the strength of the town. Afterwards went a boat from Fort Johnson, and conversed with the people on board, who passed upon him for fishermen – to these he expressed some regret for the absence of the *Tamar* and *Cherokee*; said the force without was three men-of-war, the largest of 50 guns – and lastly, the barge and our pilot-boat exchanged a few shot.
>
> Yesterday the three sail came to an anchor close to the bar, and employed their boats in sounding. There had been a sloop with them, which we apprehend is detached to Georgia, to call in those vessels which lately left Rebellion-Road. We are well informed, by glasses, that the vessels at anchor are, a frigate of 36 guns, and two smaller ships-of-war – if the present weather continues, they will not come within today.
>
> You will have heard the alarm, which is to be fired at eight o'clock this morning, long before this reaches you, and will no doubt array your regiment and hold detachments in readiness to obey a call which we shall not give without further necessity – but if a few hardy volunteers were immediately to advance and offer their service, it will not be unacceptable.
>
> We have received good intelligence, that the mortar and some of the cannon which were at Frederica have been taken away by certain forces in that neighbourhood – the intended voyage to that place may therefore be suspended.
>
> By order of the Council of Safety.
>
> Henry Laurens, President.

Colonel [Stephen] Bull.

Ordered, That two hundred weight more of cannon powder be delivered to the order of the Hon. Capt. [William Henry] Drayton, for the use of the ship *Prosper.*

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1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society,* III, 177–83.

ARTHUR CLARKE, MASTER, BRIG *Diligence,* TO GOVERNOR PATRICK TONYN [1]

[Copy] St Augustine Janry 14th 1776

May it please your Excellency

Whereas it has been your Excellency's pleasure, by your orders of the 8th & 24th Ult., to detain the Brig *Diligence* (employ'd as a Packet in his Majesty's Service & under my Command) from the 8th of Decr 1775 'till the 14th January 1776. I must beg leave again to represent to your Excellency, that these Packets are hir'd by Government for the particular purpose of carrying the Mails between Jamaica, Pensacola, & Charles Town, and we the Contractors engage to furnish a Vessel & Men for a stipulated Sum to be paid on each arrival at Jamaica; and it was thought necessary, in such an agreement, that our stay at each Port shou'd be limited; by which it will clearly appear that we cannot be detained on any other Service, or above a certain time in our own, without a demurrage being allow'd; and this I think, will be so obvious to your Excellency that I need tresspass no further upon your time on the Subject: But as no provision has been made by the Post-Office for such demurrage; who, but your Excellency, can I apply to for the reimbursement of the real loss I have sustain'd by the detention? therefore flatter myself I cannot incur your displeasure by presenting the inclos'd Bill, and requesting your Excellency wou'd be pleas'd to order, or give me assurance of the payment of it. I am with respect Your Excellency's [&c.]

Arthur Clarke

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1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/556, 205–06.

GOVERNOR PATRICK TONYN TO LORD DARTMOUTH [1]

No. 37. St.Augustine 14. Janry 76

My Lord; A boat dispatched by Lord William Campbell with advice of two armed Pilotboats cruising off Charlestown Bar to intercept the Packets, his Lordship has also made a demand of Ordnance Stores and Provisions, and desired the dispatch Boat might be supplied with Provisions untill her return to Carolina with the *Saint Lawrence* Schooner, Captain [John] Graves at the same time received an Order to join the *Tamer* with the *Saint Lawrence,* Lord William writing to me to the same effect.

Our Situation my Lord, was at this time particular.

An alarm on the Coast of Rebel Vessels cruising upon it.

Captain Graves represented, he could not proceed to Charlestown, untill he had repaired and put on the false Keel of the *Saint Lawrence* which he had lost by running on Ground in his passage from Augustine to Saint John River.

Before we had heard of Cruisers on this Coast, it was determined for the *Saint Lawrence,* to sail directly to Augustine to repair; but it was apprehended, if the Schooner went out of Saint John River, a rebel Cruiser might come in, and defeat our meeting with the Creek Indians. Therefore I wrote to Captain Graves, a copy of which, I have the honour to enclose to your Lordship,[2] as also a copy of the demand signed by Captain [Edward] Thornbrough for ammunition and Provisions.

The Army Contractor had wrote to me, that it would be a month before the bread could be ready, as it was all to bake, no Ships biscuit being in Augustine.

Things being thus circumstanced, it was thought best, to detain the *Saint Lawrence* on the Indian Service, afterwards to get her dispatched with all Speed, as no time was losing while the bread was preparing.

In the interim my Lord, the *Diligence* Packetboat from Pensacola arrived with a division of the three Companies of the 16th Regiment. She was bound with the mail for Charlestown.

Thus informed my Lord, was it possible I could permit the *Diligence* to proceed without the *Saint Lawrence.*

I wrote to Captain Clerk [Arthur Clarke] not to go to Sea untill the *Saint Lawrence* went, that Captain Graves would take the *diligence* in convoy.

Captain Clerk represented the Packet was navigated by contract, he could not comply unless paid demurrage, every days detention was exactly so much loss to him. I told him, if it was right that he should be paid demurrage, as it seemed unreasonable to put him to an extraordinary private expence, I should certainly let your Lordship know the case, and would engage, justice should be done. For it was far better that demurrage should be paid, than His Majesty's Packet be taken by rebel Cruisers. Captain Clerk wrote the letter I have the honour to enclose to your Lordship,[3] and his charge of demurrage. With great submission to your Lordship, I apprehend you will not my Lord disaprove of these measures. I flatter myself the bad circumstances of the times, will Justify the measures and reconcile to your Lordship, to direct, that the Post Office may take this matter into consideration, and grant Captain Clerk such relief, as he has a just claim to.

The quantity of Provisions agreeable to Captain Thornbrough's demand could not be sent, but what we had not enough in one article was made up by another, so that, upon the whole supply, they have the full quantity to answer the intention.

There being no Agent for His Majesty's navy in this Province, I was obliged to take up this business that His Majesty's service might not suffer: I directed the Contractor for the Army to provide the provisions.

I have the honour to enclose to your Lordship the account of provisions for His Majestys Ships *Tamer* and *Cherokee* sent by Captain Graves and beg your Lordship will give such directions as may be thought proper, that the Commissioners for victualling His Majesty's Navy, may Honour the bills I have drawn on the Navy Board for the amount Viz £230 . . 4 . . 1.

I had the honour in a former letter to inform your Lordship that in Georgia they are meditating to invade this Province, I can now repeat the intelligence, that the intention of hostilities against this Province grows daily more certain, and that it is now in some degree past a doubt, the Regiment I mentioned they are to raise, is to consist of six hundred Men, Blank Commissions are sent from the rebel continental Congress, which are filled up by the rebel Georgia Congress.

I have also enclosed for your Lordships satisfaction an account of the Ordnance Stores issued for His Majesty's Ships *Tamer* and *Cherokee*.

The last letter I had the honour to receive from your Lordship, is dated 5. July 75 No 9.

People begin to flow into this Province for Protection, several have been here, and are returned, both to Carolina and Georgia in order to bring away their property, if they can possibly do it at any risk, the accounts they give of oppression confusion and distraction is my Lord past all credit.

I have the honour to be with the greatest respect, my Lord [&c.]

Pat. Tonyn

Right Honourable The Earl of Dartmouth

[Endorsed] St Augustine 14th Jany 1776 Govr Tonyn (No 37) R/3d June. (7 Inclosures) Entd

[Enclosure]

Ordnance Stores and Provisions wanting to supply His Majestys Ships *Tamar* and *Cherokee* at Charlestown South Carolina

Ordnance Stores –

Powder, one Thousand two Hundred and Fifty Pounds –
Six pound Cartridges or paper three Hundred –
Match, two Hundred pounds –
Paper for Musquet Cartridges two Quires –

Provisions –

Bread	Four Thousand Pounds	
Beef	Four hundred	Pieces
Pork	Four hundred	
Butter	Six hundred pounds	
Pease, Rice or Oatmeal	Twenty five Bushels	
Rum	Three hundred Gallons	

(Sign'd) Edw^{d} Thornbrough

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1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/556, 181–96, 201.
2. Patrick Tonyn to John Graves, December 8, 1775.
3. Arthur Clarke to Patrick Tonyn in preceding entry.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG'S INTELLIGENCE OF NAVAL PREPARATIONS IN PHILADELPHIA [1]

[Antigua, January 14, 1776] [2]

Intelligence given at different times in conversation by the Masters, and people belonging to Sundry American Vessels, which have been seized and detained by the Kings Ships under my Command. –

Ships and Vessels of Force at Philadelphia, ready for Sea. – Vizt

One Ship of 36 Guns, (24 Nine and 12 four pounders) called the *Alfred*, to wear a Flag at the Main. – Her Complement 250 Seamen, and a Company of Rifflers, consisting of 100 Men. – 85 of which are private[s,] the remaining Officers.

One Ship of 28 Guns (20 Nine and 8 Six Pounders) – these two Ships have Spar Decks.

Two Brigs, one of 16, and the other of 14 Guns. (Six Pounders)

Two Sloops, one of 14, and the other of 12 Guns. (Six Pounders.) These two Sloops belong to Rhode Island.

Twelve Row Gallies, their Complements from 65 to 75 men each. – One of them carries a 42 Pounder, and the others one 18 Pounder, in each. –

Twelve Ships on the Stocks; each of them to mount 36 Guns, and the Shipwrights are under obligation to get them ready for Launching by the middle of March. – and fitted for Sea by the 10th of April next.

In case any of the King's Ships of War should be ordered to Philadelphia, they are hereby acquainted, the Americans are getting ready a Number of Lighters, which are to be filled with Combustibles, and are to be Chained together at 8 or 10 feet distance from each other, to reach from side to side of the River, and to drop down with the Tide, and sweep the Ships of War, if the first should miscarry, they have others directly ready, to fall down after them. they are to have five Men in each Lighter, (with a Boat to attend) to set fire to the Train. The Lighters are secured by Chains one to another, each Link to Weigh One hundred Weight, and are to be Moored by heavy Anchors on each side the River, with Cables sufficient to hold them, 'til they want to put their Plan in Execution, then to cut their Cables and fall down.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.
2. An approximate date, based upon the arrival that day of H.M. Sloop *Viper* with a prize from Philadelphia.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Viper*, CAPTAIN SAMUEL GRAVES [1]

Jany 1776	Moor'd in Freeman bay Antigua
Sunday 14	at ½ past 9 AM Saluted Vice Adml [James] Young with 13 guns at 10 Anchord in Freemans bay in 3½ fm When Moored the for W N W the point of the reef West Found Rideing here his Majs ships *Portland, Hind, Pomona* & *Lynx* Sloops Unbent Sails Fresh breezes & Cloudy Empd Overhauling the Rigging & getting out the bowsprit.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/1039.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Argo*, CAPTAIN WILLIAM GARNIER [1]

Jany 1776	at Single Anchor at St Kitts
Saturday 13th	At 8 AM Arrived here from Antigua with a Sloop with dispatches from Vice Adml [James] Young for Captain Garnier. Weighed and Came to Sail. Moderate breezes and fair Weather. at 12 fired a Gun, brought too & took a Prize the *Greyhound* Brigg Walter Stephens Master from Philadelphia Sent the Gunner, a Mate and Six Men on board to take Her to Antigua.

Sunday 14th	Ditto Weather at 3 P M Fired a Gun brought too & took as Prize the Ship *Daniel* from Demerada. Sent an Officer & 12 Men onboard to take Her to Antigua.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/19.

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15 Jan.

COMMODORE MARRIOT ARBUTHNOT TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES [1]

(Copy) Halifax Janry 15th – 1776.–

Sir, In obedience to Orders, the *Somerset* and *Roebuck* sailed the 14th Instant, the former for England, the latter for a private Station, by which the Sea Force remaining at this Port for the defence of the Yard are the *Cerberus,* and *Savage* Sloop, the former dismantled alongside the Wharfe, in order to repair the Damage she has sustained by running twice on different Rocks which I shall use every possible means to Effect altho' the inclemency of the Season is such at present as makes it doubtful which if it continues will lay me under the disagreeable necessity of replaceing her Ballast and Guns in order to make the best defence our feeble state will permit if the Rebels should pay us a Visit.

I am sorry to say that the Garrison is not only very Weak, not more than 500. Many just recruited from the Newfoundland Fishery, but is very Sickly, nor have we a single Work erected, nor can be untill Spring, which I hope will not be too late, I am therefore under the necessity to say unless such Force is sent, by sending Two Deck Ships, to command the heights about the Yard, as well as the labour of the Crews to assist in Barracading the Yard, for no other have I, or shall have, either to make it defencible, or to defend it in case of an Attack; because the whole of the Troops as I understand are to be employ'd on the Heights, without, in which case I am sure I cannot let them into the Yard, if they are defeated, because I most certainly will prevent by every means the Gate from being forced.

This is a true state of this place which I think my Duty to lay before you for your Consideration. I am Sir &ca

M^{t} Arbuthnot

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484. Enclosed in Shuldham to Stephens, January 28, 1776.

VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO PHILIP STEPHENS [1]

Sir *Chatham,* Boston 15th January 1776

I have the pleasure to acquaint you of my Arrival here in His Majesty's Ship *Chatham* the 30th past after a passage of Sixty One Days; for a Circumstantial Account of the Occurrences of Which, I beg to refer you to my Journal accompanying this Letter, in which I shall only say on that Subject; that the Voyage was almost a constant Succession of Storms and contrary Winds, attended with the most severe Weather I ever felt, which has so Shatter'd the *Chatham* that she must remain unfit for any Sea Service 'till she is Caulked and repaired; This I hope we shall be able to do here before she is wanted. You will see by my Journal, Sir, that the *Orpheus* parted Company from me in a most Violent Gale of Wind on the 21st November notwithstanding the great care and attention of Captain [Charles] Hudson, who is not yet arrived; and that Captain Munroe, Commanding the Party of Marines on board the *Chatham,* Dy'd the 30th of the same Month.

Immediately on my Arrival I delivered all the Packets committed to my care, to Admiral [Samuel] Graves and General [William] Howe, and communicated to the Admiral the Copys of those Letters you had furnished me with and wrote to him lately, the Originals of many of which he has not yet received, and I presume are in the *Experiment* and *Centurion,* not yet arrived; I likewise communicated to him your Letters (with the Intelligence accompanying them) Signifying their Lordships Orders to me to send Vessels of proper Force and Size to the River Delaware, to oppose the Operations the Rebels are carrying on there, and to send a Vessel to Bermuda and another to the Bahama Islands, to protect the Ordnance Stores belonging to His Majesty at those Islands, but I am glad to inform you, that Admiral Graves has certain Intelligence that the Inhabitants of [New] Providence are faithfully affected to His Majesty, and are determined, and able to defend those Stores without any Additional Force; and as soon as any proper Vessel arrives after Admiral Graves's Departure, I shall send her to Bermuda.

I was much concerned to hear on my Arrival of the Number of small Arm'd Vessels fitted out by the Rebels, and which had taken many unarmed Ones of Ours bringing Stores and Supplies to this place notwithstanding it appears to me, that our Cruizers are stationed and distributed in all the most likely places to intercept them; and that there has been no failure on the part of Our Officers; but the Success of the Rebels may reasonably be accounted for, if Their Lordships will please to consider the Advantage they have over us by being too early Suffer'd to take possession of all the Harbours, Creeks and Rivers on this Coast, many of which they have Fortify'd, and where these small Vessels Lye ready, 'till by Signals from Eminences on the shore of a Vessel in the Offin, they push out and Seize her before it is possible for our Cruizers to Relieve, or perhaps from Sholeness of the Water venture to follow her; for this reason, Sir, I beg leave to recommend it to their Lordships, that no Stores or Supplys may be sent in future except in Arm'd Vessels, which will Answer a double purpose by leaving part of their Men on their return home for the use of the Fleet, which I find is in great want, as well as the number of Ships far from Sufficient for the Various Services I am Order'd, and shall find Necessary to execute, which Their Lordships I doubt not will be convinced of by observing, that this place will in a few days be left unprotected by any other Naval Force than the *Chatham* and *Lively* Frigate under repair. Convoys are not to be depended on, for by the Fogs which prevail upon this Coast in the Summer and the Violent Northwest Winds in the Winter Seasons, it is almost impossible to prevent Seperation.

Of the Thirty five Vessels Freighted by Mure and Company with Provisions and Supplys for the use of the Fleet and Army only Eight are Arrived, and on board those not above a Twentieth part of the Sheep were brought in Alive.

I must beg leave to refer you for an Account of the Operations and State of the Squadron, to that which I presume you will receive from Admiral Graves by this Conveyance, He is preparing for, and intends proceeding to England in a few Days on board the *Preston,* I am, Sir [&c.]

M: Shuldham

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM [1]

You are hereby required and directed to take his Majesty's Ships and Vessels whose names are in the Margin under your Command, and to give their Commanders such Orders and Directions in addition to those they have already received (of which Copies and a Schedule thereof are inclosed), as you shall judge best for his Majesty's Service.

Given under my hand on board his Majesty's Ship *Preston* at Boston 15 Janry 1776.

Sam^{l} Graves

To Molyneux Shuldham Esqr Rear Admiral of the White Squadron of his Majesty's Fleet. [2]

(The Ships and Commanders Names in the Margin were the following, Vizt)

Names	Commanders	Where stationed
Rose	Capt. Wallace	Rhode Island
Glasgow	Howe	– –
Swan	Ayscough	– –
Bolton Brig	Lieutt. Graves	– –
Phoenix	Capt. Parker	New York
Asia	Vandeput	– –
Viper	Graves	On her passage thither.
Liverpool	Bellew	Supposed to be at Virginia.
Otter	Squire	At Virginia.
Kingsfisher	Capt. Montagu	At Virginia.
Cruizer	Parry	North Carolina.
Scorpion	Tollemache	Supposed to be at No Carolina
Tamer	Thornborough	South Carolina
Raven	Stanhope	On her passage to Savannah in Georgia.
St Lawrence Schooner	Lieutt. Graves	St Augustine.
St John, Schooner	Grant	Bahama Islands.
Roebuck	Capt. Hamond	Ordered to Virginia
Scarborough	Barkley	Gone to Georgia.
Hinchinbrook Schr	Lieutt. Ellis	– – –
Mercury	Capt. Graeme	Boston but going to New York
Falcon	Linzee	Cape Fear

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1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 118, BM.
2. Shuldham's promotion to Vice Admiral of the Blue, December 7, 1775, was not known in Boston. Knowledge of his new rank reached Shuldham May 16, 1776 at Halifax.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES [1]

[Boston] 1776 Jany 15

It was now agreed between the Generals and the Admiral that the *Kitty* Transport should go to New York with General [Henry] Clinton under Convoy of the *Mercury* and that the *Falcon* should proceed to Cape Fear alone. And the Admiral having acquainted Rear Admiral Shuldham that he should on the Morrow direct him to take all the Kings Ships to the Southward of Boston under his Command, sent Captains Graeme and [John] Linzee Orders to wait upon him for his Dispatches thither, and directed Captain Linzee to proceed without the *Kitty* Transport and to return her sealed Rendezvous, she being put under the Convoy of Captain Graeme.

[1] Graves's Conduct, II, 28–29, BM.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN JOHN LINZEE, H.M. SLOOP *Falcon* [1]

You are hereby required and directed to wait upon Rear Admiral Shuldham for his Dispatches to carry to the Southward, and having received them you are to sail in his Majesty's Sloop under your Command as soon after as possible agreeable to my Order of the 13 instant, but you are to proceed without the *Kitty* Transport, and to return me h[er] sealed Rendezvous.

Given under my hand on board his Majesty's
Ship *Preston* at Boston 15 Janry 1776

Sam Graves

[1] Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 117, BM.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN ALEXANDER GRAEME, H.M.S. *Mercury* [1]

You are hereby required and directed to take the *Kitty* Transport, James Thompson Master under your Convoy to New York, and to wait upon Rear Admiral Shuldham for his Dispatches for the Captains of his Majestys Ships to the Southward and having received them, and the Transports being ready to sail with you, to proceed according to my Orders of the 12th instant without a Moments Loss of time.

Given under my hand on board his Majs
Ship *Preston* at Boston 15 January 1776

Sam^{l} Graves

[1] Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 117, BM.

WILLIAM WATSON TO GEORGE WASHINGTON [1]

Sir Plymouth 15 January 1776 –

Your Excellencys favour, of the 3d instant came to hand, annexed to which are the resolves of the Grand Continental Congress, respecting captures made by continental armed vessels & others – In complyance with which, and in obedience to your Excellencys Command, I have Libeled all the Vessels which have been bro't into this port, by the *Harrison* armed Scoonr & which are now in my care, Viz. one Sloop, one Scooner, & one fishing boat, of about 15 tons,[2] & shall use my best endeavours, that these vessels be brought to tryal, as soon as may be. –

The Scooner *Harrison* lately Comman[d]ed by Capt [William] Coit, I find, by strict enquiry, (tho she be not very well accomodated for the officers) is an excellent Sailer; & is sufficiently strong – The Continent has been at considerable expence, in fitting this Vessel for the service, & sho'd she be put out, & another taken into the service, £100 will necessarily be sunk to the Continent, by the Transfer. – For these reasons I have thought it prudent to continue the *Harrison* in the service, and have, agreeable to your Excellencys permission, nominated Capt Charles Dyar to the com[ma]nd. – This Dyar was with Capt Coit his last cruize & can give the character of the Scooner more perfectly.

Capt Dyar the bearer of this, wont at first interview appear to your Excellency, to advantage, he is no orator & seems rather softly, but his character [stands] high as a good officer, & as an active smart sailor. – Capt Coit has recommended him in high t[erms, &] will give your Excellency his true Character. –

We shall have no difficuly in geting as fine a crew as any on the continent, provided they can be enlisted for six months only, or for so long a time as Capt Dyar shall continue to command – Our people are very fond of knowing their officers, & the best of them are unwilling to engage for a longer time, than their officers engage for. – Captain Dyar will wait on your Excy & will receive every necessary direction – I am [&c.]

William Watson

N B your Excellency will please to direct me, whether I am to Libel the two vessels taken by Major [Benjamin] Tupper & carried into Dartmouth.[3]

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1. Washington Papers, LC.
2. The sloop *Polly* and the schooner *Industry*, taken November 5, 1775, and a nondescript fishing schooner with Tory pilots on board taken November 29, 1775.
3. Tupper had been dispatched on October 20, 1775, to seize two vessels lying at Martha's Vinyard loaded with provisions intended for Boston, and had brought the vessels into Dartmouth a few days later.

WILLIAM WATSON TO JOSEPH TRUMBULL [1]

Dear Sir Plymouth 15th Jany 1776 –

I receivd your favour of 1st instant desereing me to take into cust[o]dy, & give rect for a quantity of wine purchased by your[self] of Mr John Salter of Philadelphia – [2]

I have agreeable to your derections, taken delivery of 5 pipes wine, & have given him my rect for the same, have it safely stored & will deliver it to your order when you shall please to send for it – I have numberd the casks from 1 to 5 & have taken the wants which you have below – I am sir [&c.]

William Watson

5 pipes Wine

No 1. wants	9 gals
2	10
3	6
4	9
5	2½
	36½

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1. Joseph Trumbull Papers, ConnHS.
2. The wine from the cargo of a vessel cast ashore at Eastham on Cape Cod about November 1, 1775. See Moylan to Watson, November 18, 1775, Volume 2, 1065.

MEMORIAL FROM THE RHODE ISLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS [1]

To the Honorable the Delegates of the United Colonies now convened in General Congress in Philadelphia.

We the General Assembly of the English Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, beg Leave to represent to you the State & Condition of said Colony, & to request such Assistance as our Situation and the Welfare of the United Colonies shall appear to require.

Soon after the Conclusion of the late glorious War in the Success of which the Colonies had so considerable a Share, we were alarmed with divers Acts of the British Parliament, strongly indicating a Design to divest the Colonies of those Rights which are essential to the Freedom of a People, and which they had enjoyed with but few Innovations from their first Settlement. The Stamp Act passed in 1765 for levying Stamp Duties in America, and many subsequent Acts manifested that Design so clearly as to leave no Room for a Doubt. This Colony ever tenacious of its Liberties zealously took a Part in all the Common Measures entered into for the Common Safety; when at Length the Ministerial Troops by the Attack at Lexington & Concord had [re]ducd us to the Necessity of immediately taking up Arms, or submitting to a Slavery, which at the Distance we are placed from the Seat of the Power to be exercised over us, must be the most absolute & terrible that we can form an Idea of – this Colony notwithstanding its exposed Situation did not hesitate, it did not wait for the Example of more powerful Colonies, but conforming itself to the Spirit of the Resolutions of the Honble the Continental Congress for 1774 ordered a Body of Men to be raised & marched to the Encampment near Boston.

Unfortunately for the Inhabitants, this Colony is scarc[e]ly any Thing but a Line of Sea Coast. From Providence to Point Judith, & from thence to Pa[wca]tuck River is near 80 Miles. On the East Side of the Bay from Providence to Seconet Point, and including the East Side of Seconet until it meets the Massachussetts Line is about 50 Miles. Besides which are the navigable Rivers of Pawcatuck & Warren. On the West Side of the Bay the Colony doth not extend 20 Miles, & on the East Side not more than 8 Miles from the Sea Coast above described. In the Colony are also included the following Islands. Rhode Island about 16 Miles in Length, Conanicut 9 Block Island 9 Prudence 7 and the smaller Islands Patience, Hope, Gold Island and several others; all which are cultivated & fertile, and contributed largely to the public Expences. The greater Part of the above mentioned Shores are accessible to Ships of War. By an exact Estimate taken in the Year 1774 the whole Number of Inhabitants in the Colony amounted to 59,678. The Town of New Port contained 9209 was the principal Place of Trade and paid one sixth Part of the public Taxes. A very considerable Commerce was also carried on from Providence, and several small Towns in the Colony were also concerned in Trade and Navigation. Ship Building was a great Branch of Business. In short the Inhabitants of the Colony derived their Subsistance almost wholly from Commerce. The convenient Situation of this Colony for receiving Supplies from the other Colonies for the Continental Army near Boston, we suppose [was] a principal Reason why so great a Number of the Kings Ships have been stationed in our Bay, we having had for above 7 Months past 2 Ships of 20 Guns 1 of 16 a Bomb Ketch & about 8 Tenders who have made Prizes of more Vessels belonging to this Colony than have been lost by any other, have put almost a total End to Commerce, have committed repeated Depredations in different Parts of the Colony, have kept our Coasts constantly alarmed, and obliged the Inhabitants to keep almost continually under Arms. The once flourishing Town of New Port by the Loss of Trade & consequent Cessation of all Business, instead of being able to contribute to the Expences of the War, hath been reduced to so deplorable a State that we have been obliged to grant Money out of the general Treasury for the Support of their Poor; and many of the wealthy Inhabitants have not only left the Town, but the Colony – Conanicut and Prudence lately the Scenes of the most wanton and savage Desolation & Barbarity are deserted. New Shoreham from its Situation is rendered worse than useless to the Colony, and the other Islands will no longer be of Service to any but the Enemy.

The Troops sent by this Colony to the Army near Boston amounted to about 1700 inclusive of Officers, of which 250 are in Col. Arnold's Detachment in Quebec. Many have entered on Board the armed Vessels fitted out by Genl Washington, particularly almost every Officer & Seaman in the Brig commanded by Captn [Sion] Martindale unfortunately taken & carried into Boston belonged to this Colony; and the others the greatest Part by far have reinlisted into the Continental Service, so that very few of them have returned or can return. We fitted out two armed Vessels for the Protection of our Commerce and Coasts which carried upwards of 100 Men, one of which is now at Philada in the Continental Service with the greater Part of her Crew. Above an 100 Men have also been inlisted for the Continental Navy. We have also built & equipped two Row Gallies to carry 50 Men each. Besides these extraordinary Exertions we were alarmed in October last with the Arrival of a Number of Transports from Boston destined to procure fresh Provisions for the ministerial Army. To prevent their obtaining Supplies was an Object of such great Importance as oblidged us to send a Number of Minute Men upon the several Islands to defend the Stock, which created a most enormous Expence. when the Assembly met in November a Regiment of 500 Men was ordered to be raised for the Defence of Rhode Island and the other Islands, notwithstanding which we have been obliged repeatedly to call forth our Minute Men. To prevent the great Charge of which we have augmented the Regiment ordered to be raised in Novr to 750 Men exclusive of a Company of Artillery consisting of 105 Men with three Officers; and have also voted another Regiment of 750 Men to be immediately raised & equipped besides 238 Artillery Men for the Management of 34 Field Pieces ordered to be procured & placed in the several Towns upon the Sea Coast. We have ordered 60 Cannon 18 & 12 Pounders to be cast, & have already sent a Vessel with a very valuable Cargo to purchase Powder & other warlike Stores, & are fitting out another which will soon sail.

From the above Representation of our Situation, Exertions & Losses & the Depredations of the Enemy, which are not exaggerated, the exhausted State of the Colony, and its utter Inability to maintain the present Force established & voted, as well as to take any further Measures to defend itself, will clearly appear. We [need] not observe to you the great Importance of Rhode Island, or the Damages that would be sustained by the Enemy's possessing themselves thereof, its Harbour & the adjoining Narraganset Bay being greatly superior to any others in America, & its convenient Situation with Respect to the Sea & the other Colonies making it still more important. We therefore request that you will give the earliest Attention to this Address, and have no Doubt that you will take the proper Measures for defending the Colony, otherwise Rhode Island, & the other Islands in the Bay with the surrounding Sea Coast upon the Continent must be depopulated & the Colony entirely ruined.

We submit the foregoing to your judicious Determination, & are with great Respect & Confidence, your Honours' most Obedt & most hble Servants –

Signed at the Request & in Behalf of the Genl Assembly

Providence Jany 15th 1776.

Nich^s Cooke Govr

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1. John Hancock Papers, V, 18–22, LC. For reasons which are not apparent, this memorial was sent first to Washington, who did not forward it until April 30, 1776 – more than three months later. It was received in Congress May 2, 1776, and referred to a committee which had been previously appointed "to take into consideration the state of the eastern colonies." Ford, ed., *JCC,* IV, 322.

JOURNAL OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO BUILD TWO CONTINENTAL FRIGATES IN RHODE ISLAND [1]

[Providence] Monday Evening Jany 15th 1776

Meeting in being according to adjournment.

Voted. That Nicholas Brown & Capt Nicholas Power write to Mr George Scott to procure and deliver 30 Tons of Locusts (for Trenails) at Bristol Ferry wharf on the Island side, and that the customary price for the same be 42/ pr Ton

Voted. That there be 2 dozen Trenail Augers of 1½ Inch, fifteen of 1¼ Inch, 12 of 1 Inch for scarfing the Keel Deck &c. six of 1⅛ Inch for floor timber bolts six ⅞ Inch, six of ¾ Inch. that Wm Russell send to Jno Auger of the bridge for them.

Voted. That there be 4 streaks of 4½ Inch plank at the ring heads one streak under and one over the whale 5 Inches and that the main Deck plank be 4 Inches thick, the Quarter Deck and fore Castle plank be 3 Inches thick sealing 5 Inch plank for the ringhead and 4 plank wide two streaks for the clamps 6½ Inch thick all the rest two Inch plank double. –

Voted. That Mr Caleb Bowen procure two Main Masts of 86 feet long and 26 Inches Diameter and two Fore Masts 78 feet long and 23 Inches Diameter for the Ships on the best terms he can that he also purchase at [blank] 9000 feet of 3 Inch pine plank to be delivered here on the best terms he can and that they be as long as Possible.

Voted. That there be three whales 10 Inches wide the upper and lower whales 8 Inches thick the middle one 8½ Inches to waiste and sealing for the same from 4 to 2½ Inches thick the Floor timbers 17 Inches deep at the Throat to 12 Inches at the surmark sided 11 Inches that she diminish from the surmark to the whale 9 Inches at the top timber heads to 6 Inches, Length of floor timbers 17 feet from surmark to surmark & 18 Inches head, Dead ris[ing] 20 Inches.

Dimensions of the 32 Gun Ship			Dimensions 28 Gun Ship		
Gun Deck	132 feet	1 Inch	Gun Deck	124 feet	4 Inches
Keel	110	10¾	Keel	102	8½
Beam	34	5½	Beam	33	10⅜
Hold	11		Hold	10	8

Reckoning 20/ LMy paid By Coll Nightingale

Meeting adjourned to morrow evening 6 o'clock[2]

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1. Journal R.I. Frigates, RIHS.
2. The meeting on January 16, 1776, showed no business transacted, and a reckoning of ten shillings paid by Joseph Nightingale.

Newport Mercury, Monday, January 15, 1776

Newport, January 15.

We mentioned, in our last, a sloop which had put off from this town to carry a number of families up the river, with their household furniture, provisions, &c. and that she was stopped by the men of war, who took out a quantity of provision, notwithstanding she had Captain [James] Wallace's pass. The same vessel, after she had been to Warwick's and landed some of her freight, in going to Updike's Newtown with the remainder, the fore part of last week, was met with and taken by Capt. [James] Ayscough, who brought her down to this harbour, took out a considerable quantity of furniture, clothing, &c. to the amount of several thousand dollars, then stripped her, and let her drive ashore on Goat Island.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Swan,* CAPTAIN JAMES AYSCOUGH[1]

Jany 1776 [In Narragansett Bay]

Fridy 12th [A.M.] at 8 the Comdr made the Signal to Weigh Do weigh'd and Came to sail in Company with His Majestys Ships *Rose Glasgow* and *Bolton* Brigg, Tenders &c working up between Connanicut and Rose Island.

Modt Breezes and fair

at 4 P M Brot to with the Best Bower in [?] fm Water Veerd to ½ Cable So Part of Prudence W S W Dyers Isld N E Distce of[f]

Shore ½ Mile Sent the Tenders and Boats on Shore with 60 Men Arm'd Burnt a Number of Houses Brot of[f] Hay &c at 9 the Boats and tender returned

Saty 13th A M at 8 Sent a Tender with an Officer an two Petty Officers & 60 Men on Shore Attack'd the Rebbels in the Action Roger Davis Seaman was kill'd Richard Wilkins Jno Davis Wounded and Thomas Richards [prisoner]

do [Weather] and fair

at 4 P M the Tender and Boats Returnd with the People, Departed this Life the two Wounded Men

Sundy 14th A M Fresh Breezes and Clear Wr at 11 the Comdr made Signal for Weighing Do weigh'd and Came to Sail in Company as before turn'd Round the So end of Prudence Gold Isld N B E

. . . turning up between the Wt Side of Prudence Hope Island and the Main at 4 P M came to the end of Pacience it bearing N N W, N W part of Prudence S W Dist of[f] Shore 1 Mile Vore to ½ Cable on the Bt Br the *Bolton* Brigg Burnt some houses on Patience.

Mondy 15th at 9 A M weigh'd and Came to sail in Company as before run down to hope Island & Came too with the Small Br in 3 fms the Body of the Isld Dist ¼ Mile Vore to ½ Cable and handed Sails.

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1. PRO, Admiralty 51/960.

Minutes of the New York Committee of Safety[1]

[New York] Die Lunae, 10 HO. A.M. Jany. 15th, 1776.

The Committee of Safety are informed by a member, that a fleet of eighteen sail of transports, two men of war and two bomb ships, are sailed from Boston; that they sailed from Boston on last Saturday week, and that a letter from General Washington, advising this Committee thereof, is on the way, and may be hourly expected.

Thereupon the Committee thought it necessary to have a proper person sent to the Narrows, with a glass, to look out for any fleet that may be approaching this port; and Capt. Austin Lawrence being sent for, attended the Committee; he agreed to proceed to the Narrows immediately for that purpose, and proper directions were given to him and signals agreed on, which shall be made at the ferry to give notice to the city.

Capt. William Dobbs was also sent for and attended; he was directed to take the whale boat lately purchased by this Committee, with a proper number of men to row her, and proceed to the light-house, and there observe carefully the approach of any fleet, and to give immediate notice thereof to this Committee. Mr. Dobbs was directed to tarry one week if no fleet appears sooner, and to be very frugal in his disbursements, which were particularly enumerated.

Ordered, That none of the pilots at this port shall go to Sandy Hook, or to any other place towards the Hook, without the permission of this Committee, until the further order of this Committee. And

Ordered, That no pilot do presume to pilot into the Hook, or towards this port, any transport with troops on board, or any ship of war, or ministerial armed vessel whatever. And

Ordered, That the pilots be directed to attend this Committee to-morrow forenoon, in order that they may be charged with the matter of this order, and to keep the same secret.

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1. *New York Provincial Congress,* I, 249–50.

NEW YORK DELEGATES TO JOHN HANCOCK [1]

Sir New York 15th Jany 1776

Mr Livingston Arived here on Saturday and Imediately Communicatd to us Your Letters desireg us to purchase a Quantity of powder [2] &c, we Accordingly made a particular Inquiery how much of that Article is now in this Province, & find there is not, nor has there been any since last April but what has been in the hands of the Committe here, of which we send an Account Inclosed, whereby it appears that there is now in the Public Store 6350l which with what is due from the Continent to this Province, is all the Stock they have, 462 Quartr Casks was all the Powder that was brought from Curacoa, tho' it was said that it was to the Amo of 300 Bbls & that Several Other Vessels which Arived About the same time had Also brought Powder which was without foundation. – a report prevails Here that a Fleet of 18 Transports 3 Ships of War & a Bomb Ketch have Saild from Boston that Genl [Charles] Lee has desired Govr Trumbal to Gett 1500 Men in Readiness with all dispatch, that he intended to March with a small body of Men from Cambridge to Connecticut & with the Troops to be raised in Conecticut to March to this place, but as it is probable You have Information from the Genl it will be Needless for us to Enlarge.

The *Asia* & *Phenix* are both in this harbour, and the *Viper* at Sandy Hook [3]
We are Sr [&c.]

Philip Livingston John Alsop Frans Lewis

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1. Papers CC (Letters addressed to Congress), 78, XIV, 55, 56, NA.
2. Resolution of the Continental Congress, January 8, 1776.
3. This information is incorrect. The *Viper,* blown off the coast, was in Antigua.

New-York Gazette, MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 1776

New-York, January 15.

Captain Daniel Van Vorhis, in a Sloop belonging to Philadelphia, sailed from Santa Croix, for this Port, the 11th of October last, and got in thirty Fathoms Water, in Lat. 39 and a Half, but having sprung his Mast and Boom, meeting with a violent Gale of Wind, and being short of Provisions, was obliged to bear away for the West-Indies, and arrived at St. Eustatia the 14th of December, with only 4 Biscuits on board, and not one Piece of Meat.

Wednesday last the Ship *Sampson,* Captain Coupar, sailed for London, having on Board the following Cabbin Passengers, besides a considerable Number in the Steerage: Mr. and Mrs. Plenderleith and Family, Mr. Rogers, late of Charlestown, in Massachusetts-Bay, General Dalrymple, Henry Kelly, Esq; Mr.

James Rivington, Lieut. Moncrieffe, George Robinson of the Navy, Mons. Orilliard, of Canada, Col. Glazier, and Messrs. Mawdsleys.

The October Packet, from Falmouth for this Port, we hear, is sailed for Halifax.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS [1]

[Philadelphia] Monday, January 15, 1776

Resolved, That a committee of 5 be appointed to make an estimate of the number of cannon, that may be wanted for the defence of the United Colonies, and to devise ways and means for procuring them, and that it be an instruction to the said committee to enquire how large cannon can be cast in this country.

The members chosen, Mr. [Henry] Wisner, Mr. [Stephen] Hopkins, Mr. [John] Rogers, Mr. [Andrew] Allen, and Mr. [Robert Treat] Paine.

Resolved, That no bought indented servants be employed on board the fleet, or in the army of the United Colonies, without the consent of their masters.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the committee of safety of Pensylvania, to enquire into the character of the recruits or privates taken on board the *Rebecca and Frances* transport, and to dismiss such as may, with safety to the United Colonies, be discharged.

[1] Ford, ed., *JCC,* IV, 54–57.

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH [1]

[Philadelphia] Monday 15 [January, 1776] . . . it was recommended to the Comee of Safety of Pennsa to discharge such Privates as they please that were lately cast away on Board of the Transport at Egg Harbor – [2]

[1] Richard Smith's Diary, LC.

[2] The *Rebecca & Francis* was cast away on Brigantine Beach, New Jersey, in October 1775, Volume 2, 545.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF CHARLES BIDDLE [1]

[October 30, 1775–January 15, 1776]

We sailed from L'Orient the 30th of October. The schooner was a handsome vessel, and had the appearance of sailing fast, but she did not. Her mainmast worked so much in the step that I expected we should lose it. We stood to the southward until we got into the trade-winds. While we were running down the trades, the main topmast gave way at the cap while a young man was then at the top of it, reeving halyards for a royal we intended setting. He called out the topmast was going, and a moment afterwards it went away. He had a miraculous escape, having received no injury. He was a very active young man of the name of Dickson. He came from the back part of Pennsylvania, and this was his first voyage. We kept the trade wind until we were to the westward of Bermuda, when we stood to the northward. In the latitude of 35° we had a severe gale of wind from the northwest, during which the mainmast worked in such a manner that we expected every moment it would go over the side. Consulting with Captain Patton, whom [Thomas] Mason had brought out with him as master of the schooner, we concluded it would not be safe to go on the coast with the mast in its present situation, and as we had no way of securing it at sea, that it was necessary we should bear away for the West Indies. It would not have been safe to bear away during the gale. When the wind and sea fell, we stood to the southward, intending to put into St. Eustatia. Two or three days after we stood to the southward, I fell down the fore-scuttle and hurt myself very much. It occasioned my having a spitting of blood for some time. The first land we made was St. Martin's. We went in here to avoid a ship we took for a British cruiser. The day after we arrived I went in a small schooner to St. Eustatia for some assistance. Here I found many of my acquaintances from Philadelphia, amongst others, Captain James Craig, brother to the captain who went with me to France. He was very much alarmed at first seeing me, fearing his brother was lost. From them I understood there was no prospect of peace. Having procured what was wanted for the schooner in a few hours, I returned to St. Martin's. A British ship of twenty guns went into the harbor with us and anchored near the schooner. I expected we should have had some trouble with this man-of-war, but she sailed the next day without taking any notice of us. We hoisted no colors and suffered none of the crew to go on shore, so that it is probable the captain of the man-of-war, who I believe was Hawkes, did not know where we belonged to. Upon our arrival the crew had directions to tell any person that inquired, that we were loaded with salt. Still feeling the hurt I received from my fall, and exposing myself in getting the schooner ready for sea, I was seized with a fever that had nearly proved fatal to me. The schooner being now ready to sail, and being myself too unwell to proceed in her, and fearing some accident should she be detained, I sent her home under the charge of Capt. Patton. In a few days, my fever having abated, I went to St. Eustatia, and finding a ship belonging to Boston, commanded by a Captain Adams, ready to sail for Philadelphia, although she was a miserable old vessel, I was so anxious to get home I took my passage in her. A few days after we sailed we were alarmed by a piece of sheathing coming off. As the weather was good, we soon got a piece of board nailed over where the sheathing was off, but from the badness of the sheathing I was convinced if we had bad weather on the coast we should be in great danger of foundering. The fourth of January, 1776, about four o'clock in the afternoon, we struck soundings. We had no observation that day, but by our reckoning we were in latitude 38°20′. At this time we had a light breeze from the northeast. At dark the breeze freshened with rain. At six o'clock the fore and main topsails were close reefed, the mizzen topsail handed, and we hauled upon a wind to the eastward. At seven o'clock as there was every appearance of a gale of wind the topsails were handed. Hearing them a long time at the pump about half-past eight I went upon deck, and finding it blowing hard, and the ship laboring very much, I told Capt. Adams (who was a good fellow) he had better ease the ship by taking in the mainsail. He said he was in hopes that it would soon moderate, that he was almost perished with being so long wet and cold. Understanding some time before this, from the mate, who was not on very good terms with Capt. Adams, that this was the first time he ever commanded a square-rigged vessel, and as they had no gale of wind before during the voyage, I began to think he did not know how to take the mainsail off her, I therefore told him he had better go below, and put on dry clothes, and I would attend to the ship. He went immediately down, and I had the mainsail handed, mizzen and fore topsails hauled down, and the ship hove to under her foresail. Still finding the pumps had not sucked, I went to Capt Adams, and told him we had better go in the hold and see if we could discover the leak. When we went down she had a great quantity of water in her, and some of the empty water casks were floating in the forehold. I then never expected to go alive out of the hold. We found the water was rushing in forward, the ceiling was cut away, and we perceived the leak was occasioned by the sheathing being off. We stopped it as well as possible, but as she still made a great deal of water we concluded it best to stand to the westward and get in shore, that if the leak gained on us, and we could not get into the Delaware, we could run ashore and probably save our lives. It was disagreeable and dangerous running in shore at this season of the year in a gale of wind from the northeast, but of two evils this appeared the least. We accordingly bore away W.N.W. intending to fall in with Cape May. The next day, happily for us, it was more moderate. About eleven o'clock we made the land a little to the eastward of Cape May. At twelve o'clock, seeing a man upon the beach, we put the boat ashore for him. The men in the boat were all New England men, who knew how to manage a boat in a heavy sea as well, if not better than any other people. With some difficulty and danger they brought the man on board. The New England men are not generally good seamen, being seldom regularly bred to the sea, but they are sober, active men, most of them very stout, and will endure more hardships than any people I ever sailed with. This ship had an excellent crew. The man they brought on board was a Cape May pilot. He soon anchored the ship off the Cape. I understood from him with much pleasure that Patton had arrived safe. As there was a good deal of ice in the river and bay, the ship could not proceed up. I therefore took my clothes on shore, and with a fellow passenger hired a light wagon to carry us to Philadelphia. We arrived at Cooper's, opposite the city, about noon, the 9th of January. The river was crowded with people skating and we crossed on the ice. I found all my relations well except my brother Edward. Mr. Mifflin who engaged me to go to France, was perfectly satisfied with what I had done. A few days after my being at home, Mason arrived. He put into Morris River and left the brig. I went there, and brought her up. He and [John] Craig differed, and would not speak to each other. She had some powder on board, but her cargo consisted chiefly of saltpetre, which was as acceptable as powder. Messrs. Berard, after having their ship nearly ready to sail, were afraid to send her. . . .

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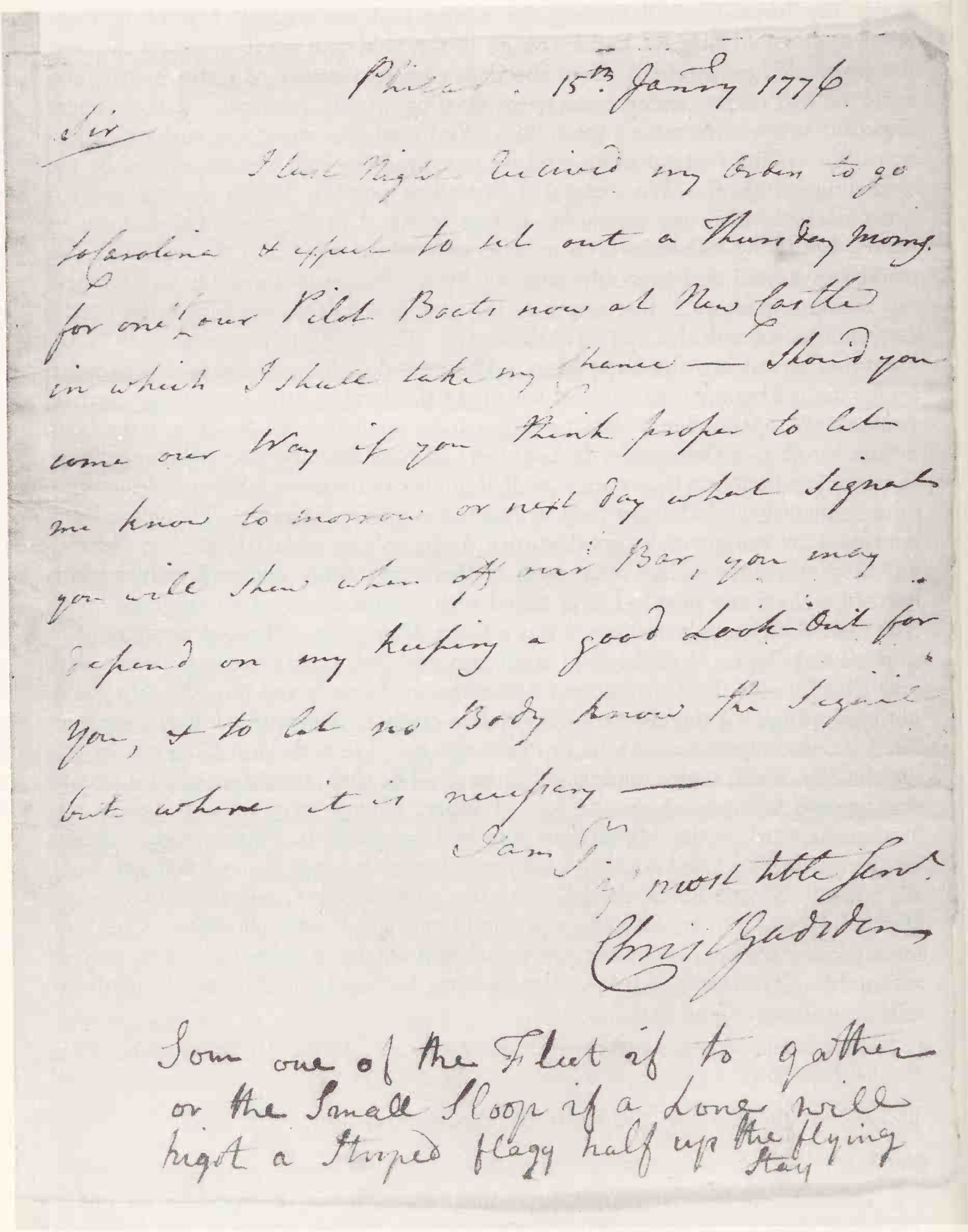
1. James S. Biddle, ed., *Autobiography of Charles Biddle . . . 1745–1821* (Philadelphia, 1883), 79–82.

CHRISTOPHER GADSDEN TO COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS[1]

Sir Philada. 15th Janry 1776

I last Night Received my Orders to go to Carolina & expect to set out a Thursday morng. for one of our Pilot Boats now at New Castle in which I shall take my Chance – Shou'd you come our Way if you think proper to let me know to morrow or next day what Signals you will shew when off our Bar, you



Philada. 15th. Janry. 1776.

Sir

I last Night received my Orders to go
to Carolina & expect to set out a Thursday Morng.
for one of our Pilot Boats now at New Castle
in which I shall take my Chance — Should you
come our Way if you think proper to let
me know to morrow or next day what Signals
you will shew when off our Bar, you may
depend on my keeping a good Look-Out for
You, & to let no Body know the Signals
but where it is necessary —

I am Sir
Yr. most hble Servt.
Christ Gadsden

Som one of the Fleet if to gather
or the Small Sloop if a Lone will
higst a Striped flagg half up the flying
Stay

Christopher Gadsden to Commodore Esek Hopkins, January 15, 1776, with Hopkins' endorsement.

may depend on my keeping a good Look-Out for You, & to let no Body know the Signal but where it is necessary – I am [&c.]

Chrisᵗ Gadsden

[Endorsed by Hopkins] Some one of the Fleet if to gather or the Small Sloop if a Lone will higst a Striped flagg half up the flying Stay

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1. Hopkins Papers, RIHS.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

In Committee of Safety.
[Philadelphia] 15 Jan'y 1776.

Order'd that Mr. John Ross be directed to furnish immediately a Return of the Number of Men now in the Service of this Province, on board the armed Boats.

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1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records,* X, 457.

Pennsylvania Packet, MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 1776

Philadelphia, January 15.

By authentic advices from the camp at Cambridge, of the 3d and 4th instant, we learn, that the bay and harbour of Boston yet continue open; that a man of war is so stationed as to command the entrance of Salem, Beverly and Marblehead harbours – That 500 fresh troops had arrived from Ireland – two regiments had gone to Halifax – two had pushed into the river St. Lawrence in hopes of getting up to Quebec, which was very doubtful – That the two regiments arrived at Boston were the 55th and 17th—That Admiral Shuldam was also arrived.— An intelligent person got out of Boston on the 3d instant, who informed General Washington that a fleet consisting of 9 transports, containing 360 men, were ready to sail under convoy of the *Scarborough* and *Fowey* men of war, with two bomb vessels and some flat-bottomed boats; their avowed destination in Boston was to Newport, but it was generally supposed to be Long Island or Virginia – That a number of other transports are taking in water, and they are baking large quantities of biscuit in Boston, some say for the use of the shipping, who are to lay in Nantucket Road on account of the ice, while others believe a more important movement is in agitation: – This person also informs, that they have not the least idea in Boston of attacking our lines, but will be very thankful to be permitted to remain quiet – That before General Burgoyne's departure it was circulated thro' the army, in order to keep the soldiery quiet under their distresses, that the disputes would soon be settled, and that he was going to England for that purpose – That they had intelligence at Boston of 4 vessels having sailed from Hispaniola for this Continent some time ago, laden with arms and ammunition. – Our advices conclude with the following anecdote: – That upon the King's speech arriving at Boston, a great number of them were reprinted and sent out to our lines on the 2d of January, which being also the day of forming the new army, the great Union flag was hoisted on Prospect Hill, in compliment to the United Colonies – this happening soon after the Speeches were delivered at Roxbury, but before they were received at Cambridge, the Boston gentry supposed it to be a token of the deep impression the Speech had made, and a signal of submission – That they were much disappointed at finding several days elapse without some formal measure leading to a surrender, with which they had begun to flatter themselves. – When these accounts came away the army were all in barracks, in good health and spirits. – That 5000 Militia had taken the places of those soldiers who would not stay beyond their time of service; that they were good troops, and the whole army impatient for an opportunity of action.

By Capt. [Leeson] Simmons from Cadiz we learn, that the English Consuls in different ports in Europe, are depriving the American masters of vessels of their Mediterranean passes.

On the 15th of December Capt. Simmons spoke the sloop *America,* Capt. Graham, with sugar from St. Croix, for New-York, but having some time before, in lat. 35, long. 70, unluckily fell in with the sloop of war *Viper,* the Captain of which put two officers and four men on board, with orders for to carry her to Boston, but meeting with contrary winds were obliged to quit the coast, and were then going for Antigua.[1]

[1] According to the journal of the *Viper,* the vessel was the sloop *America,* Robert Campbell (not Graham), master, which she captured on November 24, 1775, Volume 2, 1118.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE [1]

At a Meeting of Committee 15 Jany 1776 –

Information being laid before the Committee, that Capt Forsythe had sailed without first obtaining a Permit from the Committee, Mr John Cornthwait the Owner of the Vessell was then sent for, but, as he declared, that he had always thought, Capt Forsythe had such a Permit, the Offence was overlooked –

Information being made to this Committee, That Capt Martin of the Brig *Friendship* was loading without any Permit being obtained from the Council of Safety, or Provl Convention, It is Resolved, That such Vessell be stopt from further Loading, until such Points are properly cleared, and Capt [Isaac] Griest is charged with the Execution of this Resolve –

[1] Baltimore Committee, LC.

"FROM THE *Virginia Gazette* OF JANUARY 18, PRINTED ON BOARD THE SHIP *Dunmore,* LYING OFF NORFOLK." [1]

Norfolk, Ship *Dunmore,* Jan. 15.

Soon after the arrival of the *Liverpool* frigate from England, Capt. [Henry] Bellew sent a flag of truce, and demanded to be informed whether his Majesty's ships of war would be supplied from the shore with provisions; the reply being in the negative, and the ships in the harbour being continually annoyed by firing from the rebels, out of that part of the town next the water, rendered it necessary to destroy it, and dislodge them from the houses they occupied directly under the muzzles of the ships guns. Accordingly, previous notice being given to the inhabitants, in order that the women, children, and innocent persons might have time to remove out of danger, on the first instant about four o'clock in the afternoon, the *Liverpool,* frigate, the *Otter* and *King's Fisher,* sloops of war, with the Governor's ship, *Dunmore,* began to cannonade the town, and in the mean time a few men were landed in boats, who set fire to the houses next the water.

As the wind was moderate and from the shore, it was judged with certainty, that the destruction would end with that part of the town next the water, which the king's ships meant only should be fired; but the rebels cruelly and unnecessarily compleated the destruction of the whole town, by setting fire to the houses in the streets back, which were before safe from the flames.

The ill-judged and misapplied fury discharged upon the weak and the innocent, was not confined to the town; the country around, for several days, was illuminated with the fires of the houses they burnt, amongst which is the distillery (about three miles from the town) a work of great value and public utility with a large stock of rum and molasses.

The ships continued firing, with intervals, till about two o'clock next morning, during which the ardour of the men could not be repressed, and notwithstanding all possible care taken to prevent them, a few boats went on shore, where they exchanged some shot with the enemy's parties, and had three or four men slightly and one mortally wounded. Several accounts concur, that the enemy had 18 killed, and about 40 men wounded.

1. John Almon, ed., *The Remembrancer, or Impartial Repository of Public Events 1776* (London, 1776), II, Part I, 356–57. Hereafter cited as Almon, ed., *Remembrancer*. This extract is from the newspaper printed with the type seized in Norfolk on September 30, 1775, from John Hunter Holt, publisher of Holt's *Virginia Gazette*. See Volume 2, 267.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

In the Council of Safety,
[Charleston] Monday, Jan. 15th, 1776.

Information being given to the Council, that three strangers appeared in town, who were suspected might belong to some of the men-of-war upon the coast.

Ordered, That the secretary do summon them to attend the board immediately, and if necessary to take a file of men with him from the guard.

Mr. Milligan and Mr. Sur, two of the said suspected persons were accordingly brought before the Council; and upon examination gave so satisfactory an account of themselves, and of Mr. Dee, the third person, that they were immediately discharged.

Ordered, That Col. [William] Moultrie be desired to attend this board immediately.

Col. Moultrie attending according to order, was desired to lay before this Council, his plan for the defence of Charles Town—and also returns of the regiments under his command, and of the stores and ammunition.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society,* III, 183–85.

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16 Jan.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES [1]

[Exeter] Tuesday, Jany 16th 1776.

Voted, to build a Galley at the charge of this Colony, to Cruise on our Sea Coast, and to be used for the Benefit of Defending our Harbours and of annoying our Enemies.

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire,* VIII, 20, 21.

JONATHAN JACKSON TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL [1]

Sir Newburyport 16th Jany 1776

Yesterday Forenoon appeared in our Bay a Brig & a Ship which were suspected to be Enemy's Vessell – these Vessels were soon taken & brought safe into the river – the Ship was from London eleven weeks since & is named the *Freinds* Archibald Bowie Master Burthen about 200 tons laden with Coals, Porter pickled Cabbage, Vinegar live Hogs &c these were for Government Service – the Ship was to enter at Boston as a Transport – the Brig was from Cork about ten weeks since & is named the *Sukey* Madatt Engs Master Burthen about 90 Tons laden with Beef Pork Butter Hams Tongues Potatoes &c owned by Lewis Gray of Boston – both these Vessels were bound to Boston – There were two Passengers in the Brig vizt Lieutenant Hill of Earl Percy's Regiment, & Mr John Gray Son of Harrison Gray Esqr – We thought it best to forward the two Masters & these two Passengers to the honble Council to dispose of them as they may think fit, & to make what Enquiries they may chuse – Mr Marsh & Mr Mullikin of this Town (& the first Gentleman of this Committee) have undertaken to see them safe to Watertown – they bring with them all the Papers of public Concern were found in both Vessels – We wou'd observe to their Honours that there is besides a number of Letters to Officers & Soldiers in Boston, a Book of military Orders or Regulations, we did not know but might be a Matter of Curiosity if not of Service at Head Quarters which you'll present to the General if you please – Mr Hill begs a Return of it to him finally – Messrs Marsh & Mullikin will present their Bill of Charge in this Matter, wch their Honours will order payment of as they shall think proper –

In behalf of the Committee of Safety for this Town – I am sir [&c.]

Jon^{a} Jackson

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1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 202–03. Jackson was chairman of the Newburyport Committee of Safety.

JONATHAN JACKSON TO GEORGE WASHINGTON [1]

Sir Newburyport 16th Jany 1776.

The day before yesterday two Enemies Vessels happen'd to be taken in this Bay & brought in here – one a Ship from London laden for Government Service, the other a Brig from Cork laden with Provisions both bound for Boston – in the latter were two Passengers Leiutenant Hill of Lord Percy's Regt & a Mr Gray of Boston – our Committee here have sent both these Gentn & the Masters of both the Vessels by this Conveyance to the Order of the Council at Watertown, with the papers of a public nature that were found in either Vessel – This morning was discovered in a concealed part of the Ship several papers esteemed to be of some Moment in a political View – the Committee had before directed me (who happen'd to act as their Chairman) to write to the Council a Detail of this Matter & send the papers of public Concern to them – but while the Committee were together, it was not thought of, to furnish you with Copies of the most material – several of the members afterwards mention'd to me there wou'd be a propriety in so doing, & in the Committee's Behalf I have presum'd to furnish you with Copies of the concealed Papers found this morning, & which are inclosed –

For any Enquiries you may please to make I refer you to the Bearer (Mr March) who is a Member of the Committee here and begging pardon for the Freedom I have taken Am [&c.]

Jon[a] Jackson

1. Washington Papers, LC. See preceding entry.

N. TAYLOR TO THOMAS FLUCKER[1]

[Extract]

Boston 16 Janry 1776.

. . . By reason of the weather and the Enemy many Vessels which have sailed from Europe have not got in. The loss by the Enemy is unpardonable. There has not been a single Ship of War stationed in any harbour, between this and Nova-scotia, since last Summer, that every encouragement has been afforded for the fitting out Privateers, the carrying in their Prizes. The greatest Acquisition made by the Enemy is the Brig laden with Ordnance Stores, and what is astonishing she was spoke with by the *Cerberus* & the *Mercury* at different times in the Bay, and neither attempted to take her in Tow, or even to put a hand on board her as I can learn. I hope the Change in the naval Department will produce an Alteration of Conduct. Admiral Shuldham takes the command tomorrow.

Copy

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/40.

N. TAYLOR TO JOSEPH TAYLOR[1]

[Extract]

Boston 16. January 1776.

Two Men of War & two or three Transports with about 200 Marines sailed about 10 Days ago on an Expedition not certainly known.[2] Some say to the W. Indies to stop Supplies from thence, others supposing that Provision is their Object. I hope their Design is good, & wish them Success. Genl Clinton sails in the *Mercury* tomorrow for Virginia. [Richard] Reeve goes his Secretary. The *Falcon* & two or three Transports with two Light Companies on board accompany the General. – Admiral Shuldham takes the Command of the Fleet tomorrow. It must be a Change for the better, for so much Ignorance, Stupidity, Pride, Avarice & whatever You have a mind to add in the same Strain, never centered in one Commander of a Fleet in the British Navy since the Flag was hoisted, as in one that is not unknown among us. We are told that the present Commanders in Chief of the Navy (I mean Mr. Shuldham) and Army have a very good Understanding with each other, from which we hope to see good Effects. –

To Mr Joseph Taylor New England Coffee House [London]

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/40.
2. H.M.S. *Scarborough* and *Hinchinbrook* for Savannah.

FRANCIS HUTCHESON TO MAJOR GENERAL FREDERICK HALDIMAND[1]

Dear Sir

Boston January 16th 1776

My last letters to you went by Watson and Mrs Fairchild, who sailed from hence the 16th of December and are I hope now safe in London. Little material has happened here since that time, the Severity of the Winter still keeps out the greatest Number of the Ships sent from England with Coal, Porter, and other Stores. only Nine of them are yet got in, out of Thirty Six Sail. We grow Anxious for the arrival of the provision Ships, as they are of the most Consiquence at present, the others we might Shift without, as the Number of Old Wooden buildings puling down, will afford us a Sufficiency of Fuel. tho' it is attended with a greater Risque of Fires, by the carlesness of Soldiers than might happen by burning Coal in the barrack Rooms.

Admiral Shuldhome arrived here about ten days ago, and Admiral [Samuel] Graves Sails for England this day Week, People are Sanguine in their Expectations from Shuldhomes Commanding and part with the other, very willingly. the Rebell Privateers Continue to be troublesome and have lately taken one or two Vessells.

The Rebells at Mount Pizgeh gave us an Alart the other Night, between Seven and Eight oClock being very dark and low Water, a party Supposed to be about 100 Stole a Crose the Caus Way to Charlestown, and set fire to four Small Houses which remained near the Mill, and carried off a Sergt & four Men who were in one of them, and then retired with presipitation the same way the[y] came, and did not think proper to attack the Detachments in the Redoubts on the hight's. One Circumstance made that attack a little laughable as it happen'd on the Play Night. Just as the farce called the Blockade of Boston (a thing of some Humore said to be wrote by Genll Bourgoyne) was ready for Representation, the performers had Just got dressed in their Yankee Array – when an orderly Serjt came hastely into the House, and said that the Rebells were landed and that the troops were at it; this you may beleive made us all Quit the house not without hurry, and much fainting amoung the Women. but the best joke was the Actors who had now another part to perform, than of Women & Negroes, for which they were prepeared. one Officer was runing to his Corps in his petticoats, and another with his face blacked and in a Negroes dress. In short had the Rebells intended this to disconcert the Redicule that was intend them they wou'd have some Credit, but we don't find that was the case.

I mentioned to you Brigr [Richard] Prescotts being a Prisoner at Albany. and yesterday we here by a flag of truce that, Governor [Guy] Carleton has got into Quebec, and that Col. [Allen] McClean had a brush with [Benedict] Arnold who Commands the Rebells who invested that place, and that McClean has beat them – They likewise say, that Soon after Lord Dunmores landing from his Ships near Norfolk in Virginia with a part of the 14th Regt he was attacked by the people, and obliged to retire on board, with the loss of Seventy Men among whome, are Captain Fordice [Charles Fordyce] and [Samuel] Leslie, both of the 14th Regiment. this is the Rebell Accot of this affair, the only one we yet have. A deserter that came in last Night says their Army are very Sickly, and are tired of the War, but the Spiret is kept with great pains by their Leaders – We had the other day a Vessell from New York, from whence we had not heard for a Considerable time; we have now Seldomer oppertunitys from thence than from England. I do not find things in any better State there than formerly, but no doubt you here from thence.

General Clinton is now Embarked and will Sail in the *Mercury* Man of War tomorrow on a Secret Expedition. he takes two transports with him, on board of whome are two Companys of Light Infantry of the 4th and 44th Regts Lord [Francis] Rawdon goes a Supernumery Aid de Camp. he wanted to take a full Staff with him from hence, but has been refused, he wanted Captn [Richard] Symes of the 52d as Adjt General, Captn [J.H.] Crosbie of the 38th Regt as Qr Master General, and Captain Southerland of Gorham Corps as an Assestant, but General Howe wou'd not allow of such a Staff, which I beleive has occasioned some discontent. Its said this Expedition is intended for Virginia, where its thought he will be Joined by the five Regts ordered from Ireland last December. and that the General (Clinton) will tuch at New York on his Way, to see whats doing there.

The other day General Howe ordered Major Sherreff to wait on General Clinton to know which of his Assistants he woud Chuse shou'd go with him, General Clinton did not like the message, and said he thought he had a Right to appoint his own Staff, & that he wou'd not take any body from hence, If any One of us was to go I think I am the person, as being one of the Established Assest D.Q.Mr Genl[s] – and that there could be no Choice. but I make myself Easey about going, as I beleive had one of us been ordered with him, contrary to his inclination, he wou'd on coming to his Command appoint a Depy Qr Master over us, and thereby Occassion some disagreement. I mention this matter to you, to shew you the little Chance I have of getting any thing equal to your wishes by my Appointment; the People now in Power have all their dependants, and many about them whome the[y] wish to serve. I do not mean to trouble you with grievences, but its my Duty to acquaint you with these matters – I look upon myself in that Office by your Recommendation and good Wishes to Serve me –

The Preferment goes on here pritty fast in the Several Corps, I have no Chance of any as Our Regt is not Serving with this Army. And I find myself Serving in a very Labourious Department, which requires all my time and attention, for five Shillings a day and the Chance of three Shills a day Batt & Forrage Money when any Issued –

Major Gaul of the 35th Regt has sold out and Major Basset of the 10th both Majoritys go in the Regiments, and many other Changes happen Dayly – I wish I had it in my power to follow yr advice in geting my self Settled, but without you can assist me that cannot happen. Mr Haldimand is well & presents his Duty & Compliments. I am with the greatest Respect [&c.]

Fran^s Hutcheson

I have had but once the pleasure of hearing from you since your departure

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1. Haldimand Papers, BM.

VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, R.N.[1]

Pursuant to the orders of the Right Hon'ble the Lords Commissioners of the admiralty.

You are hereby required and directed to put yourself under my command, and follow all such Orders and directions as you shall from time to time receive from me, for his Majesty's Service.

Given under my hand on board his Ms
Ship *Chatham* at Boston the 16th January 1776

To Captain Hamond
Commander of his Majs Ship *Roebuck*
By command of the Admiral Edw^d^ Bragge

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[1] Hamond, Orders received 1775–1776, UVL.

VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, R.N.[1]

By Molyneux Shuldham Esqr &ca &ca

You are hereby required and directed to carry into execution all such orders and instructions which you have received from Vice Admiral Graves, and may not have been already fully executed; for which this shall be your order.

Given under my hand on board his Majesty's Ship *Chatham* at Boston
the 16th January 1776

M. Shuldham

To Captain Hamond commander of his Majs Ship *Roebuck*
By command of the Admiral Edw^d^ Bragge

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[1] Hamond, Orders received, UVL.

MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HOWE TO LORD DARTMOUTH[1]

[Extract]
No 7 Boston, January 16, 1776

My Lord. By Admiral Shuldhams arrival on the 30th December I had the Honor of your Lordships Dispatches of the 22d October; . . . Also a Copy of a Letter from your Lordship of the 22d September to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, in which you are pleased to intimate that the Stores of Provisions, contracted for by Messrs Mure Son & Atkinson by the Lords of the Treasury, are intended as well for the Fleet as the Army; whereas from their not being any Mention made of the Fleet sharing these Stores, either in your Lordships Letters to me, from the Lords of the Treasury, or the Merchants, the Cargoes arriving before Admiral Shuldham were distributed solely to the Army; but since the Sight of your Lordships Letter, that I might not appear to neglect the Fleet, I have, tho' without a direct Order from your Lordship, given a Proportion of Porter to the Ships: At the same Time, I beg leave to observe, the Deliveries of Provision to the Soldiers for some Weeks past being without Pease or Rice, the Want of Bedding, & the unavoidable Exposure to the Weather from the Nature of the Duty, which has been very severe, without enumerating further Reasons, make them require these Refreshments more than the Seamen, who are better provided.

I enclose for your Lordships Information an Account of the Deficiencies in the Provision Contract, with the Commissary's Letter thereupon, & I shall send another to the Lords of the Treasury. – Having heard from Governor Tryon that there is a Prospect of getting some Provisions on the Side of New York I have dispatched a Vessel to endeavour to procure it; and the Victuallers for the Navy, lately arrived could conveniently afford us a Supply for six Weeks if necessary, which relieves me from the Necessity of putting the Troops to short Allowance, more especially as I am hopeful that the Vessels mentioned in my Dispatch of the 19th December, may return from the West Indies & Georgia before the Provisions in Store, as [p] State, are consumed; so that our Dependence is not wholly on the Contractors Ships, one of which got in the 13th Instt with Oats Flour and Pease, the last Article affording a most seasonable Relief.

The necessary Arrangements being made for the Departure of Major General Clinton to Cape Fear, in consequence of your Lordships Dispatches of the 22d October, he is ready to sail in the *Mercury* Ship of War, with the *Falcon* Sloop & two Transports, having on board two Companies of Light Infantry, & some Highlanders: The latter, I hope, may be useful in getting Men in North Carolina if Governor Martin is not deceived in his Expectations, of which I do not presume to judge, having received no direct Intelligence from thence since General Gage's Departure, nor have I received Governor Martins Letter referred to in your Lordships Letter of 22d October. It is much to be wished that the Troops had sailed from Europe in Time to have arrived at their Destination by the Middle or latter End of November; But I am free to own my Opinion to your Lordship, which has been to leave the Southern Provinces in the fullest Persuasion of their Security, until the Rebels should have been defeated on the Side of New York, which Event appears to me, more clearly than ever, of so much consequence, that our utmost Strength should be exerted to accomplish it before Designs of less Importance are taken up, inconsistent with the general Plan of Operations for the ensuing Campaign; and it is to be presumed the southern Rebels would have been less able to defend themselves, had they not been roused by the Conduct of their Governors, who have not, I fear, the Power of suppressing them, or of reestablishing the Interest of Government in any Degree – It is remarkable that the Destination of the Regiments to the Southward was promulgated here by private Letters from England, that came in the same ship with your Lordships Dispatch relative to them, & I make not a Doubt of the Rebels being in Possession of the Intelligence very soon after it arrived – General Lee I hear is gone from the Army in consequence of it.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/93, Part I, 65–74.

SAMUEL MOTT TO GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL [1]

To the Honourable Jonathan Trumbull Esqr Capt Genl & Governor of the American Colony of Connecticut &ca

Sir Being on the 5th of This Instant January Desired & Directed by Your Honour & Council of Safety, To View the Works Erected & Propos'd for Defence at New London Groton & Stonington & Report my Opinion in The Premises &ca

In Pursuance thereof I have Attended at The Places above mentioned & have found that there is at New London a Work Newly Erected at the Edge of the Town by the Water, where the old Fort or Battery Stood, which on some Accounts Appear Neat, well made, & in Good Order, But By reason of the Bad Situation of the Place, on Acct That In Case of an Attack from the Enemy, it will have a Tendency to Draw the Enemys Shot in the most Dangerous Direction on the Body of The Town, & by reason of the Ill Construction of the Embrazures &ca That it Cannot Defend from those Parts of the Harbour where an Enemys Ships of War might, & Doubtless would, Lye for Action, & by reason that In Case the Enemy should set fire to any of the Nearest Buildings it would Be very Difficult to Support & Occupy the Work, & the Danger that The men in the work must undergo from those in the Tops of the Enemys Vessels, Render it in my Opinion [blurred] Not a Suitable Place to Defend the Town & Harbour, & Altogether Insufficient for that Purpose, & Likewise That In Case of an Attack from the Enemy the Guns & stores in said Work would be in Great Danger of falling an Easy Prey to the Enemy –

I find also Ajacent to the Town on a Place Call'd Winthrops Neck a New Work Erected for Defence, which in my Opinion so far As it is Done may be of Good Service in Assisting to Defend the Place, But the Situation of the Place will not admit of its being A Sufficient Defence – I also Viewed Shaw's Point Com[mon]ly Called Mamacock, which in my Opinion is Capable of being fortified to very Good Purpose, The Guns would Lye 50, or, 60 feet above the Surface of The Water & only about 190 rods from the Opposite side of the Channel. It has a very Good & Safe Communication with the Country but no works Are yet Erected here. I have also Viewed the East shore Of New London Harbour on Groton Side & find a new Work Erected Within Reach of the whole Channel of the Harbour, which work so far as it is Carried I very much Approve of, & think that with finishing what is begun & making some small Addition it will be Capable of making a very Good Defence. – The Guns on this work I imagine To be about 100 feet above the Surface of the Water, a Little Back of this Work. Next the Country is a very Commanding Eminence (Likewise in Pretty Good Shot of the Harbour), which if well fortified might Contain Barracks & a Bomb-proof Sufficient to Contain its own stores & those of the Other work & would Secure a Safe & Easy Communication with the Country, & Would if Skilfully Erected, in a Great Measure Defend the Harbour & be Almost Inaccessible to An Enemy. On the whole it is my Opinion that somewhere Between 10 & 15 hundred pounds well Laid out in fortifying the Above Mentioned parts of Groton & on Mamacock & Winthrops Point or Neck is all That is Necessary for Defending that Important Harbour & The Town, & Properly Mann'd would Prevent any the Most Potent Enemy from Either Holding Possession of the Harbour or Annoying the Town, an Addition of heavy Cannon to make what they now have to the Number of About 40 would be Sufficient to Man all these works.

I have Likewise Viewed the works Lately Executed at stonington and find Them so far as Executed in my Opinion well Situated, strong built, & Being Compleated with a very Little Alteration (which I have pointed out to Majr

Smith) Sufficient with 100 Battallion men & 30 Artillery men to Defend against any ships of War &ca that will Likely Penetrate that Harbour, unless the Enemy shou[l]d Land A body of Troops, in which Case the Above Number of men might hold Out until the Country Came to Their Assistance, all which is Submitted to Your Honr by your Honours [&c.]

Preston 16th January 1776 Sam[1] Mott

N.B. if the Works at the Above Places should be Prosecuted it will Be Necessary To provide About 12 new Spades 5 falling Axes & 2 Broad Axes & some Iron Crows for the Works & a Number of Tools for New London & Groton

[1] Conn. Arch., Trumbull Papers, V, 4c, 4d, ConnSL.

Nathaniel Shaw, Jr. to Clark & Nightingale, Providence [1]

New London Jany 16th 1776

Gentlemen Please to deliver the Inclos'd letter to Governour Cook – have also Inclosd you an order on Wm Tallman att Bedford for one hundred and Thirty Cask & Keggs of Gun Powder wich would have you Send for and deliver to him and Send me an Accott of the Expence & You'l Oblige [&c.]

Nath[1] Shaw Junr

[1] Shaw Letter Book, YUL.

Nathaniel Shaw, Jr. to Samuel Solly Wintworth [1]

To Samueel Solly Wintworth Esqr New London Jan 16th 1776.
Merchent in Domineco –

Sir, I Received yours of the 9th and 30th Novr the Letter Inclosing Accot Sales of Sixty Mules Imported in the Ship *America* John Lamb Master Amo to thirteen hundred & seventy Seven pounds 16/ 1½ Sterling. And observe that you think the Risque is too Great to send me the Bills untill you here from me. If the Money is in good hands I am content to let it remain on Interest, untill I shall have occasion for it, & when that will be is uncertain as all our Trade is now at an end, & God knows wether we shall ever be in a Situation to Carry it on Again, no Bussiness now but preperation for Warr, Ravaging Villages, Burning of Towns, &c Inclos'd you have some of our last Papers. I am &c

N S

[1] Shaw Letter Book, YUL.

Nathaniel Shaw, Jr. to William Constant, Guadeloupe Merchant [1]

New London Jan 16th 1776.

Inclosed is a Bill Lading for Nine thousand three hundred Staves, which please to despose off for the most they will fetch, Capt [William] Leeds is arrived after a passage of Sixty Six Days, I find your Brother has not paid him any of the money you left behind last Voyage, and he tells me that he imagines their will be plenty of Powder out to Guadalupe from France and I hope you will be able to get to the amount of all the Interest you have of mine in In that case I shall expect you home very soon pray make all the Despatch in your power, for the sooner you Come the Danger will be the least, their is no Crewsers now, nor I believe will be untill May Next and we shall want it very soon – I ordered Capt [Edward] Chappell to Martineco from Phila with flour, if you here of him and can let him know you have powder to Ship he well take it on Board and I assure you he is a very Safe Good man to Ship by – Melasses is now very Scarse hear, if you are a mind to Load the Schooner I suppose the old Ballance will pay one half of the Amount and do you advance the Remainder & let it be on our Joint Accot bu[t] if powder is to be had plenty lay out the whole in Powder & send the Schooner for a Load Salt I have nothing further to say only make all the Despatch in your power I am &c

N S

1. Shaw Letter Book, YUL.

Journal of the Continental Congress [1]

[Philadelphia] Tuesday, January 16, 1776

An application being made in behalf of one Mr. Jugé and the owners of a vessel lately arrived in Delaware, for leave to export provisions to the amounts of the cargoes by them imported:

Resolved, That this be referred to the Secret Committee.

Some members of the Secret Committee being absent,

Resolved, That two members be added to that committee:

The members chosen, Mr. [Joseph] Hewes and Mr. [Robert] Alexander.

Resolved, That to Morrow be assigned for taking into consideration, in a committee of the whole, the propriety of opening the ports after the first of March next.

Information being given to Congress by the delegates of South Carolina, that their colony, being in want of seamen, had given orders to offer high wages to such as would engage in their service, but least this should cause uneasiness among the seamen employed in the service of the colonies, they thought it proper to inform Congress thereof, and take their opinion and direction thereon.[2]

Resolved, That this be referred to a committee of 5.

The members chosen, Mr. [Stephen] Hopkins, Mr. [Samuel] Huntington, Mr. [Robert Treat] Paine, Mr. [Lewis] Morris, and Mr. [William] Floyd.

Resolved, That the committee appointed to fit out armed vessels, be empowered to purchase and fit out a small vessel as a tender for the fleet fitted out.

The committee appointed, to devise ways and means for procuring powder from [New] Providence, brought in a report, with an account of a cargo provided for that purpose by Messrs. Willing and Morris, amounting to £1,212.9.0 Pensylvania currency = 3,233 2/10 Dollars; Whereupon,

Resolved, That the said committee be authorized to give such orders to the captain of the vessel, fitted out for the service as they may think proper.

That an order be drawn on the treasurers, in favour of Messrs. Willing and Morris, for the sum of 3,233 2/10 dollars in full for the cargo shipped on board the sloop *Lady Catherine* for the use of the Continent.

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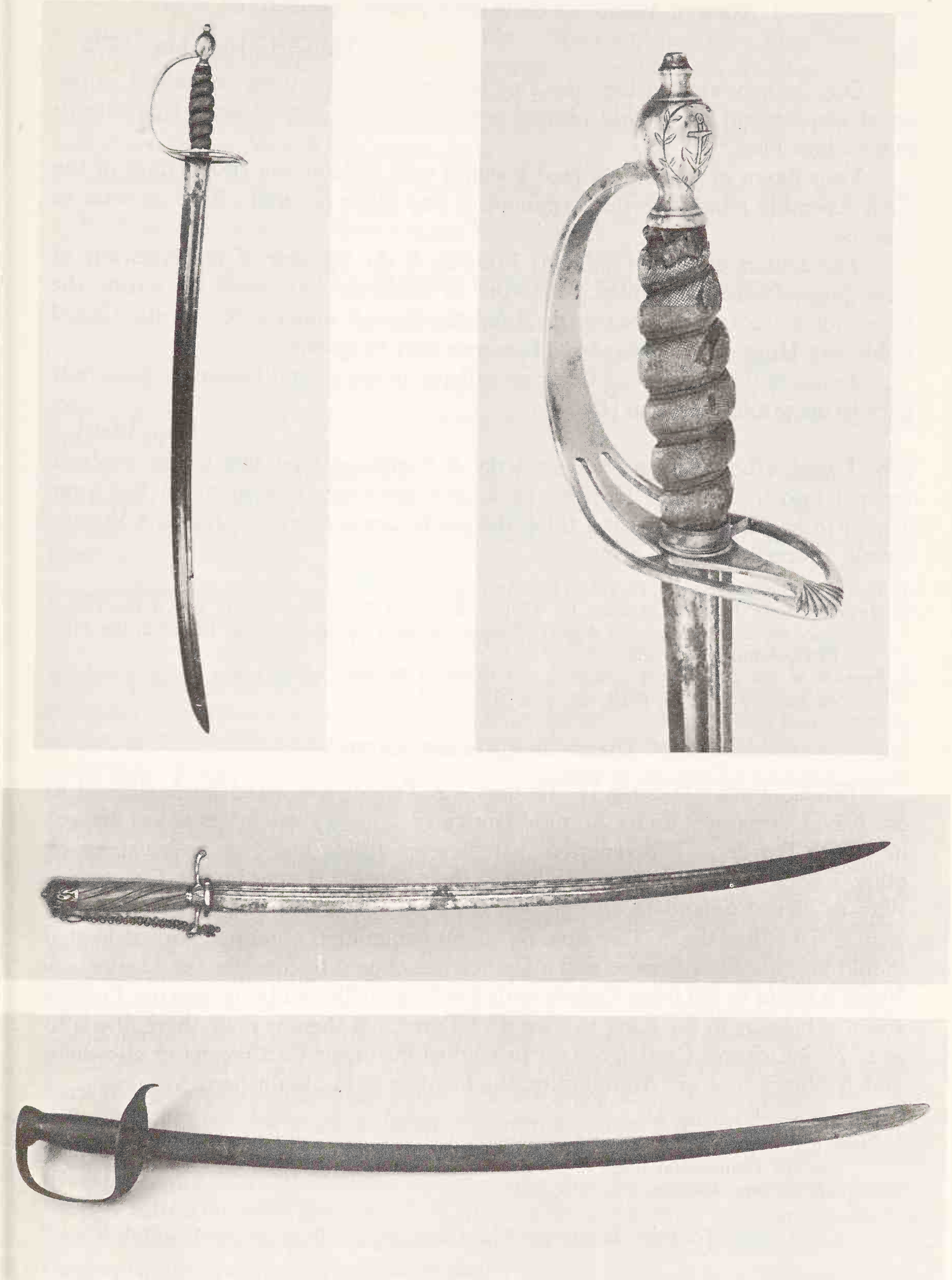
1. Ford, ed., *JCC,* IV, 57–67.
2. See Minutes of the South Carolina Council of Safety, December 31, 1775.



(Top to bottom) *British naval officer sword and hilt detail,* c. *1770–1785. American naval officer silver hilt sword,* c. *1765–1780. American cutlass with wooden grip,* c. *1770.*

SAMUEL WARD TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE [1]

Sir Philadela 16th Jany 1776

Our Seamen arrived here the Day before yesterday, those concerned in the naval Department are highly pleased with them ther Arrival gives fresh Spirits to the whole Fleet,[2]

Your Favor of the 4th we recd I would wish to have the Instructions of the Genl Assembly relative to the Regiment or any other colonial affairs as soon as may be

The Letters of Govr [William] Franklin & the Speaker of the Assembly of New Jerseys were intercepted, an Order of Congress was issued for seizing the latter but he escaped on Board the *Asia*,[3] the Govr is under a continental Guard in his own House until Order from Congress may be issued.

I enclose the Resolves of Congress ordered to the several Colonies time only permits me to add that I am [&c.]

Sam Ward

P.S. I recd a Letter from Messrs Clarke & Nightingale relative to the contract entered into by Admiral Hopkins as I have not time to write them beg your Honor to let them know that I think the public Service requires that the Voyage should proceed with all dispatch

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[1] Letters to the Governor, 1776, vol. 8, R.I. Arch.

[2] *Andrew Doria* Journal, January 17, 1776: "the sloop *Providence* & *Fly* Join'd the Fle[et] since we left Philadelphia & gott 40 Men for the Fleet from Rhode Island in the *Fly*," PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

[3] Speaker of the New Jersey Assembly was Cortland Skinner, whose arrest Congress ordered on January 9, 1776, Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 42.

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH [1]

[Philadelphia] Tuesday 16. January – A Tender was asked for & allowed to our Naval Armament under Admiral Hopkins [2] . . . a French Vessel just arrived here with Powder. it is reported that they are fitting out 4 or 5 Privateers or other Vessels of War in So: Carolina & their Agent [3] is now in this City on his Way to New England to engage 500 Seamen he is empowered to offer such high Terms that the S. Carolina Delegates acquainted Congress with it least it should prejudice our Service and a Comee was chosen to consider the Matter – A Vessel is about to sail from Philada with Produce for Bermudas to procure Powder and if it belongs to the King to seize it by Force, if there is none there She is to go to New Orleans, Carthagena, or to a noted Port near Carthagena or elsewhere and if She cannot get Ammunition the Captain is to obtain hard Money

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[1] Richard Smith's Diary, LC.

[2] Sloop *Fly*, which had arrived at Fort Island in Delaware River with 40 Rhode Island recruits for the Continental fleet.

[3] Captain Robert Cochran.

COLONEL JOSEPH REED TO MAJOR SAMUEL BLACHLEY WEBB [1]

[Extract] Philadelphia, Jany 16, 1776

Tell your worthy old General [2] that we give him credit for a Part of Manly's Success, as he brought him to us. Is it not very strange that he should monopolize all the Honour of the Sea. What is become of [William] Coit? I expected he would have disputed the Lauril with Manly. – We are fitting out a Fleet from this city of no inconsiderable Force & expect soon to send you an Account of some brilliant Stroke. Manly excepted, we have not shone in that Way as yet. – . . . We are getting Powder in small Quantities; but we imported 57 Tons of Salt Petre in our Vessels the other Day.

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1. Worthington C. Ford, comp. and ed., *Correspondence and Journals of Samuel Blachley Webb* (New York, 1893), I, 126–28.
2. Webb was aide-de-camp to Major General Israel Putnam.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

In Committee of Safety.

[Philadelphia] 16th Jan'y [1776.]

Robert Towers, Commissary, Reports . . . That he has deliver'd to Capt. [Nathaniel] Falconer, on acc't of Congress, 80 qr. Barrels, w't 2000 lbs [of gunpowder].

Resolved, That the powder Committee be empower'd to Continue their endeavours to import Power, & that they have power to assure the Value of the Vessells employed in this service, if they find it necessary, at the Risque of the Province.

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1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records,* X, 458–59.

DANIEL JOY TO SAMUEL HOWELL [1]

Sir: Agreeable to your request I have look'd at the Fireraffts, & turn'd my thoughts a little towards considering what combustable matter it will be necessary to charge them with. First, as to their shape it will do, But they should be raised upon three Loggs at least, and three or four pieces of Scantiling truniled across them, & the tight part of the rafft Trunil'd upon the Scantiling, & a few holes in it with canvass hose nail'd about them to vent the rain or other water that may get into them. The hose will prevent the water from flying up, which otherwise would – water, with the assistance of heat, will soon sepperat, (or in other words rott) – the only substance of the inflametery Matter they may be charged with, therefore, will become less inflametery, and the reason I shall offer for their being raised higher, is to have the gutters (which will be charged with a kinde of quick-match) high enough to prevent the splash of water from getting into them & the raffts, altho it will not prevent it from burning, will retard it, & perhaps make the raffts swim too Deep or cant on one side. The materials I shall propose charging them with must first be dipt in boil'd turpentine – first lay a tier of faggots supported here & there, with billots of wood to keep them from the bottom & give a free passage for the air, Then put Shingle shavings, Billots of wood & faggots alternatively, untill the Body of the Rafft is full; Then lay three false Gutters, (at equal intervals) large enough to receive with freedom them that are to be charged with quick-match. The Small gutters to be prepared in the following manner: Take several clear thrids of woostard or yarn, slack twisted together, & dip it in a compound of pounded gun-powder & salt-peter, well mixed up with Spirits of Turpentine, & then well Dryed, lay it the whole length of the gutter, over which put a wisp of

Tow, oakem or straw dipt in Spirits of Turpentine & Dryed, & tack it down with a few Nails to keep them both fast – put them by in a dry place for to be ready in a minuets warning. Now return to the rafft; after the false gutters are lay'd raise it with the same Meterials, as before, to the hight of the false gutters, over which extend along a wisp of Straw dipt in Turpentine, supported here and there with small sticks to keep it from Obstructing the passage of the small gutters, & yet to leave an easey passage for the fire to communicate itself to the Straw; Then lay several wisp of straw as before cross-ways, & some to be carred of through the Middle from the intersection of the others, in order that the whole may be on Fire by the time they get's alongside the Enemy; Then raise the remainder with ceder rails or dry sparrs nearly of the length of the rafft – first a tier one way, kept apart by here & there a faggot, Then a tier crossways in the same manner, & so alternatively untill high enough; Then the whole should be secured together by two Small chains from one corner to the opposite, laying them in the angle of the ceder rails aforesaid, crossing each other in the Middle on the top, under them at the place of crossing put the end of a small lever, & force it round untill they are very tight, then fasten it, by which means you will secure it from being pulled to pieces by the Enemy; Then place a few Pistol barrels or Blunderboss pointed towards that part you may Judge the Enemy will come with their boats to tow them off, and in the middle put Rocket casses charged with fire balls, old Blunderbuss, Musket & Pistol barrels charged with Serpent composition. They are to be placed at a small angle (from the perpendecular) inclining towards the Enemy, that when they take fire shall continue blowing of[f] the matter they are charged with, & the straw that will be over them amongst the Ships rigging & sails – over them raise a ridge of straw like a roof, on which scatter a quantity of powdered rosin – Next secure it from the weather by Thatching it with rye straw, & pay it well with Turpentine as above, after that is hardned give it a coat of hot tar, which will endure the weather better than Turpentine – when they are going to be used sprinkle them with Spirits of Turpentine, chain a number together, (two at least) the chain of sufficient length to admitt of the rafft of Each Side as fare as the fore chains of the Enemys Ship; They should be conducted apart the Ships Buoys by the Galleys, otherwise the Buoy will stop them. I think it will be highly necessary to have a few of the raffts, to be kept in some creek below the Chevee de Frizes, in order to sett them on the Enemy on the flood – Darby, Chester, or Racoon creek, will do.

N.B. The faggots being putt but thick & laing between the rails will prevent it's forceing to close, but give sufficient room for the fire to worke on the Meterials – A few wood flats or old Shalops, charged as above, to be made use of at a critical time by running them alongside the Enemy, would not be amiss. The channel of to be stopt in such a manner as to keep our Enemys out & let our Friends in, which cannot be done but by a Chain, Boom, or a Draw Bridge, at the Piers, and that to be well supported by a good Fort, the Chevee de Freezes, with which the other part of the channel is to be stopt, should be fastened together with chains or cables. Ships of War will pay very little regard to Forts unless there be something besides to stop them.

Every Fort that is built of Stone, the Stones oft to be laid in & out, not on an Edge, which only serves to make a long broad facing, unless they are broad enough to extend the whole thickness of the wall, for a few Shott will make such fine worke tumble down. And Battery, in the situation that our New Battery is, with a wall behind it, is bad, for some of the Shott that may be fired at it will act in a double capasity, by Projectile & rebounding forces, which last (rebounding from the wall) will do ten times the damage the former will. The best Battery for imediat service are those that are made of Tusicks, Sods, Clay or Earth, built brest high, & the guns mounted high enough to point any way over the Battlement – The carriages made broad at the bottom to keep them from over-setting, & long Trails & only two Trucks.

Above all things, I would recommend Beacons to be erected at the Distance of every 12 or 15 miles, all the way to the Capes, to be set on fire when the watch at the Cape is certain there is a Fleet bound up our Bay, then the next to light his, & so on untill it is observed here, that we may not be surprized, &c. The Beacons to be Tar bbls on Poles, & the watch at each to have a glass & be constantly looking (in the day time) to the Beacons next below him.

Solders, with long fire armes, will always be able to bear down them that are armed with short ones. I would propose that the defficiency in the length of our Musket barrels should be added to the Bayonetts, so as to be equal in length with those in the British armey, if not a little longer. Look back into History & you'll finde the New improvers in the art of War has allways had the advantage of their Enemys. I look upon it as no great difficulty to take the largest Ship in the British Navy, by having one of our Merchant Ships fill'd with Boards, Scantling, or any kinde of Lumber that will float, & to be raised with it on her Deck as high as the Ship of War's quarter Deck, with a battlement on one side of an easy assent, and another vessel whose fore parts should be raised with Lumber in the hold & on Deck for a battlement, & lashed alongside the other. This last vessel to be for Men armed with Hand-granados, (Smokeballs made small) hangers, Pistols, Lances & Battle-axes & Muskets, and a guard of Rifle-men to play into the ships tops while the other boards & get's Possession of the Quarter Deck. A considerable improvement may be added, which will be of Infinett advantage in the first onset (but will take up rather much room) which is a large Copper with Forceing Pumps fixt to it, (with or without an air vessel) the valves to be made of Brass, (with rule joints.) This Copper, placed in one of the vessels filled with water & continued boiling, Men appointed to play it (as they do a Fire Engin) upon the Man of War's Decks, which will soon oblige them to quit their Quarters – all parts of the Engin to be made of such meterials that boiling water will not desolve. Carriages may be made, on which 2, 3 or 4 small Guns may be mounted, to run down to the river or elsewhere.

I think an Engin may be made with Copper & Glass Windows, (Bulls Eys) in it properly Ballast'd, so as a man may convey him self (by the help of a compass & a Candle lighted, the first to direct him to his object, the other to let him know when he wants a supply of air,) under a Man of War's Bottom, & to take with him two or three other vessels, charged with 2 or 3 hundred wt of Gunpowder – These vessels to have machinery Locks that may be sett to any time, & on the upper part a pair of Jaws (to go by a spring) large enough to receive a Man of War's kill, & by forcing up the vessel untill the springe flys & the Jaws lay's hold of the

Kill, then to proceed with the other two unto two other Men of War, leveing one at each. Then to proceed on shore – when the first blowes up it will be looked upon as an accident, the second will cause doubts, and the third confusion.

If any of the above hints proves of any advantage to the Publick I shall not think my time spent in vain, & if at any time in future I can be of any service to you, I shall be happy in executing it. In the Intrem,

I remain with much esteem, Your [&c.]

Daniel Joy.

Philada, Janry the 16th, 1776.

1. Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives,* 1st series, IV, 698–701.

Pennsylvania Evening Post, TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 1776

Philadelphia, January 16.

A gentleman, who arrived yesterday from South-Carolina, informs that the ministerial fleet, with Lord William Campbell on board, unable to obtain water or any supplies whatever, had sailed, and it was supposed for Georgia. The women and children, who had left Charlestown, were returned to it. And some of the principal Tories having been secured, their deluded neighbours were convinced they had been grosly imposed upon, some of whom had given up their arms, and others joined the association. In short, that all trifling misunderstandings were cleared up, and the whole province was united in opposition to the arbitrary measures of Administration.

HERCULES COURTENAY TO CHARLES CARROLL, BARRISTER [1]

Sir. Your favour of 14th is now before me the contents of which I note. you may be assured that I want no other indulgence in loading the Brig *Friendship* then others are intittled to by Similar contracts and without vanity can say that I can execute such business on equal terms with any other in Baltimore, but I wish not to sacrifice a commission in giving advanced prices above my limits, as am pretty certain has been the case with some since my writing to you last, I wonder my application has been the first to raise the price as I have been told by several that the Convention was wrote to on same head, but when I wrote you first, the matter was only beginning & that with people who were buying on some private acct & note, or that of the Convention, which disabled those employed by them from executing their commissions as the County people & millers will always sell to those who give them most; Nay some flour that I had bought two days ago, was taken from my door & given to another private buyer, who gave 1 3/ pr Ct for it, under such circumstances, the market is at present; & unless some order is taken therein to put a stop to private buyers it appears that the public must be empeaded. I did inform the Committee that I had engaged between 4 & 500 Barrs which was the case, but bad weather has I must suppose stoped the wagons; I have about 170 Barrs flour on board & the bread is ready but that must go in last, I shall go on with loading as fast as flour comes in, & follow your directions. I thought I could not do less then advise you in my former letter how matters were going on here, which is still the case this week I think must bring much flour in. I am sir [&c.]

Balto 16 Jany 1776. Her^{s} Courtenay

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1. Correspondence of Council of Safety, Md. Arch.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA CONVENTION [1]

[Williamsburg] Tuesday, January 16, 1776.

Mr. [James] Mercer, from the committee to whom the petition of John Goodrich, for himself and partners, was referred, reported, that it appeared to the committee that the sloop *Dorothy* arrived in this colony from Antigua, and was taken by capt. [James] Barron on her way to Norfolk, and carried into Hampton; that it appeared to them, that the contract made with the commissary of stores, for the purchase of sundry goods, hath been complied with on behalf of the petitioners, and that there is now due to them 1098*l*. current money; and that they had come to the following resolution thereupon, which he read in his place, and afterwards delivered in at the clerk's table, where the same was again twice read, and agreed to:

Resolved, That the said sum of 1098*l*. ought to be retained until the money furnished the said John Goodrich by this colony for the purchase of gunpowder be fairly and fully accounted for; and that the said sloop *Dorothy* ought to be delivered to the owners.

A petition of John Goodrich was presented to the Convention, and read; setting forth, that Robert Shedden, of the town of Portsmouth, merchant, with his wife, the daughter of the petitioner, and their two young children, are now on board a sloop in the harbour of Norfolk; that although he had appeared inimical, by sending for goods contrary to the association, yet he had assisted the petitioner in the importation of gunpowder, for the use of this colony; and praying that he may be allowed to come on shore, and reside under the protection of this colony.

Ordered, That the said petition be referred to Mr. [Josiah] Parker, Mr. [Archibald] Cary, Mr. Thomas Lee, Mr. [Merriwether] Smith, Mr. David Mason, Mr. Thomas Walker, Mr. [Thomas] Whiting, Mr. Walter Jones, and Mr. [Thomas] Newton [Jr.]; and they are to report the same, together with their opinion thereupon to the Convention.

A petition of John Goodrich, and John Goodrich, jun. was presented to the Convention, and read; setting forth, that they had exposed themselves to great danger, had suffered many hardships and inconveniences, and had incurred considerable expense, in their endeavours to serve this colony, and praying that this Convention would take the same into consideration, and make them such reasonable compensation as shall be thought just.

Ordered, That the said petition be referred to [the same committee as above] and they are to report the same, together with their opinion thereupon, to the Convention.

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1. *Virginia Convention,* 98.

JOURNAL OF H. M. SLOOP *Kingsfisher*, CAPTAIN JAMES MONTAGU [1]

January 1776 At Single Anchor below The Distill House Elizbeth River

Tuesday 16 Arrived the Tender wth A Sloop wth Salt [2]
PM Weighed & Came to Sail at 4 Anchored Below the Distill House in 5 fm veered to ½ A Cable recd on Bd fresh Beef

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 51/506.

[2] The tender had gone out on a cruise on Friday, January 5. Her prize was the *Peace and Plenty*, —— Lightboy, master, from Philadelphia to Rappahannock, taken off the Capes of Virginia.

MINUTES OF THE NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA, COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

Tuesday the 16th Day of January AD 1776. –

Upon Motion of Mr John Greene Merchant, Ordered that he have Leave to ship to Philadelphia in the Sloop *Fanny* Nichols Hyman Master, a Quantity of Naval Stores, Deer Skins, Furr, Hemp and Indico, and any other Produce of this Country.

Whereas the General Congress at Philadelphia on the first Day of November 1775, Resolved that no Produce of the United Colonies be exported (except from Colony to Colony under the Direction of the Committees of Inspection and Observation, and except from one part to another of the same Colony) before the first Day of March next, without the Permission and Order of the Congress;

This Committee have thought it expedient and necessary that the several Commodities to be exported should be inspected agreable to Law, Do therefore Resolve that such Commodities as by the Inspection Law are required and directed to be inspected, shall be inspected at the several Ports of Exportation, within this District, and each Town and County Committee shall require an Inspectors Certificate for the Produce to be exported, where there are Inspectors appointed, from the Exporter thereof, before Permission is given to Vessels to depart.

Ordered that a Copy of this Resolve be sent to the several Committees in this District.

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[1] Secretary of State Papers (Committees of Safety 1774–1776), NCDAH.

MINUTES OF THE WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

Tuesday January 16th 1776

Resolved that no person whatever do presume to Apply to the Custom-house for Clearances, without first Obtaining leave from this or some other Committee for that purpose; and that this Resolve be made public, and a Copy delivered to the officers of the Customs.

Resolved that the resolution of this Committee passed the 6th Inst ordering the Custom house officers not to clear out Vessels without leave be rescinded. –

Cap: Alexander Maclean having gone down to the Ship *Cruizer* & been with the Governor Contrary to a Resolve of the Provincial Council and also an order of this Committee, –

Resolved therefore that he the Said Alexr Maclean be sent for to come before this Committee to answer such breach aforesaid and give Security for his good behavior – which he has Accordingly done himself, James Walker & Archd Maclaine in the Sum of five hundred pounds proclamation Money for Six Months if he continues in the Province so long –

Ordered, that permission be granted to Captain Butterfield to clear out his Schooner in Ballast only – Also to Capt Bachelder to clear his Brig out, he having nothing on Board but Ballast & necessary Sea Stores Cap: Bacheld[e]r also had leave to send a letter to the Governor desiring to know if his Vessel wd be prevented from going out of this River

[1] Secretary of State Papers (Committees of Safety 1774–1776), NCDAH.

Henry Laurens to John Laurens [1]

[Extract] [Charleston] 16th January 1776

. . . let me close this by a brief account of our present circumstances & prospects in Charles Town & perhaps you may wonder how there can be a tranquil Heart within our Walls. – on Thursday the 11th. appeared in the Offing two Ships & a one Masted Sloop – on Friday a pilot Boat & two Smaller Vessels from Fort Johnson were dispatched to reconnoitre – the Same Morning a ten Oared Barge Manned by a Lieutenant, a Coxswain & the Oarsmen all well armed & having a chest of Spare loaded Arms came into Rebellion Road, the Lieutenant boarded the Spanish Snow conversed with Mr Rilliet the only Man on board who could speak English – enquired the Strength of the Fort of the Town – where the *Tamar* & *Cherokee* were gone to, informed the Strength of the Ships without & Said they had Seven pilots, Should come over the Bar & proceed directly up to the Town – Mr Rilliet who is very Sensible & who very sincerely abhors tyranny, gave the Gentleman proper answers – the Barge then was returning to her Ship, Fort Johnson fired two Shot at her, not certainly knowing what She was, but in obedience to orders to bring all Strangers to. – in her way She first cut off one of the Boats which had been Sent from the Fort the Soldiers & people on board escaped by a Stratagem when the Barge came along side & the Lieutenant asked many questions relative to the Strength of the place, why those Shot had been fired at him. – boasted of this great force of the Ships in the offing, said one of them was of 50 Guns, which was to be lightned by the Sloop in order to get over the Bar, that before 10 oClock that Night he would make the Commander of the Fort Smart for his Insolence, would batter the Fort & Town about their Ears – that they had on board the Ships Seven pilots – the Serjeant & Master of our Boat answered generally they were only Fishermen & knew none of those things – the Officer then asked for a String of Fish, fortunately they had two, which they gave & complained of bad luck or they would give him more – he quitted these people & put off in pursuit of the Pilot Boat came up with, hailed & Fired upon her, the pilot Boat being Armed returned the Fire & many exchanges were made in which the Master of the Boat was wounded by a Splinter, & one of the Barge Men Seen to fall Supposed to be killed – the Barge went off & our Boats came into Harbour & reported.

Next Morning being Saturday, three Ships appeared at Anchor close in with the Bar, but no Sloop, their Boats were employed in Sounding the Channel & the best glasses & Eyes, determined their quality to be, a Frigate of 28 or 36 Guns & two Smaller Ships of War – & it was generally conjectured that the Sloop had been detached to Savanna in Search of the *Tamar* & *Cherokee* & for intelligence – the Lieutenant amidst all his unnecessary vaunting had betrayed Some regret for the absence of those Vessels which he said he had expected to have found in Rebellion Road – this day the Tide was remarkably low & wind not favourable – Sunday Morning those three Ships having weighed Anchor were Seen Stretching Southerly, the weather has been ever Since very rainy & dirty & we have heard nothing more concerning them – they are probably Standing off, till better weather & Spring tides Shall happen, the latter will begin tomorrow & according to the Wind, continue three to Six days – or possibly they may be gone to join the *Tamar* & *Cherokee* upon a conjecture that they are in Tybee sound – I dispatched a Messenger the 7th Inst to learn the certainty of their being there, who is not yet returned whence I am inclined to hope that they were not there the 14th – otherwise I should have been informed last Night –

On Sunday the 14th a General Alarm was Fired, Expresses Sent through the Country – hundreds of Men came in to the aid of Charles Town as Volunteers & Thousands are preparing to join them if needful – a Battery on Sullivant's Island, another at Haddrell's point, Fort Johnson, and adjacent & important Battery, all the old Forts & four new Batteries on the front of this Town & a Ship mounting twenty two 12 & 9 pounders are in readiness to make a defence – & Men appear to be animated – God only knows what will be the event – if the people are cool in Action a conquest will be very dearly purchased by the Shipping, & a Manly defence against British Ships of War will cost many a valuable Life & Limb on our part – Heads of families, Brothers, Sons, friends and good fellow Citizens – not the Canaille of Soldiery will fall – who can dry eyed reflect upon this picture! will you not wonder that there is a tranquil Heart within our Walls? & yet I believe there is. – but thro' the crevices I perceive day light, I must hasten to conclude or I may lose the opportunity for conveying my Letter; God grant this may be a happy Omen, that his light may break in upon & deliver us from the power of our Cruel Brethren; upon their minds & discover to them the fatal error into which they have been led by crafty & designing Men who for Selfish purposes brought on & continue to Support this barbarous persecution & who, at the hazard of all Curses, are willing to owe their greatness to their Country's Ruin – . . .

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1. Henry Laurens Letter Book, SCHS.

Minutes of the South Carolina Council of Safety [1]

In the Council of Safety,
[Charleston] Tuesday, Jan. 16th, 1776.

The Council being informed that a bark had come to anchor off the bar:

The following letter was written, and sent to Capt. Tufts, of the *Defence*, in Rebellion-Road.

In the Council of Safety,
Jan. 16th, 1776.

Sir – The Council of Safety being informed that a bark supposed to be unarmed, and nothing else, appears in the offing, you are directed, provided you think the act practicable, to bring her in; but, take care of approaching superior force, or being decoyed to such. If you want assistance, a few soldiers may be taken from the island – the commanding officer will order them on board, upon sight of this dispatch. I am sir [&c.]

Henry Laurens, President.

Capt. Simon Tufts.

In the Council of Safety,
Tuesday evening, Jan. 16th, 1776.

Mr. John Coram, jun., applied for a permit to Mr. Pharaoh to pilot the Spanish snow in the Road over the bar, and for himself to accompany the pilot.

Ordered, That a permit be granted accordingly – but it be recommended to the pilot to take especial care not to fall into the enemy's hands.

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1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society,* III, 185–87.

JOURNAL OF THE GEORGIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

At a Council of Safety at Mrs. Tondee's [Savannah], January 16th, 1776.

Capt. Wells presented to the Board an account against the public for moving a quantity of ammunition from Savannah to Ebenezer, and for removing Capt. McKenzie's ship from the Road of Cockspur to Savannah, and the expence attending the same amounting in the whole to £ 16, 10s 9d, which passed and was ordered to be paid.

At a special meeting of the Council of Safety
Jan. 16th, 1776, p.m.

Resolved, That the President issue orders to Joseph Rice, that he immediately go down to Capt. [John] Stirk, in the schooner on Provincial service, now on her way to Savannah, and that he take with him the Riflemen from Saint John's, and that when on board they act in obedience to the directions of Capt. Stirk.

Ordered, that Col. [Samuel] Elbert be made acquainted with the foregoing Resolution and that he be desired to send an officer with a detachment of men to keep a lookout at Causton's Bluff, and to give the earliest information to this Board, of any boats which may be sent from the men of war.

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1. Candler, comp., *Georgia Records,* I, 98–101.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Tamar,* CAPTAIN EDWARD THORNBROUGH [1]

January 1776 Tybey Light house NW 4 Leagues

[Friday] 12 AM very foggy, the *Elizabeth* Brig lost our Kedge Anchor & hauser at 8 AM weighd & made sail under double Reef Topsails.

at 9 fired 4 Swivel Guns P Signal & Tack'd at 11 Wore Ship & came to an Anchor with the best bowr in 7 fm water Veer'd to ⅓ of a Cable

First pt Calm & foggy Middle fresh breezes & Cloudy Latter little wind & foggy with thick drizling rain P M Veer'd to ½ a Cable

[Saturday] 13 A M the *Elizabeth* Brig drove out to Sea by a Southerly Current Little wind & Cloudy with drizling rain at 4 PM lost Sight of the *Polly* Schooner suppos'd to be drove to Sea by a Southerly Current at 5 Tybey Lighthouse NBW ¾ Wt 4 or 5 Leagues

[Sunday] 14 First & Middle pt Little wind & Cloudy with Latter Do with a thick fogg

[Monday] 15 At 2 AM Anchored here his Maj's Ships the *Syron, Raven* & *Raven*'s Prize [2] the *Polly* Joyned Company.

First & middle pt little wind and foggy with hard rain Latter mode & Cloudy with drizling rain

[Tuesday] 16 at 9 AM weigh'd & came to Sail in Co with the *Syron, Raven, Cherokee, Sandwich Packet, Polly* Schooner & *Raven*'s Prize at 10 Tybey Light house NWBW½W 6 or 7 Miles at Noon in Co as before

First pt mode & Cloudy middle & latter hard gales & Clear Empd working in over Tybey Barr ½ past 4 P M Anchor'd with the small Bowr in 4 fm water Veered to ½ a Cable the lighthouse S B W ½ a Mile in Co as before at 5 the *Raven* got a ground and made Signal of Distress, and we Sent our Boat to Assist them

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1. PRO, Admiralty 51/968.
2. The ship *Rittenhouse,* Ambrose Bartlett, master, Messrs. York and Potts, owners, from Philadelphia for Lisbon, in ballast and with £2000 hard money, taken December 28, 1775 off the coast of Virginia.

AFFIDAVIT OF JOSEPH FITCH, JAMAICA MERCHANT [1]

Jamaica ss—

Joseph Fitch of the Parish of Kingston Mercht being duly sworn maketh Oath and saith that being informed that Robert Sands late Master and commander of the Sloop called the *Cornelia* and Nathan Bull late Master and Commander of the Sloop called the *Dove* [2] were both forcibly detaind prisoners on Board his Majesties Ship the *Antelope* now in the Harbour of Portroyall and under the Command of Clarke Gayton Esqr and being applied to for the Purpose he this deponent on behalf of the said Robert Sands and Nathan Bull did between the Hours of Eleven and Twelve of the Clock of thirteenth Instant go to the said Admiral Clarke Gayton Esqr at the Admirals penn [3] in the Parish of Kingston and did then Demand from him whether the said Robert Sands and Nathan Bull were so detained on Board his Majesty's said Ship by him or by his directions or Command and by what Authority? and the said Admiral Clarke Gayton Esquire did then declare to him this deponent that the said Robert Sands and Nathan Bull were then prisoners in his Custody and so detained by him on Board the said Ship Called the *Antelope* and that he did so detain them in his Custody by virtue of his

Orders or Instructions or to that Effect: and this Deponent further saith that he did then for and on Behalf aforesaid demand from the said Admiral Clarke Gayton Esquire a true Copy of the warrant or order of Commitment and Detainer by virtue of which he (as he said) detained the said Robert Sands and Nathan Bull prisoners in his Custody as aforesaid, and this Deponent further saith that the said Admiral Clarke Gayton thereunto answered and positively refused and denied to this Deponent such true Coppy of such Warrant order and further this deponent saith not.

Jos: Fitch

Sworn before me this 16th Day of January 1776 } Edw^d Webley

Jany: 16th 1776

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1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240.
2. "Kingston (Jamaica) December 23. On Thursday afternoon the sloop *Dove,* Capt. Bull, belonging to Rhode-Island, was brought into Port-Royal harbour. This vessel had loaded at Cape Nichola Mole with French produce, and on her passage homeward was met by his Majesty's ship *Maidstone,* Allan Gardiner, Esq; commander, who seized her. We are informed that the *Maidstone* was then in chase of a brigantine and sloop, the latter laden with gunpowder, and came out of Cape Francois, which was yesterday sent in." *Pennsylvania Evening Post,* April 18, 1776.
3. Term used in West Indies meaning country house or plantation.

JOSEPH FITCH TO EDWARD WEBLEY [1]

Jamaica ss. To His Honor Edward Webley Esquire Chief Justice of his Majesty's Supreme Court of Judicature in the said Island

The Request of Joseph Fitch of the Town of Kingston Merchant on behalf of Robert Sands late Master and Commander of the Sloop called the *Cornelia* and Nathan Bull late Master and Commander of the Sloop called the *Dove* both now prisoners in the Custody of Admiral Clarke Gayton Esquire and so detained by him on board his Majesties Ship called the *Antelope* under his Command in the Harbour of Port Royal.

Humbly sheweth That the said Joseph Fitch on behalf of the said Robert Sands and Nathan Bull did between the Hours of Eleven and Twelve of the Clock in the forenoon of the thirteenth Instant apply personally unto the said Admiral Clarke Gayton Esquire at the Admirals penn in the parish of Kingston and demanded from him a Copy of the Warrant of Committment and Detainer of the said prisoners.

That the said Admiral Clarke Gayton did then acknowledge and declare that the said Robert Sands and Nathan Bull then were prisoners in his Custody and detained by him on Board the said Ship called the *Antelope* under his Command and that he did so detain them in his Custody by Virtue of his Orders or Instructions or to that Effect but positively refused to deliver to the said Joseph Fitch any Copy of such orders or Instructions or of any Warrant whereby he detained the said Robert Sands and Nathan Bull prisoners as aforesaid as by the Affidavit hereunto annexed more fully appears. –

The said Joseph Fitch on the Behalf of the said Robert Sands and Nathan Bull doth therefore humbly request of Your Honor to award and Grant his

Majesties Writ of Habeas Corpus upon the Statute of the Thirty first Year of King Charles the Second to be directed to the said Admiral Clarke Gayton Esquire returnable immediate before your Honor to have the Bodies of them the said Robert Sands and Nathan Bull before your Honor together with the Cause of their Caption and Detention to the End that Your Honor may examine the Legality thereof and do thereupon what to Justice and Right shall Appertain

Jos: Fitch

Made and delivered in the prese[n]ce of
E. Bowman
James Davis

[Endorsed] Let Writs of Habeas Corpus cum causa issue returnable before me immediate

Edwd Webley January 16, 1776.

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1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240.

EDWARD WEBLEY TO REAR ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON [1]

Jamaica ss George the Third by the Grace of God of Great Britain France and Ireland King and of Jamaica Lord Defender of the Faith &c. To Clarke Gayton Esquire Admiral and Commander in Chief of his Majesties Fleet on the Station of this Island of Jamaica Greeting.

We command you that the body of Nathan Bull Mariner now in Your Custody on board his Majesties Ship the *Antelope* (as it is said) under safe and Secure Conduct together with the Day and cause of his Caption and Detention by whatsoever Name or Names he may be therein named or called. You have before me immediately at my house situated in the Town of Saint Jago de la Vega then and there to do submitt to and receive all such Things as shall be considered of by me in this Particular and have then there this Writ hereof fail not at your peril Witness the Honorable Edward Webley Esquire Chief Judge of our Supreme Court of Judicature and Chief Justice of our said Island at Saint Jago de la Vega the sixteenth Day of January in the Sixteenth Year of our Reign.

William Singer Cl.Corona Edw^{d} Webley

1776 January 16th

per Statutum tricesimo primo Caroli secundi Regis –

Edw^{d} Webley January 16th 1776

Take Security for his not escaping himself in £200 his Security £200, And also One pound five shillings mile money and Expences of bringing up. EW^{e}

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1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240. Same order issued with respect to Robert Sands.

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17 Jan.

ROBERT HANSON HARRISON TO WILLIAM BARTLETT, BEVERLY [1]

Sir Cambridge Jany 17. 1776

I am to inform you by command of his Excelly that Archibald Templeton, James Crawfurd, Joseph Douglass, James Hamilton & John McIver, who belonged to the Ship *Concord* Capt Lawrie [James Lowrie],[2] have his Permission to go on board our Armed Vessells — You will please to Observe that his Excellency would not wish that too great a Number of them should be in one Vessel – For tho these men may be well disposed to serve us, It is only right to guard against Accidents – I am &c

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1. Washington Papers, LC.
2. The ship *Concord* was taken December 3, 1775, by Captain John Manley in the schooner *Lee* of Washington's fleet, Volume 2, 1245–47.

JAMES WARREN TO SAMUEL ADAMS [1]

[Extract] [Watertown] 17th [January, 1776].

we are now called on for more men to come in till the 1st of April, seven Regiments to consist of 728 each, Connecticut for four, N. Hampshire for two, in all thirteen, all which will but Compleat the Army to your Establishment. from which you may Judge of the present Situation of it. Two Prizes Carried in Yesterday to Newberry Port by a small Privateer, one a Ship from London with Coal and Porter, the other a Brigantine from Ireland with Provisions.[2]

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1. *Warren-Adams Letters,* II, 433. Continuation of January 14 letter.
2. The ship *Friends,* 200 tons burden, Archibald Bowie, master, and brig *Sukey,* 90 tons burden, Madett Engs, master.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES [1]

[Watertown] Wednesday, January 17, 1776.

The Committee appointed to report a Bill for establishing Fees for the Courts of Admiralty reported.

Read and considered, and *Ordered* to be brought in, in Form of a Resolve.

Afternoon.

The List of Fees for the Courts of Admiralty were again considered and recommitted to Col. [Joseph] Otis, Mr. [Dummer] Jewett, and Mr. [Daniel] Perry.

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1. Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch.

NORTHAMPTON COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO GEORGE WASHINGTON [1]

No Hampton 17th Janry 1776

May it please your Excellency

The Gentlemen of the [British] Navy who have been sent to this place by your Excellencys Order were permitted to go five Miles from No Hampton, The Towns of Hatfield & Hadley are within those Limits in the former of which Towns several Persons live who are considered as unfriendly to the Country, with which Persons those Gentlemen have already become intimate to the great Uneasiness of the People. – Complaints have been made to this Committee by the Inhabitants of both the Towns abovementioned of the ill Effects of the sd Indulgence, They supposeg it in our Power to lessen it. – We beg leave also to Inform your Excellency that divers Gentlemen who have been sent to this Town by the Council of this Colony & Governor Cooke of Rhode Island are confin'd to the Town. The distinction gives Uneasiness, We therefore respectfully submit it to Your Excellency whether it wou'd not be prudent to contract the Limits of those Who are allowed to go five Miles from No Hampton that thereby the same Indulgence be shewn to all. – We are Sir [&c.]

pr Order Seth Pomeroy { Chairman of the Comittee of Safety

1. Washington Papers, LC.

VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, H.M.S. *Roebuck* [1]

Whereas Intelligence is received that the Inhabitants of Pensylvania in open Rebellion against the King have been for some time past preparing a Number of Armed Craft, in the form of Floating Batteries for the purpose of annoying and attacking His Majesty's Ships that may be sent into that River, and that they have also prepared and Sunk in the Channel of the River, Machines for obstructing the Navigation, And the Earl of Suffolk having transmitted to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty the particulars of the aforesaid Intelligence; (Copies of which you will receive herewith) You are hereby required and directed, to do your utmost to destroy those Floating Batteries, and to Weight up or otherwise render useless the Machines sunk in the Channel of the said River, with a view to Obstruct the Navigation thereof.

Given under my hand on board His Majesty's Ship *Chatham* off Boston 17th January 1776.

M Shuldham

By Command of the Admiral E. Bragge

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

LETTER FROM A CAPTAIN OF AN ENGLISH TRANSPORT TO HIS OWNERS IN LONDON [1]

[Extract] Boston, January 17, 1776

I have the pleasure to acquaint you of my safe arrival here on the 1st instant, having had one continued storm of wind since my last letter to you, dated at sea, November 6th. The sea continually washed over us, and froze so excessively hard, that, had it not been for our masts, we might have been taken for an island of ice.

I was told that I might depend on meeting a good many cruisers at a distance from the land, who would conduct us safe into port; but I did not see ship or vessel for three weeks after I got over St. George's Bank, and my orders from the Admiralty forbade me to go into any port without first speaking with a King's ship, who was to conduct me into port, or inform me of a place of safety.

After being baffled about for three weeks, with only six men fit for duty, the rest being frost-bitten, or sick through fatigue (having, besides, had the misfortune to lose one, washed overboard,) I made for the land, and got, as I judged, from my reckoning, within three leagues of Boston light-house, when, it coming on to blow a gale of wind, and meeting neither cruiser nor pilot, I was forced out to sea again, and continued in a storm, at sea, eight days more. I got in with the land again, with the wind at north, and though thick, snowy weather, I stood in boldly, and made the light-house, and met one of the King's schooners, and asked for a pilot, but he could not spare one, as he was going on a cruise. Soon after, I got to an anchor in Nantasket Road, and found several King's ships, I believe ten sail, in all. To them I applied for a pilot; but they had none to spare, and were so weakly manned that they could give me no assistance. They told me there were many privateers out, well manned and armed, and that they were going to cruise for them; but if they meet with any bad weather, as I have done, they are so badly manned they will make no hand of it.

At last I got a pilot from Boston, who tells me that a ship with ordnance stores is taken by the Rebels, and that, likewise, several coal and porter ships are taken [2] which I find, now, to be likely, for there are only eight sail, of the forty, arrived yet, and they had no force to resist.

They have not begun to unload us yet. We have split several of our sails, and the rest are much the worse for wear. All our running rigging is bad; our ropes cracked like glass, and we broke our maintopmast backstay; and all our rigging is much damaged.

I can see the Rebels' camp very plain, whose colours, a little while ago, were entirely red; but, on the receipt of the King's speech, (which they burnt,) they have hoisted the Union Flag, which is here supposed to intimate the union of the Provinces.

About a week ago, the Rebels made an excursion into Charlestown, and burnt down some few houses that were left standing, and carried off a sergeant and four men prisoners; but, at present, all is quiet.

You had better, if any of your ships should come out, get higher freight, for the loss, in wear, is greater than I expected, and no supply can be had. If you send some naval stores, they will sell well. There are a great many privateers out, and more will be soon ready; but I suppose the ships, after this, will come with convoy.

I am, &c.

P.S. I brought but fourteen hogs alive; and another ship, that had one hundred and thirty sheep, brought in five, and all as thin as you could expect, and, as the sailors say, only fit for lanterns.

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1. Force, comp., *American Archives,* 4th, IV, 710–12.
2. Referring to the ordnance brig *Nancy,* and the ships *Concord* and *Jenny,* and brig *Little Hannah,* all taken by Captain John Manley, in the schooner *Lee,* between November 28 and December 8, 1775. See also Volume 2.

JOURNAL OF THE RHODE ISLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY [1]

Colony of Rhode Island, &c. In General Assembly.

It is Voted and Resolved That the Town Council of the Town of Newport be allowed to supply Capt. [James] Wallace so long as he shall remain peaceably within the Colony without commiting any Depredations upon the Islands or upon any of the Lands in the Colony weekly with Two Thousand Pounds weight of Beef and with Beer as usual under the Direction of the Commanding Officer of the Troops stationed on Rhode Island; that he appoint the Person to provide and deliver the said Provisions: and that no Member of either House or Assembly be appointed to deliver the same, or to go on board of either of the Ships of War under said Wallaces Command on any Occasion whatever.

And this Assembly considering the Situation and defenceless State of the Town of Newport do advise and strongly recommend it to the Inhabitants of said Town forthwith to remove to some Place of Safety all their Aged People, Women children and those who are unable to assist in Defence of the Place together with their valuable Effects:

And do further Vote and Resolve That the Sum of Two Hundred Pounds Lawful Money be paid out of the General Treasury to the Committee hereinafter appointed which shall be improved in removing such poor Persons in said Town as are incapable of removing themselves and for no other Use whatever: That Messrs John Collins, John Cooke, Thomas Freebody, George Irish and Daniel Holloway or the Major Part of them be and they are hereby appointed a Committee for that Purpose: That the said Committee be empowered to settle the Price of the Transportation of the Effects of the Inhabitants of the said Town to the Places where they shall be shipped and also the Price of Transportation over the Ferries: And that each of the said Committee be empowered to impress Teams, Horses and Cattle to remove such Effects at the Prices which shall be so affixed.

A true Copy Witness Henry Ward Secry
[Providence] January 17th 1776.

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1. Washington Papers, LC. Enclosed in Cooke to Washington, January 21, 1776.

JOURNAL OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO BUILD TWO CONTINENTAL FRIGATES IN RHODE ISLAND [1]

[Providence] Jany 17 1776

Meeting in being according to adjournment
sundry Matters were negotiated this evening for the forwarding the Business
Reckoning 21/LMy paid by Joseph Nightingale
Meeting adjourned to Fryday evening 6 o'clock.

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1. Journal R.I. Frigates, RIHS.

OWNERS' BOND OF SLOOP *Delight* [1]

Know all Men by these Presents That we Thomas Green[e] of Providence in the County of Providence & Colony of Rhode Island &c. Merchant and Leonard Jarvis of Dartmouth in the County of Bristol and Province of the Massachusetts Bay Merchant are held and firmly bound unto Joseph Clarke Esqr. General Treasurer of the Colony aforesaid in the Sum of Twelve Hundred Pounds Lawful Money to be paid to the said Joseph Clarke in his said Capacity or to his Successors in said Office for the Use of the said Colony, to which Payment well and truly to be made we bind Ourselves our Heirs Executors and Administrators firmly by these Presents. Sealed with our Seals. Dated the Seventeenth Day of January in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Six.

Whereas Joseph Rotch Master of the Sloop *Delight* burthen'd about Eighty Tons is bound by Permission of the Honble Nicholas Cooke Esqr. Governor of the said Colony on a Voyage with his said Sloop with her Cargo consisting of Two Thousand Bushells of Barley and one Hundred Barrels of Oil to Philadelphia in the Province of Pensylvania. Now the Condition of the above Obligation is such That if the said Joseph Rotch shall proceed with his said Sloop to Philadelphia and there land his said Cargo & take on board the Produce of the Country or other Articles under the Direction of the Committee of Inspection of the City Town or County where he shall lade and take in his said Cargo and also bring back proper Certificates both of Exports and Imports from them, and lodge the same in the Office of the Secretary of the said Colony within three Days after the Return of said Sloop, and further shall not proceed to any Port or Place not being within the United Colonies (the Danger of the Sea and Seizure by an Enemy always excepted) then this Obligation to be void or else to be and remain in full Force.

Sealed and Deliver'd in the Presence of

John G. Wanton William Mumford. Tho Greene

Leonard Jarvis

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1. Maritime Papers, Bonds, Masters of Vessels, R.I. Arch.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS [1]

[Philadelphia] Wednesday, January 17, 1776

A letter from Messrs. P[hilip] Livingston, [John] Alsop, and [Francis] Lewis, dated 15 January, informing that only 462 quarter casks of powder were imported,[2] being laid before Congress, was read.

Agreeable to the order of the day, the Congress resolved itself into a committee of the whole, to take into consideration the propriety of opening the ports after the 1 March next; and after some time, the president resumed the chair, and Mr. [Samuel] Ward reported, that the Committee had taken into consideration the matter to them referred, and had come to a resolution, which he read in his place, and delivered in.

The report of the committee being read,

Ordered, That the same lie on the table.

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed, to consider under what regulations and restrictions the trade of these Colonies ought to be carried on, after the 1st of March next.

The members chosen, Mr. [Benjamin] Harrison, Mr. [Robert] Morris, Mr. [Thomas] Lynch, Mr. [Samuel] Adams, and Mr. [Roger] Sherman.

Resolved, That a member be appointed on the committee to confer with Mr. [Bernard] Romans.

The member chosen, Mr. [Oliver] Wolcott.

A letter from General Schuyler, dated 13th January, enclosing copies of letters from Generals Wooster, Arnold, and others, were laid before Congress, and read, containing an account of an unsuccessful attempts made to gain possession of Quebec by storm, on the 31 of December, and the death of General Montgomery.

The committee to whom the matter of South Carolina, respecting the engaging seamen, was referred, brought in their report, which was read.

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1. Ford, ed., *JCC,* IV, 61–64.
2. *Ibid.,* the Secret Journal of the Continental Congress states that the powder "had arrived at Newport," but the reference is to the report of Livingston, Alsop and Lewis, of January 15, giving the total amount of powder in New York.

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH [1]

[Philadelphia] Wednesday 17 Jany 1776 In Grand Comee on the Propriety of opening Trade after 1 March next it was concluded to trade to the Foreign West Indian Islands & to open the Trade under certain regulations to be fixed by a Comee now chosen – While we were in the midst of this Business a Packet of Letters came from Gens [Philip] Schuyler, [David] Wooster and [Benedict] Arnold, Col. Donald Campbell and others with the unfortunate News that Gen. Montgomery had attempted before Day Break of the [31st] of Decr to storm Quebec but this gallant Soldier and amiable Man was killed with the first Fire, Brig. Arnold wounded in the Leg and carried off to a Hospital whereby the Command developed on Col. Campbell who retreated, not being able to make his Men advance – Major [John] MacPherson Aid du Camp to Mr Montgomery was killed with Capt [Jacob] Cheeseman and a few more and on the other Side of the City, Arnolds Detachment to the Number of between 3 & 400 Hundred including Major [John] Lamb and his Artillery had made a Lodgment in the Lower Town but was obliged to surrender after 3 Hours Resistance

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[1] Richard Smith's Diary, LC.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

In Committee of Safety.

[Philadelphia] – 17th Jan'y, 1776.

Upon Motion of Mr. Thomas Wharton, one of the Committee for Importing and procuring of Powder, Arms &c., for the use of this Province,

Resolved, That they, the said Committee, load the Brig *Dolphin,* Capt. [John] Prole, with the produce of these Colonies, for the purpose of procuring said articles from Foreign parts, and that the following Certificate be Issued, viz't:

"This is to Certifie, that Messrs. Rob't Morris & Thos. Wharton, jr., has permission to load the Brig't *Dolphin,* Capt. Prole, with the produce of these Colonies, the same being for account of this Province, agreeable to a Resolve of the Honorable the [Continental] Congress, dated 26th Oct'r, 1775."

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[1] *Pennsylvania Colonial Records,* X, 459.

Andrew Doria JOURNAL [1]

Friday January 17th At 9 A M Cast off from the Pierse, with a fresh Breeze at N W, & Run Down to Reedy Island, the[re] Being much Ice In the River was Oblidge to haul In to the Pierse and was there Detain'd by the Ice till the 11th of February Employ'd her[e] Wooding & Wartering the Sloop *Providence* & *Fly* Join'd the Fle[et] since we left Philadelphia & gott 40 Men for the Fleet from Rhode Island in the *Fly*.

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1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Liverpool*, CAPTAIN HENRY BELLEW [1]

Jany 1776 Off Norfolk in Virginia

Wednesday 17 the *Kingsfisher* Shifted her Birth lower down the River – the Long Boat being on Shore Watering the Crew were Attacked by a partey of the rebels who made the petty Officer and men prisoners.[2]

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 51/548.

[2] *Ibid.*, the cutter was sent ashore on January 19, and "brot off the Long Boat."

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

In the Council of Safety
[Charleston] Wednesday, Jan. 17th, 1776.

Mr. President laid before the council the following copy of a permit for piloting out the Spanish snow.

> Charles-Town, Jan. 17th, 1776.
>
> Sir – Mr. Pharaoh is to pilot the Spanish snow, now lying in Rebellion-Road over Charles-Town bar. You are also to attend that vessel, and to bring off the pilot, Mr. [John] Coram, and such other persons as belong to this town, and who go on board the snow with an intent to return. You will insist, before the snow gets under sail, upon the delivery of certain cloths the property of a young seaman whose name is Stone, and who accompanies Mr. Coram, which are said to be in the hands of Mrs. Morelli. If [Francisco] Morelli himself, or any inhabitant of this colony who has not been permitted to depart, or any negro, shall be found on board, you are to bring on shore such inhabitant or negro, and if the Spanish commander shall offer any violence or opposition, the pilot is to be taken from on board.
>
> By order of the Council of Safety.
> Henry Laurens, President.
>
> To Capt. [Thomas] Smith.

Ordered, That Mr. [Cornelius] Dewees do supply no more than four thousand palmetto logs, of the dimensions particularly specified in his agreement with this board on the 9th instant, for the works on Sullivan's Island

Ordered, That Col. [Charles Cotesworthy] Pinckney, Mr. [John] Rutledge, Doct. Oliphant, Mr. Arthur Middleton, Mr. Heyward, be a committee to confer with the field-officers of the army and commanders in the navy, to prepare a plan, for defence of this town, harbour, and adjacent parts.

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[1] *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society*, III, 187–89.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Raven,* CAPTAIN JOHN STANHOPE[1]

January 1776 At Anchor off Savannah Bar

Monday 15 A M at 3 made the signl to Anchor Came too with the Bt Br in 7½ ffm sandy ground Veered away to a Cable at 6 found riding here His Majestys Ships *Syren Tamer* and *Cherokee* an Armed Ship Swayed up T L Masts
First and middle mode wth heavy rains Latter Cloudy

Tuesday 16 A M at 7 hove short let the reefs out of the T S weighed and made Sail as did His Majtys Ships *Syren, Tamer* and *Cherokee,* together with the *Sandwich packet* & *Rittenhouse* working into Savanna River
First part mode breezes middle and Latter fresh gales and Clear Working as above at 4 the Ship in Stays took the Ground carried out an Anchor and made the signal for Assistance but could not heave her off

Wednesday 17 At Anchor in Savannah [River]
A M at 4 Hove off without receiving any Damage the Ship Sueing 6 ffeet Struck yards and Topmasts Came too wth the Bt Br in 3½ ffm Veered away to 1/3/d of a Cable the Light House Et Anchd here the above Ships
First part fresh gales middle and Latter mode and fair

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1. PRO, Admiralty 51/771.

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18 Jan.

BRIGADIER GENERAL BENEDICT ARNOLD TO CAPTAIN HECTOR MCNEILL[1]

Holland House [near Quebec] Jany 18, 1776

To Capt. Hector McNeill at Point aux Trembles.[2]
Dear Sir:

Your favour of the 17th Inst I duly received, I am heartily glad to hear your are recovering your health, and most obliged to you, for your kind officer of, Cash, which I accept with thanks, as we are really distressed for, that Article, you may depend on receiving it at any time you may have occasion for it – you will please to order in regard to Capt. Moran as you think best. I am greatly obliged to you for your Good Wishes, & Tender of services, I wish it was In your power to bestow happiness, &c, but the Guilty Conciences of those lukewarm wretches Joined to the frowns of their Country must be Sufficient to blast them unless they Are Callous – I hope soon to have the Pleasure seeing you here, and that we shall have the happiness of seeing the New Year End more propitious than the last, tho we have met a severe Check, I believe the last years ballance greatly in our favour. My best Wishes, & respects Wait on you, Mrs. McNeill & the Ladies. – I am very sincerely Dr Sir [&c.]

B. Arnold

P.S. You will please to send the money by any officer coming Down. B.A.

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1. Private Collection of the late Kenneth Roberts.
2. McNeill, at one time a shipmaster in the British navy, and long a merchant mariner, had been residing in Quebec until the advent of the American forces, when he removed to Point aux Trembles. A sketch of his life appears in *Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society,* LV, 46–54.

RECEIPT FOR ITEMS TAKEN FROM MIDSHIPMAN THOMAS SPRY'S BAGGAGE [1]

Machias January 18. 1776 –

Then received of Mr James Lyon Chairman of the Committee of safety three Rolls of paper, whereon are several plans, that were taken out from among Mr Thomas Sprys baggage, & two small paper books, containing directions for sailing into divers harbours. And a piece of parchment, or paper in a frame, containing signals [2] &c. all which I have received for the use of the United Colonies, as I am in their service –

A true Copy Ja^s Lyon

Aaron Willard

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1. Mass. Arch., vol. 197,400.
2. Spry was on board H.M. Schooner *Diligent,* which, while on survey duty, blundered into Machias harbor and was seized in August 1775.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER [1]

Copy

Cambridge January 18th 1776.

Dear Sir I received your Favour of the 13th Inst. with Its Inclosures and am heartily sorry and most sincerely condole with you upon the unhappy Fall of the brave and worthy Montgomery and those gallant Officers and Men who have experienced a like Fate. In the Death of this Gentleman, America has sustained a heavy Loss as he had approved himself a steady Friend to her Rights, and of Ability to render her the most essential Services. I am much concerned for the intrepid and enterprising [Benedict] Arnold and greatly fear that Consequences of the most alarming Nature will result from this well intended but unfortunate Attempt.

It would give me the greatest Happiness if I could be the happy Means of relieving our Fellow Citizens now in Canada and preventing the Ministerial Troops from exulting long and availing themselves of the Advantages arising from this Repulse – But it is not in my power – Since the Dissolution of the old Army, the progress in raising Recruits for the new has been so very slow & inconsiderable that five thousand Militia have been called in to the Defence of our Lines. – A great part of these are gone Home the Time they engaged for being expired, and the rest retained with the utmost Difficulty and persuasion, tho' their going away would render the holding of them precarious & hazardous in Case of an Attack – In short I have not a Man to spare.

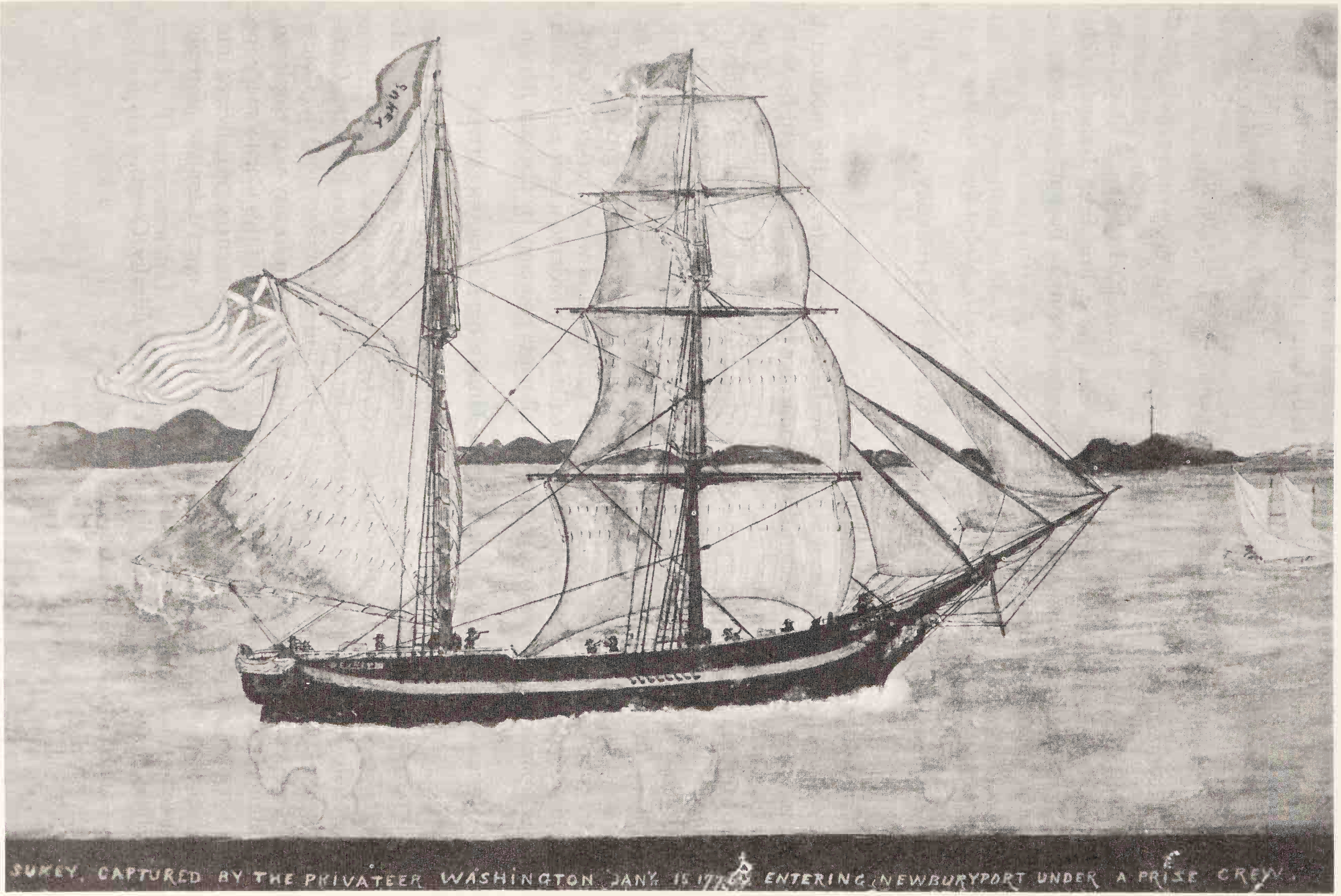
In order that proper Measures might be adopted I called a Council of General Officers and upon Mr John Adams & other Members of Influence, of the General Court, and laid before them your Letter and proposition – After due Consideration of their Importance, they determined that the province of Massachusetts and Colonies of Connecticut & New Hampshire should each immediately raise a Regiment to continue in Service for one Year and to March forthwith to Canada agreeable to the Rout proposed in your Letter to Congress. This Determination with a Copy of your Letter and the several Inclosures will be immediately transmitted to the different Governments, for raising those Regiments, which I have Reason to believe will be complyed with from the Assurances I have received from such of the Members of the Court as attended in Council and the General Officers promising to exert their utmost Interest and Influence in their respective Colonies. If these Regiments should not be raised so soon as I could wish yet I would willingly hope from the Accounts we have received that Col Arnold and his Corps will be joined by a Number of Men under Colo: [Seth] Warner and from Connecticut, who it is said marched off directly on their getting Intelligence of this Melancholy Affair – If this Account be true, I trust they will be in a Situation to oppose and prevent Mr [Guy] Carleton from regaining possession of what he has lost and that upon the arrival of the Reinforcement from these Colonies, which we have judged necessary to be sent the City of Quebec will be reduced to our possession – This ought to be effected before the Winter is entirely over otherwise it will be exceedingly difficult, if not impracticable, as the Enemy will undoubtedly place a strong Garrison there – Should this desireable Work be accomplished our Conquest in that Quarter will be compleat: But yet the Loss of General Montgomery will ever be remembered.

It gives me pleasure to find that you will continue in Service and afford your Assistance to relieve your Country from the Distresses which at present threaten her in the North.

I am much obliged by your sending the Clothing, but they are not yet arrived.

None of the Letters give an Account how this unfortunate affair ended – In Col. [Donald] Campbell's Letter of the 31st Ult the Division which Col: [Christopher] Green was in, he seems to think was in a very disagreeable Situation, and drawing it off at Night or throwing in a party to sustain it was an Object he had much in view – here his Information stops – In his Letter of the 2d Jany he says Nothing about it – Wishing for the best I hope they have not fallen a Sacrafice – But I dread further Intelligence in the Matter.

General [Israel] Putnam is of Opinion that it will be better for the Troops which may be raised in the Western parts of Connecticut to go by Albany than the Rout you have mentioned by Number four and that you must have pointed out this Way from a Supposition that the Reinforcement would be detached from this Army.


SUKEY
SUKEY. CAPTURED BY THE PRIVATEER WASHINGTON JANY. 15 1776 ENTERING NEWBURYPORT UNDER A PRISE CREW.

You will please to consider of what he has said and if you concur with him in Sentiments, inform Governor Trumbull of it by Letter that he may give the necessary Orders. I am Dear Sir [&c.]

G° Washington

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1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, I, 454–56, NA.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CAMBRIDGE, DATED JAN. 18, 1776"[1]

From Newbury-Port, we learn, That they have lately taken a Ship from London, laden with Coals, Porter and Cheese; and a Brig from Ireland, with Beef, Pork and Butter, designed for the ministerial Army in Boston,[2] and were in Chace of three more Ships in Ipswich Bay.

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1. *Connecticut Courant*, January 22, 1776.
2. The ship *Friends*, Archibald Bowie, master, and the brig *Sukey*, Madett Engs, master.

New England Chronicle, THURSDAY, JANUARY 11 TO THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 1776

Cambridge, January 18.

We hear from Newport, that Capt. Wallace, commander of the ministerial pirates, which have long infested that harbour, having received on board his ship, a number of Negroes who had absconded from the town, the Commander of the Colony troops thought of an expedient for giving him a check. Captain [William] Barton, with a party of men, was sent to Brenton's Point, from which Wallace usually took off the slaves; and having placed his men properly, ordered a Negro to hail the Pirate's ship, which the fellow complied with; he was answered from the ship, and asked what he wanted;—he replied, that he was a poor Negro belonging to Mr. John Collins, was tired of living with Yankees, and wanted to go on board the ship. Wallace swallowed the bate immediately; he ordered a boat ashore, with a midshipman and two seamen, who were all made prisoners by Captain Barton.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES[1]

[Watertown] Thursday, January 18, 1776.

On Information received from the Committee of Correspondence of St. Georges, respecting two Vessels held in Custody by said Committee:

Resolved, That the Vessels mentioned in said Information from the Committee of St. Georges, be held in Custody by the said Committee, until the Courts shall be opened for the Trial of Vessels, which have been in any way employed in aiding and assisting our Enemies (according to the Act of this Colony made for that Purpose) and that the said Vessels and their Appurtunences, be delivered into the Hands of the Captors, when said Courts shall be open'd for the aforesaid Purposes.

The House considered the Fee Bill for the Admiralty Courts.

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1. Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES [1]

[Boston, January] 18

His Majesty's Ship *Centurion* of 50 Guns, Captain [Richard] Brathwaite, now arrived from England with a War Complement of 350 Men. And the *Nautilus* went on a Cruize. Rear Admiral Shuldham wrote to the Admiral to desire Lieutt [Henry] Mowat (whose Ship, the *Canceaux,* had by a Survey been reported unserviceable) might be left in America, as being well acquainted with the Coast, But, as the Lieutenant was very desirous of returning to England, having many years Accounts to settle, and the detaining him longer in America would be much to his own Prejudice; and his knowledge of the Coast extended only from Boston Harbour Eastward to the River St Lawrence, and Mr Graves knew full well that the Operations of his Majs Forces must be far to the Southward to be of Real Service: He acquainted the Rear Admiral therewith, and continued his Orders for the *Canceaux* to sail for England in Company with the *Preston.*

[1] Graves's Conduct, II, 29, BM.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM [1]

Sir/ *Preston* Boston 18 Janry 1776

I transmit, with the disposition of his Majs Ships and Vessels under my Command stationed to the Southward of Boston, an order to take them under your Command and Copies of the general and particular Orders and Instructions their Commanders are now acting under, to the End that availing yourself of the Opportunity of the *Mercury* and *Falcon*'s sailing to the Southward to send such Directions as you shall think necessary at this Juncture, his Majesty's Service may receive as little injury as possible from the change which is soon to take place in the Commander in Chief. I am, Sir, &c

Sam^{l} Graves

[1] Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 118, BM.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEEE OF SAFETY [1]

[New York] Die Jovis, 10 HO. A M. January 18th, 1776

Francis Lewis, Esqr. came into the Committee and informed them that the shipwrights who were to be applied on the Continental account, had fixed on a place on the shore, a part of or adjoining to land of James Livingston, Esqr. whereon to go to work,[2] and that Mr. Livingston said he had not any objection to their using that place, but requested an order of the Provincial Congress, or Committee of Safety, for that purpose.

The Committee conceive they are not authorized for that purpose, but at Mr. Lewis' request, who urged it as necessary, they conceived they might recommend. Thereupon a draft of a letter to Mr. Livingston was read and approved of, and is in the words following, to wit:

In Committee of Safety, New-York,
18th Jany. 1776.

Sir –

We have been applied to by proper authority to obtain for certain ship builders employed by order of the Continental Congress, a convenient spot on your shore for public service.

We are also informed that you make some difficulties about complying with the request made to you by the ship builders. Though neither the Continental or Provincial Congress would chose to posess themselves of any man's property against his will, yet you will readily see that your refusal to comply with the request above mentioned will render you obnoxious to all the friends of liberty.

It is therefore recommended to you by this Committee to permit the ship builders to occupy the spot they have applied for, and we engage to make you a proper compensation for the same.

We are sir [&c.]

Jas. Livingston, Esqr.

Ordered, That a copy thereof be engrossed, and signed by the Chairman, and transmitted.

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1. *New York Provincial Congress,* I, 254–55.
2. Site selected for building the two Continental frigates was in the vicinity of Poughkeepsie.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS [1]

[Philadelphia] Thursday, January 18, 1776

A letter from the committee of Frederic town, Maryland, enclosing sundry intercepted letters of [Dr. John] Connolly, taken on Dr. John Smith, one of Connolly's associates, and brought by the guard who had the charge of bringing down said Smith, was laid before Congress and read:

Resolved, That it be recommended to the committee of safety of Pennsylvania, to take the examination of Dr. Smith, and then commit him to safe and close confinement.

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to take into consideration the letter of General Schuyler of the 13th of January, and the enclosures, and report to Congress.

The members chosen, Mr. [Thomas] Lynch, Mr. [George] Wythe, Mr. [Roger] Sherman, Mr. [Samuel] Ward, and Mr. S[amuel] Adams.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC,* IV, 65.

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH [1]

[Philadelphia] Thursday 18 Jany Dr [John] Smith an Associate to Connolley [Dr. John Connolly] was brought in Prisoner from Maryland, some of Connolleys Letters written since his Confinement were found on Smith & read & the Prisoner consigned to the Comee of Safety here – the Letters recd Yesterday concerng the Storm of Quebec were again read and Mr [Edward] Antill, Son of the late Hon. Mr Antill of N Jersey, who brought the Packet, was called in &

examined for 2 Hours, he gave a very clear Account of every Circumstance, he was with Gen. Montgy when he fell . . . Our Troops have made a Stand about 3 Miles from that City,

1. Richard Smith's Diary, LC.

CONTINENTAL NAVAL COMMITTEE TO COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS [1]

Sir – Philadelphia January 18. 1776

As this perhaps may be the last opportunity we may have to write to you before you go to sea, we thought it necessary to give you every intelligence that is come to our knowledge – We shall first give you the disagreable intelligence brought hither by an Express from Quebec of an unsuccessful attack that was made to storm that city on the 31st of December in the morning in which General [Richard] Montgomery, his Aid de Camp Capt [John] Macpherson, and Capt [Jacob] Cheesman, both by his side were all shott instantly dead by the Grapeshott of one Cannon – upon which his party rather deserted their duty – Coll Arnold who conducted a different attack proceeded awhile successfully but upon his receiving a wound and falling after he had entered the city – altho the Party were afterward commanded and behaved with great bravery, by the other attack failing were overpowered and surrounded by numbers and after a most gallant defence of four hours were obliged to surrender themselves prisoners of war, and we hear are very kindly used by General Charlton – This is the substance of what we have heard from thence – we have just received a report from New York, that three Men of War and eighteen transports had sailed from Boston, to what place not known, but supposed to be for New Port, New York or Virginia – Thus much of the report is certain, that the *Asia* and *Phoenix* are laying in the East river in New York and that the *Viper* is laying at Sandy hook – [2]

From Virginia we have heard nothing material but what you are well acquainted with – From the Carolinas, we are informed that Lord William Campbell with the *Tamar* Sloop and *Cherokee* Cutter had departed from Charles Town road – That Govr [Josiah] Martin in the *Scorpion* Sloop of war had also departed from Cape Fear – It is supposed that both these are gone to savanna in Georgia, in order to seduce that Province, if it is in their power, from the Union of the Colonies, and to get provisions if they can, to subsist on – Should it be your fate to go Southward as far as Savanna it is very probable you may have three Governors to dine with you on board your own ship – and increase your Naval Strength by the *Tamar, Scorpion* & *Cherokee*

The Congress have determined to erect a splendid Monument to the Memory of the Gallant Montgomery and to every other commanding officer bravely fighting and falling in his countrys cause – We wish you a successful Cruize and are [&c].

Step Hopkins Joseph Hewes Silas Deane

[1] Hopkins Papers, RIHS.

[2] This information, gleaned from the letter of the New York Delegates of January 15, 1776, was incorrect concerning H.M.S. *Viper,* which had been driven off shore in December and forced to turn south to Antigua.

Bill for Chandlery Supplied the Continental Fleet[1]

Jany 18th 1776 The Hon'ble Continentall Congress Dr

To Ship *Alfred* for	amot of her bill	£1031..4.10
" Brig *Andw Doria*	Do	171..4..7½
" Ship *Collumbus*	Do	161.18..2
" Sloop *Fly* Capt Morrow	Do	25.14..2½
" S Chandy for Sunds for Brig *Cabot* p Book pg 26[2]		44..4.11½
" S Chandry for Sloop *Providence* pg 264		37..0..2½
" S Chandy for Sunds Sent to Baltimore 263[2]		9..0..5
		£1480..7..6

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1. James Wharton's Day Book, HSP. The details of the chandlery summarized in the above bill will be found in Appendix D.
2. Sent to Baltimore for the sloop *Hornet* and schooner *Wasp*.

Minutes of the Pennsylvania Committee of Safety[1]

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a, 18th Jan'ry, 1776.

Doct'r John Smith being brought to this City by Capt. Shryock as a person inimical to the liberties of America, was by order of the Board, committed to prison, agreeable to the following Commitment, viz't.:

> Whereas, Doct'r Jno. Smith stands charg'd before this Board with practices inimical to the Liberties of America, these are to authorize and require you to receive into your custody the said Doct'r John Smith, and him safely and closely keep confined, without admitting any person to speak with, or have access to him, unless by special order from the Honorable the Continental Congress, or this Board, and without Pen, Ink, & Paper, until he is discharged by the said Congress or the Committee, and hereof you are not to fail, at your peril.
>
> By order of the Committee,
>
> Sign'd Jno. Nixon, Chair'n.

To the Keeper of the Gaol of the City & County of Philad'a.

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1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records,* X, 460, 461.

Pennsylvania Evening Post, Thursday, January 18, 1776

Philadelphia, January 18.

On Sunday last [January 14] Col. [Moses] Kirkland was brought to town from Cambridge, under a guard, and on Monday was committed to jail. This man was a ringleader of a gang of Tories in the back parts of South-Carolina; from thence he went to the Virginia Negro Chief,[1] who sent him to General Howe at Boston, in a tender, which was taken by Captain Manly, in the *Lee* privateer.[2] In the same tender was taken Mr. [William] Robinson and Captain [Thomas] Matthews of Virginia, whom Dunmore was sending prisoners to Boston, under the guard of the above colonel. These gentlemen arrived in town also on Sunday night, having in their turn had the pleasure of escorting Colonel Kirkland.

The *Tamer* (on board of which is Lord William Campbell, late Governor of South-Carolina) having taken a sloop from Bermuda, with two hundred and sixty half Johannes, the property of a house in Charlestown,[3] the Convention granted the injured an order to sell as much of his Lordship's goods and chattels as would repay the money stolen from them; on which they sold his coach, horses, &c. and have wrote him word that they have a balance of thirty pounds, which they are ready to pay him to order.[4]

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1. Lord Dunmore.
2. The sloop *Betsey,* taken December 17.
3. The sloop *Thomas and Stafford,* Solmon Gibbs master.
4. See Minutes of the South Carolina Council of Safety, December 10 and 12, 1775.

WATCH LIST FOR CONTINENTAL SCHOONER *Wasp* [1]

[Baltimore Jany 18th, 1776]

Starboard Watch

William Hallock Capn
Elijah Bowen [2d.Lieut.]
James Willson [Master's Mate]
John Webster [Boatswain]
John Killen E.R.
Edmund Tillson
John Thompson [Sgt.Marines]
Risdon Robinson
John Burk
John Wisenthall [Surgeon]
Samuel Williams
John DarCarrow
[James Ratlief] [2]
Nicholass Caldwell
Ezekial Vangilder
Henry Young
Matthew Brannon
Barney Gaff
Aron [*sic* Oliver?] Quigly
Philip Heanes
Olliver Molds
James Crawford
Thomas Heany
John Davis
Arthur Carty
Jesse Crossman

Larboard Watch

Isaack Buck [1st.Lieut.]
William Huddle [Lieut.Marines]
Joseph Veasey [Master's Mate]
Benjamin Roberts [Master]
Charles Gough
Joseph Evitts
John Prior
John Davidson
Thomas Lyne
Abraham Sing [Marine]
Mathias Grimes
John Williams
John Stewart
James Anslow [Marine]
Thomas Bivins
William Arthurs
John Munalay
John Howell [Marine]
Hopkins Driver
Christopher Dugan
John Luton
John Powell
Samuel Fry No 23 –

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1. Log Book of the *Wasp,* PRO, High Court of Admiralty, 30/733, No. 10. Upon the cover is the date "Jany 18th 1776," which can be assumed as the date the crew was mustered and assigned to watches.
2. On the Watch List the name is erased, but it can be supplied from a log entry indicating that Ratlief had deserted while at New Providence in March, 1776.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA CONVENTION [1]

[Williamsburg] Thursday, January 18, 1776.

Mr. [Josiah] Parker, from the committee to whom the petition of John Goodrich was referred, reported, that they had, according to order, had the same under their consideration, and had come to the following resolution thereupon; which he read in his place, and afterwards delivered in at the clerk's table, where the same was again twice read, and agreed to.

Resolved, That Robert Shedden and family, mentioned in the said petition, are sufficiently provided for by a declaration of this Convention, and the repeated promises of Colonels [Robert] Howe and [William] Woodford, wherein they offered every friendly office which humanity could dictate, to the unhappy women and children on board the fleet under the command of Lord Dunmore.

[1] *Virginia Convention,* 100.

MINUTES OF THE NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA, COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

Thursday the 18th January 1776. –

Whereas we have received Information by a Letter from the Chairman of the Committee of the Town of New Bern that in Consequence of Intelligence they had received from the Committee of Safety for the District of Edenton, the Property of Mr [Thomas] McKnight wherever to be found was to be seized; and Whereas the Committee of the Town aforesaid, made Seizure of a Ship the Property of the said McKnight and others at the Barr, being laden and bound to Sea contrary to the Resolutions of the Continental Congress, and caused her to be brought to New Bern, and further that some of the Effects on Board said Ship had been destroyed, on Motion –

Resolved that it be recommended to the Committee of said Town of New Bern, and we do hereby recommend it accordingly, that they dismantle the Ship *Belville,* Store the Materials, have her moored at a wharf, take the Ammunition on Board into the Magazine at New Bern, discharge Capt Vaunce and his Men, and Order the Commanding Officer of the Continental Troops stationed at New Bern to mount Guard on Board said Shp and see that she does not depart untill Permission is obtained from the Congress or Council of Safety; and that Capt Scadlock have Liberty to keep Possession of the Cabbin of said Ship, unt[il] further Proceedings had thereon by the Provincial Congress or Council of Safety. –

[1] Secretary of State Papers (Committees of Safety 1774–1776), NCDAH.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

In the Council of Safety,
[Charleston] Thursday, Jan. 18th, 1776.

Upon an information, that Mr. Morelli and five slaves belonging to some of the inhabitants are concealed on board the Spanish snow in the Road the following order was issued to Capt Tufts, commander of the Colony scooner *Defence*:

In the Council of Safety,
Jan. 18th, 1776.

Sir – Besides repeated applications for leave to search the Spanish snow for the negroes which gave rise to strong suspicions, we have now received such information as appears to us to be well grounded that Morelli and at least five negroes are actually on board.

We therefore desire and order you to go on board the snow and demand Morelli, and all the negroes which are concealed in her: we have no doubt but that there are some, and declare in plain terms to the commander of that vessel, that unless the said Morelli and all the negroes are immediately delivered up to you, and also all the effects of Mr. Rilliet, the snow shall be brought up to Charles-Town. You will immediately inform this board of the event of our application, and we will give such further orders as shall appear necessary.

By order of the Council of Safety.
Henry Laurens, President.

Capt. Tufts.

Upon application of the Hon. Capt. [William Henry] Drayton.

Ordered, That all the seamen inlisted in Georgia, for the naval service of this colony, be shipped on board the colony ship *Prosper.*

On motion,

Resolved, That four 12-pounders be removed from the lines on Charles-Town neck to the battery at Haddrell's Point; and that the 18 pounders now at that battery be removed to the battery on Sullivan's Island.

Resolved, That the surface of the wall on the land-side of Fort Johnson be made smooth, and a draw bridge erected there; and that two 6-pounders be carried down to the said fort to be mounted on the land side.

Resolved, That the creek at the back of Fort Johnson be stopped up, so as effectually to prevent boats coming up to the said creek.

Resolved, That proper boats to contain about fifty men each be provided, to be stationed in the cove near Sullivan's Island – near the battery at Haddrell's Point – at Fort Johnson – and at some wharf in Charles-Town, for conveying orders or intelligence and transporting troops.

In the Council of Safety,
Thursday evening, Jan. 18th, 1776.

Mr. President also reported, that Capt. Tufts, having, agreeable to the order of this board, searched the Spanish snow in the Road, he had brought up and delivered to the militia guard, Francisco Morelli, and the following negro slaves, viz: Daniel and Richard belonging to Mr. Justice Cosslett, Jack belonging to Mr. Brewton's Estate, Polydore belonging to Mr. Donoven, and Sambo belonging to Mr. John Gaillard, whom he found very artfully concealed on board the said Spanish vessel.

Ordered, That the five negroes taken out of the Spanish snow be brought before this board immediately.

Being brought accordingly, they were separately examined, and each declared, that he had been seduced from his owner – secreted on board the said vessel – promised £100 a month wages, good usage, clothing and living – and on their arrival in Spain, freedom – by Francisco Morelli – who had been concealed with them, a whole week, in the same part of the vessel.

Francisco Morelli was then also ordered to be brought before the board, for examination: in the course of which, he acknowledged, that he knew all the negroes, that he had conversed with them, and that they were secreted with him on board the Spanish snow: but he pretended, their saying they would rather die than return to their owners, was the reason that he did not advise the Spanish captain to restore, or give notice where they were to the proper persons.

Ordered, That Mr. President do issue his warrant for the immediate commitment of said Morelli to Charles-Town jail.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society,* III, 189–94.

INFORMATION TO THE TOWN OF SAVANNAH FROM GOVERNOR SIR JAMES WRIGHT [1]

[Savannah] Thursday night, 10 o'clock, January 18, 1776.

The Governour sent for Doctor Jones and Joseph Clay, and acquainted them that he had sent for them as the only remaining Representatives of the town of Savannah, and acquainted them that the following men-of-war, with the packet and one or two other vessels, were arrived at Cockspur, viz: the *Syren,* of 28 guns; the *Tamar,* of 18 or 20 guns; the *Raven* of 18 guns; the *Cherokee,* of 16 guns.

That he was very certain their orders were to treat any of the Colonies who were in arms, had raised fortifications, seized any of the Crown officers, or King's stores, as in a state of rebellion, and would, if in their power, destroy their towns and property, wherever they would come at them; and, he apprehended, they would look on us as in that state, and, as far as in their power, treat us accordingly.

That the *Raven,* man-of-war, was stationed here. That they were all in want of provisions, particularly the *Tamar,* the *Cherokee,* and the packet,[2] which vessels, as well as the *Syren,* he believed, would depart the Province as soon as they were supplied with provisions. That if he, the Governour, could be assured from the inhabitants of the town that they would supply them with provisions, and permit their boats to come to town unmolested, and purchase such provisions as they can get, that he would go down on board these ships and endeavor to settle every thing with the officers in such a manner as to prevent their doing any injury to this town, or the inhabitants of the Province, or their property.

That if they could not be supplied with provisions, they certainly would take it by force, where they can find it, and will, if in their power, attack this town and destroy it, which, as several of the vessels were of an easy draft of water, he presumed they could get up to town and effect.

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[1] Force, comp., *American Archives,* 4th, IV, 799. Sir James Wright was Royal Governor of Georgia.

[2] The *Sandwich Packet.*

JOURNAL OF THE GEORGIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

At a special meeting of the Council of Safety [Savannah] Jan. 18th, 1776, p.m.

Resolved, That the persons of his Excellency, Sir James Wright, Baronet, and of John Mulryne, Josiah Tattnall and Anthony Stokes, Esqrs., be forthwith arrested and secured and that all non-associates be forthwith disarmed, except those, who will give their parole, assuring that they will not aid, assist or comfort any of the persons on board his Majesty's ships of war, or take up arms against America in the present unhappy dispute.

Resolved, That the commanding officer do secure the Governor and Council till further orders from this Board

At a special meeting of the Council of Safety, Jan. 18th, at 11 o'clock at night, 1776.

Resolved, That the Members of his Majesty's Council be permitted to go to their respective homes upon their parole assuring that they will attend his Excellency the Governor's house, at nine-o'clock to-morrow morning and there consider themselves as in their present condition, and upon his Excellency the Governor, giving assurance to Major [Joseph] Habersham, that the peace of the town shall not be disturbed by any persons from the ships of war.

Ordered, that Mr. [Basil] Cooper [Cowper] and Dr. [Noble Wimbleton] Jones attend Major Habersham to his Excellency the Governor, with the foregoing resolution.

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[1] Candler, comp., *Georgia Records,* I, 101–03.

WILLIAM PANTON TO GOVERNOR PATRICK TONYN [1]

Copy of a Letter from Mr Panton

Sir

Frederica 18th January 1776.

Sickness and unavoidable Accidents has prevented my sending my Sloop to Florida untill now, and I have known of but one opportunity to St Augustine since my arrival in Georgia, and it too late, for me to testify the high Sense I have of the favour You conferred upon me by the loan of the Gun Powder. With it I am enabled to begin my Trade with the Indians, without it I must have dropt a Trade in the bud which I hoped in a little time to have rendered Advantageous to the Province and myself. Much about this time I expected to have been enabled to return to your Excellency the Quantity of Gun Powder you favour'd me with from two Sources the first, was, I expected to have received from England upwards of three thousand weight which I ordered to be shiped last June, the other was an Information I received when in Florida, that the people who took the Indian Traders powder, and 2000 lb. of mine amongst the rest, had agreed to return a certain Quantity to them [*sic* me] for the use of the Indians, and it is in the greatest distress that I acquaint your Excellency of my disappointment in both these.

I am informed by Letters from my Partner (Mr Forbes in England) that just as my Powder and Indian Goods were ready to be shiped, Orders were issued for the total prohibition of Ammunition and Guns to any part of North America or the West Indias, and even Vessels who had on hand a small quantity of Powder and Arms for a trading Voyage to Africa were ordered to reland them, for fear any part of them should find its way to the Rebels in America. And the Council of Safety in Georgia as they stile themselves have left me out, the only Trader they have forgot, in the division of Powder which they have returned to the Traders. Upon my complaining of this partiality, they replied "That as I was known to be disaffected to their Cause, and supposed to be under your Influence, they thought it inconsistent with the Safety of the Province that I should be supplied." Thus am I prevented from returning the Quantity of Powder You were pleased to lend me, and obliged again to trouble Your Excellency by imploring your Interposition in my behalf or I shall be under the necessity of relinquishing a Trade which I have so warmly at heart—The other Traders who have all signed the Association are and will be supplied by the Provincials who are sending out Smuggling Vessels to purchase Ammunition and they have declared that they will dispose of to such Traders as have adopted their Measures the Necessary Quantity for the Indian Trade – I alone am excluded because I never shall adopt a Measure of Sentiment I do not approve of, – I wish you Sir, and the Superintendent would state my case to the Minister it surely cannot be the Intention of Government to distress its Friends. – It would be madness in me to bring Goods into the Indian Country without some Means can be devised to supply them with Ammunition as by that Article alone they are enabled to pay for them & I leave it to Your Excellencys knowledge of the Indians to point out the Influence that Trade maintains over them. If You and Mr [John] Stuart are pleased to represent my Case to the Earl of Dartmouth I shall have great hopes that my Correspondents Greenwood & Higginson of London will have leave to ship me about 3500 lb. Gun Powder with a proportional Quantity of Bullets and Flints with 200 Indian trading Guns to be lodged in the Magazine in St Augustine and disposed of under your Excellencys inspection—By doing this you will confer a favour upon me which it shall be my study to deserve. I have the honor to be &ca

(Signed) W^{m} Panton

[Endorsed] In Govr Tonyn's (No 38) of 16th Feby 1776.

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1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/556, 283–86.

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19 Jan.

James Lyon to James Otis [1]

Sir, Machias, Jan. 19. 1776

I think it my Duty to remind you, as you have doubtly been informed of what we have [done that w]e generously, perhaps too generously, gave the officers taken in the Schooner *Diligent,* all their pr[ivate pr]operty, & among other things all the plans of this Continent, in their possession, which oversight we greatly regret & for which we can make no apology but our distress & confusion at that time, which would not admit of our attending to this matter as its vast importance required. Lieut [John] Knights goods are all sent away [2] Lieut [Thomas] Spry's only remain in our possession. These goods, by Capt. [Aaron] Willards advice we have examined, & have found the s[k]etches now in his hands, together with a valuable compass, some slop cloathing &c. which he secreted.[3] I now, in behalf of the Committee, humbly ask, if Lieut. Thomas Spry has not forfieted all his right to said goods? I therefore beg advice & direction of the Honorable General Court, which we should be glad to receive as soon as may be –

By order of the Committee of safety I am [&c.]

Ja^{s} Lyon Ch M

Sir Capt. Willard can give [you farther infor]mation, to whom [I refer you.] –

[Endorsed] In Council Feby 15th 1776

Read & committed to Benja Lincoln Esqr with such as the Honol House shall join

sent down for Concurrence Perez Morton D Secry

In the House of Representatives Feb. 15. 1776

Read and concurred and Collo [Solomon] Lovell & Coll [John] Bliss are joined – William Cooper Speakr Pro T[em.]

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1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 221–21a. Otis was president of the Massachusetts Council.
2. Vice Admiral Samuel Graves commented, when news of the capture of the *Diligent* was received, that "the Rebels having possession of the *Diligent* not only deprives the Squadron of her assistance, but will I fear for sometime hinder the publication of such of Mr Des Barres Draughts as wait only for the Soundings." Graves's Conduct, I, 109, BM.
3. See Willard's receipt for items from Midshipman Spry's baggage, January 18, 1776.

Essex Journal, FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 1776

Newbury Port, January 19.

On Monday last [January 15]a brigantine [the *Sukey*] from Ireland, burthen about 90 tons, [Maddet] Engs, master, owned by Lewis Gray, an enemy to the rights of America, laden with provisions for the use of the ministerial army at Boston, was taken and brought into this town, the particulars of her cargo are as follows:

29 Tierces of best Beef,
18 Barrels ditto,
31 Half barrels ditto,
150 Firkins of Butter,
72 Casks ditto,
64 Firkins of Tongues,
1 Barrel ditto,
10 Half barrels ditto,
10 Puncheons of Claret Wine
1 Tierce of best Pork,
11 Barrels ditto,
9 Half barrels ditto,
8 Puncheons of Oats,
2 Firkins of Lard,
19 Kegs of Tripe,
2 Casks of Peas,
109 Hampers of Patatoes,

Likewise, on the same evening a ship from London [the *Friends*], burthen about 200 tons, [Archibald] Bowie, master, owned at London, out 12 weeks, with the following articles on board, intended for the same use as the brig's cargo, viz.

52 Chaldron of Coals,
86 Butts of Porter,
30 Hogsheads ditto,
20 Hogsheads of Vinegar,
16 ditto of Sower Krout,
23 Live Hogs.

In the above Brig came passengers, Mr. John Gray, son to Harrison Gray Esq. of Boston, and a regular Officer, who, together with the Captains were yesterday sent to Cambridge.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M. SLOOP *Nautilus* [1]

January 1776 Cape Ann West 15 Leags
Friday 19th at ½ past 6, saw a sail in the SEt Chaced Do out 2d reef Tops at ½ past 7 Cape Ann bore NBW 5 or 6 Leags sett Steering sails, at 8 Fresh gales & clear Wr at 10 fir'd severall shott at the Chace, seeing a Number of men on bd her; Carried a way the foretopmast Steering sail Boom, found our maintopmast Sprung a little above the Capp; at Noon still in Chace of a Schooner, about one mile from her.
Do Wr Lattd Obsd 42:44 No
Fresh gales and Cloudy Wr still in Chace of a Schooner; at 4 Do fird severall shott at Do at 6, Lost sight of her, shorten'd sail & hawl'd our wind, close reeft the Topsl Down Topgt yards, and Struck the Topgt masts Handed Mizen Topsail, at 8: Fresh gales & Cloudy Wr

[1] PRO, Admiralty 52/1884.

ISAAC SMITH, SR. TO JOHN ADAMS [1]

Mr. Adams Salem, January 19, 1776

I had wrote you several posts before my hearing you was returned. I should be very glad if you and Mrs. Adams could take a turn this way before you return to Philadelphia again.

I had lately a schooner arrived, with some powder, at Barnstable, rather better than three hundred pounds, which was disposed of there, as the people wanted it much. I understand that any person importing powder shall be entitled to ship the value of it in fish, and to bring the produce thereof in powder. As such, I should be glad to have a certificate from the proper persons authorized to give one. I want to ship the fish in a different bottom, which cannot make any odds, as both belong to me. I should be glad to have liberty for one hundred and eighty quintals of fish, being about the amount of the powder. The powder was imported in the schooner *Sally,* Ebenezer Nickerson, master, from St. Eustatius, and now want to ship the fish by the schooner *Endeavour,* Jesse Harding, for the West-Indies.

Your assisting the bearer in procuring the above, will oblige your humble servant,

Isaac Smith

[Endorsed by Adams] Mr. Adams presents his compliments to Mr. [Thomas] Cushing, Mr. [Joseph] Palmer, Mr. [Elbridge] Gerry, and the other gentlemen at Mr. Hunt's, and begs the favour of them to assist the bearer in the business mentioned in the within letter.[2]

[1] Butterfield, ed., *Adams Family Correspondence*, I, 342.

[2] Members of the Massachusetts Council, who, on January 20, 1776, complied with the request.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES [1]

[Watertown] Friday, January 19, 1776.

Afternoon.

Benjamin White, Esq; brought down a Letter from Mr. Samuel Jordan, dated Gouldsborough, 30th, Nov. 1775, relative to the Conduct of Col. [James] Cargill, with the following Vote of Council thereon, *viz.*

In Council, January, 19th, 1776.

Read and *Ordered,* That Eldad Taylor, and John Taylor, Esq'rs. with such as the Hon. House shall join, be a Committee to take the foregoing Letter, and Papers accompanying it, into Consideration and report.

Read and concurr'd, and Mr. [Daniel] Hopkins, Col. [Samuel] Thompson, and Col. [Joseph] Cushing are joined.

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1. Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch.

VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO PHILIP STEPHENS [1]

Sir *Chatham* Boston 19th Janry 1776

Vice Admiral Graves intending to proceed to England in a few days in the *Preston* gives me an opportunity of transmitting to you, some late Intelligence from Captains Parker and Vandeput, and Governor Tryon, of the State of Affairs at New York,[2] by which I hope their Lordships will see the necessity of continuing the *Asia* some time longer at that place, and that they will please to dispense with my immediate Obedience to their Order for sending her home at this Critical Juncture when perhaps the appearance of that Ship, may be the means of bringing over many of the disaffected, to a sense of their Duty to His Majesty, and disuniting that Colony from those where the Inhabitants are in a more open and avowed state of Rebellion; and in this opinion General [William] Howe, whom I have confer'd with and consulted on this Subject, is pleased to concur with me.

I transmit to you likewise, Sir, a Copy of the last Letter received from Captain Wallace of the *Rose* at Rhode Island, giving an account of the State of, and the Situation he is in at that place,[3] and as Captain Wallace's services deserve every reward can be confer'd on him, I humbly recommend it to Their Lordships Consideration sending him out a Larger and better Ship, especially as the *Rose* is Two years Foul, and that from his keeping the Inhabitants of that Province in so much Awe it would be improper to remove him from it.

I have the Pleasure to acquaint you of the Arrival of His Majesty's Ship *Centurion* at this place the 18th Instant after a Passage of Twelve Weeks, in which Captain [Richard] Brathwaite informs me all his Sails were blown away except those now bent to his Yards. I am, Sir [&c.]

M. Shuldham

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1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.
2. These various intelligence reports range from November 16 to December 18, 1775. See Volume 2 and this volume.
3. See Wallace's letter of December 28, 1775.

HENRY QUINCY TO RICHARD DEVENS [1]

Sir Barnstable Jany 19 1776

This will be Delivered you [by] Mess Bucklin's & Brown Waggoners, Who has been with me here to Purchase Ct Solomon Davis Duck for the Committee of the Colony of R.I. Land but Ct Davis Having Sold it to the Massachusetts Colony, & as they Are Bearers of 100 Peices for you if so be, its to be Transported to Providence for the Use of the Ships Building there for the Colonys Service

I wd Ask it a favour that you Permit there Carting of it there Which will in some Measure make up there Disappointment here, & am [&c.]

H^{y} Quincy

P.S. The order pr Ct Davis in my favour I shall forward from Providence soon.

[1] Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 215.

SOLOMON DAVIS TO NICHOLAS BROWN [1]

Barnstable Jany 19 1776

Your favours of the 12th Instant p Mr [Henry] Quincy. I had sold my Duck before he came – to the Commissary of the Colony. I have no late price Currant from Amsterdam my goods was shipd last April from Holland and came [by] the way of St Eustatius My Duck cost [£] 20.10 [illegible] besides the Bags, Matts, Packg &c as for the Cord Wire I cant say what it cost as it was made for me in Germany by particular order. Spermaceti Candles p the last accots was 24 sh[gs] pr lb [Dutch] wt & no allowance for the Boxes. I suppose 300 Boxes might sell at Amsterdam I never tryd an[y] other Market. 5 & 6 [is] found answer best the 5 fluted & the 6 round. I have a letter from Mr Hodshon in April when my goods was shipd that after the goods was shipd on board there was an order from the Stats of Holland to search the Ship & take all the powder & arms that was on board which was shipd for America or the Dutch West Indies Except what was for the Garrisons there & it was accordingly done, what alteration since I cant say. have you any of your old packets about twenty five tons for sell with you if you have pray write price & how found, & you will oblige [&c.]

Sol Davis

[1] Misc. Mss., RIHS.

JOURNAL OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO BUILD TWO CONTINENTAL FRIGATES IN RHODE ISLAND [1]

[Providence] Jany 19th 1776

Meeting in Being according to adjournment

Voted. That Benjamin Tolman be Master Carpenter for the largest ship. –

Voted. That Mr Jno J. Clarke go to Newport to morrow to purchase all the cordage he can not exceeding 20 Tons at not exceeding Nine Dollars P C also to hurry the Spars & pine Loggs to be got up as fast as possible, to buy all the good Barr Iron he can to call on James Daggett on his way & Ingage him to get all the Timber & Plank he can to Dispatch the Locus as soon as may be, to get what 2d 3d 4d 6d 8d 10d & 20d Nails he Can, Get all the clear pine Bords & Plank he can & make up the Qy with merchantable to 20m Feet, and as many of them in plank as he can, to engage what Iron hoops can be had in Newport @ 40/ [P C] & what white Oak Hhd Staves he can, @ 20 Dollrs P m dld in Providence to purchase Codlines, Pump & scupper Nails & English Augers of 1 & 1⅛ Inch – to call on John Manly what he has done respecting the Sparrs & purchase all Milles Run –

Voted. That Nicholas Brown Esqr be Treasurer & Pay-master to this Committee. –

Voted. That Nicholas Cooke Junr & Joseph Russell Junr go to Philadelphia and bring sixty Thousand Dollars at least and as much more as Mr [Stephen] Hopkins shall think propper to send by them and that they be allowed six shillings P Day & Twenty Dollars each for their Horses, and their Reasonable expences. –

Voted. That Nicholas Brown, William Russell & Jabez Bowen write a Letter to the Honble Stephen Hopkins Esqr to send by the Above Young Gentlemen, and that the same be signed by a Majority of this Committee.

Reckoning 22/6 paid By Coll Nightingale

Meeting Adjourned to Monday Evening 6 o'clock.

1. Journal R.I. Frigates, RIHS.

MANIFEST OF MILITARY STORES BROUGHT IN THE BRIG *Sally* [1]

45 Cask Powder wt 2475 lb	a 6/	£742..10 –
60 lb. Bullits	a 7d	1..15 –
		£744.. 5 –
20 Small Arms	a 54/	54 –
20 prs Pistells	a 36/	36 –
		£834.. 5 –

The above was brot home in the Brigg *Sally* Silvanus Jenckes Masr in her Last Voyage from Suranam — test

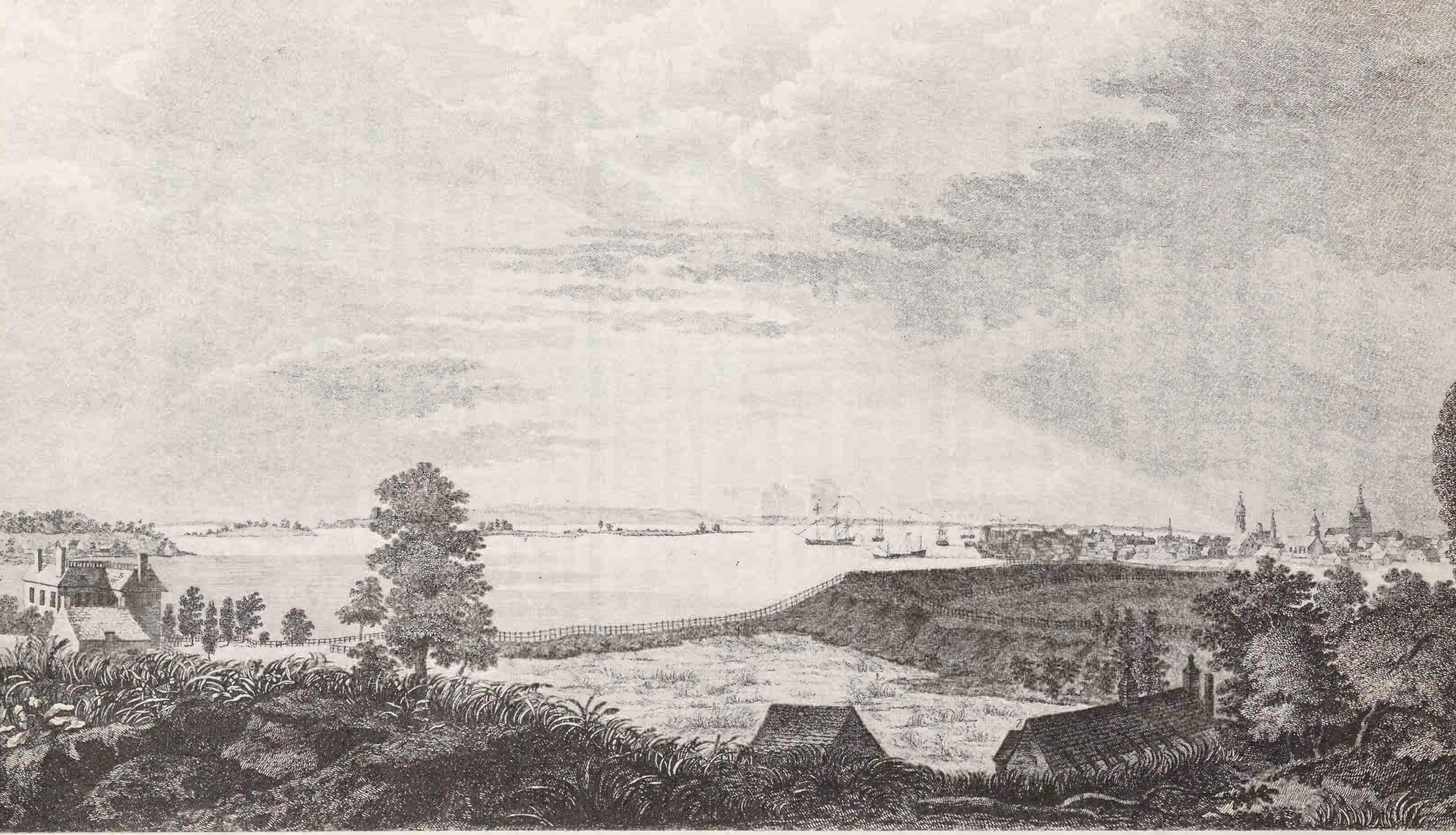
[Providence] Jany 19. 1776 John Brown

1. Manifest of Imports, R.I. Arch.

NICHOLAS BROWN TO CAPTAIN SYLVANUS JENCKES [1]

Sir Providence Janury 19th 1776 –

You being Master of my Brigg *Sally* now bound, and ready to Sail for Suranam, my Orders are that you proceed Immediately to Sea by the way of Seacunnet and gain your passage to Suranam as soone you possibly can, and their dispose of the Cargo for the most it will fetch, to Engage and get afull Load of Good Melasses and to See that every Cask be well made and well Trimed before its Stowd away, and also to Engage about Sixty Hogsheads Melasses more to be ready for aSmall Vessel which I Expect soone to send after you in Order to bring the Valuable part of your Cargo which may be Over and above the melasses Afforsaid Vizt in Powder, Salt Peter, Sulpher, Duck, Ticklinburgh or Oznabriggs, as I Chuse not to trust these Articles in so heavy a Vessel as Your Brigg, but I hope you'l this



A South West View of the City of New York, in NORTH AMERICA. } Vue de Sud Ouest de la Ville de New York, dans L'AMERIQUE SEPTENTRIONALE.

Drawn on the SPOT by Capt. Thomas Howdell of the Royal Artillery. Engraved by P. Canot.

Time get the Brigg Deep Loaded with Melasses on my Account Excepting Only 1220 Gs for yourself 400 Gs for the Mate, 300 Gs for the Cooper, and as much for the people as is Enterd in portledge Bill and no more, I hope youl be able to bring me as much melasses as Ever the Brigg yet brought to her Owners, On your return which will be as soone as possible youl either Stop on the Back of Nantucket the Vinyard or Long Island. to know how the Men of Warr and Tenders are Generally Stationd in Order that you may Run in by night so as to Escape them if possible and Come Directly to this Town with the Brigg, as the melasses will be worth more here than in any other place. You'l do every thing in your power to get it here safe If a quantity Good Rousia Duck and seaming Twine is to be bought at a reasonable rate and Powder nor Salt Peter not to be had, youl Engage as much as you think you shall be able to purchase over and above afull Load of melasses as above in Order that it may be ready for the Small Vessell to Come after you, Youl also get a quantity of Light Duck Ticklinburgh or Oznabrigs if to be had at a Reasonable price but take Special Care to keep Enough in your hands to Load full with Melasses. I am wishing you a Good Voyage, Your Owner

John Brown

P.S. your Commission is to [be] Five PCent on the sales, and Two and ahalf PCent on the Returns. If any thing happens to you during the Voyage to Disenable you to the Business your Mate Mr Tower is to take the Command, and follow these Orders.

1. Peck Mss., RIHS.

Captain James Wallace, R.N., to the Inhabitants of Newport [1]

His Majestys Ship *Rose* at
Rhode Island the 19th Jany 1776.—

Gentlemen

I shall be glad to know whether you will come to any Terms, whether we shall have any Supplies from you or whether we must Prosecute the War to the Extent, as we do about the Rest of the Country. I am Gentlemen [&c.]

Ja^{s} Wallace

1. Letters to the Governor, 1776, vol. 8, R.I. Arch.

Governor William Tryon to Captain Hyde Parker, Jr., R.N. [1]

Copy
Ship *Dutchess of Gordan,* off
New York, 19th January 1776.

Sir,

This evening I have received intelligence of a Plan intended in Connecticut Government against the King's Ships. Vizt. that a number of Sloops loaded with Combustibles, are to sail through Hell Gate, and to rendezvous off Blackwell's Island, where they are to be chained together and sent down to New York with the Ebb Tide, in some dark and Tempestuous Night, when they think the Ships of War cannot escape being destroyed by the Fire. General [Charles] Lee is supposed to have been consulted on this Scheme, an intention that may be forwarded without the knowledge of this City. I am Sir [&c.]

W^{m} Tryon

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

[New York] Die Veneris, 10 HO. A.M. Jany. 19th, 1776.

The Committee taking into consideration the distress this Colony may soon be reduced to for want of canvass or some other proper materials to make tents of, and also the high probability of obtaining gunpowder at Curaçoa;

Ordered, That Mr. [Comfort] Sands, with all possible despatch on behalf of the Congress of this Colony, and by order of this Committee, do employ a proper vessel and load here with flour for Curaçoa, with proper letters and orders to procure gunpowder and ravens Duck.

[1] *New York Provincial Congress,* I, 255, 256.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS [1]

[Philadelphia] Friday, January 19, 1776

The Congress took into consideration the report of the Committee on the matter of South Carolina, respecting seamen; Whereupon,

Resolved, That it be recommended to Captain [Robert] Cochran, who is arrived for the purpose of recruiting seamen, to pursue the following plan in the inlisting service in which he is employed by the province of South Carolina.

That he offer to each able bodied seaman the wages of eight dollars per month, and that he pay to them upon inlisting nine dollars bounty, and, upon their arrival in South Carolina, the farther bounty of five dollars.

That Captain Cochran repair immediately to the camp at Cambridge, and take the advice and direction of General Washington on this affair, and proceed to inlist his seamen in such parts of the country as will be the least prejudicial to the continental service.

That the president write to General Washington, acquainting him with the situation of South Carolina, the necessity that colony is in for seamen, and desiring that he will please to forward this service.

The Committee to whom General Schuyler's letter of the 13th of January, with the papers and letters enclosures, was referred, brought in their report, which was taken into consideration: Whereupon,

Resolved, That the American army in Canada be reinforced with all possible despatch, as well for the security and relief of our friends there, as for better securing the rights and liberties not only of that colony, but the other United Colonies.[2]

[1] Ford, ed., *JCC,* IV, 65–72.

[2] Here follows a series of resolutions detailing how the reinforcements are to be raised, provisioned and expedited.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

At a Meeting of the Committee of Safety.
Philad'a, 19th Jan'y, 1776.

Resolved, That the Committee appointed to view Liberty Island, repair as soon as the season will permit, to that place with Dav'd Rittenhouse, Robert Smith & John M'Neal, and determine on and lay out such works as they shall think sufficient to defend it, and that those Gentlemen employ such Persons as may be necessary to compleat said works, agreeable to the Report of the Committee appointed for that business.

Resolved, That the Commodore be directed to cause four hundred Sea Men and Landsmen immediately to be recruited for the service of the armed Boats and other Naval Equipments, on the same Terms the other Men were raised.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records,* X, 461, 462.

Captain Nicholas Biddle's Account with the Continental Naval Committee [1]

[Philadelphia, January 19, 1776] [2]

Naval Committee of Congress Dr	to Nicholas Biddle
To Cash paid for Officers and Seamens Board Wages as P enclosed Account [3]	£53 – 15 – 3
To a Months pay Advance to John Chiswell. James Wilson. George Kelly. John Moies. and William Adams, Seamen and Peter Miller Landsman	17 – 10 – 0
To Cash paid Mr [James] Josiah for his expences in Philadelphia in quest of Deserters. for 9 days	1 – 13 – 0
To Cash paid Mr Josiah for Boarding five Men four days in Philadelphia. and for Supper and Lodging for the Boats Crew one night.[4]	1 – 10 – 0
To Cash paid Leut Josiah for Horse hire and other Expences he was at in travelling from Philadelphia to Port Penn with five Seamen. as p Account	5 – 19 – 0
To Cash paid John Berketts for Boarding 6 Men from the 2nd to the fourth of January 1776	10 – 0
To Cash paid (for wages due) to Mr William Moran 1st Mate	6 – 10 – 0
To a Months Advance paid to John Mergeson 3rd Mate	3 – 15 – 0
To Cash paid for an Arm Chest	1 – 05 – 0
	92 – 7 – 3
Naval Comittee Cr	
By Cash Received of Silas Deane Esqr	88 – 10 – 0
By Cash Leut Josiah Received from Silas Deane Esqr	4 – 2 – 6
	92 – 12 – 6
	92 – 7 – 3
	£ 0 – 5 – 3

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1. Nicholas Biddle Papers, HSP.
2. As the *Andrew Doria* dropped down with the fleet to Reedy Island on January 17, 1776, the account, which refers to Lieutenant Josiah's traveling to Port Penn, opposite Reedy Island, would place it after that date, and approximately as given.
3. *Ibid.*, the account of cash paid was made out by Lieutenant Josiah, and was dated January 8, 1776. It contains no details.
4. On the verso of the Josiah account the names of the five men are listed as George McKain, William Hays, James McGuire, Barnett Garland and James Evans.

WILLIAM WALL TO NICHOLAS BROWN [1]

Baltimore Jany 19. 1776

I arrived here in 15 Days after I left home, and had Excessive cold Weather on the Road and the day after I arrived my Vessel anchored and find here Sperm Cti Candles in no great Demand here or at Annapolis but am in hopes to sell them to a french man that brought In Warlike Stores here who has a permitt to Load his Vessel away But Expect to have Hard Work to make them meet the first cost But if not shall leave them agreeable to your orders flour when I got here was In Demand Occasioned by the Goverment Taking up a Number of Vessels to send after Powder which Rise it from 10s [illegible] to 12/6 & 13/6 But they are now Mostly Supplyed so Expect it plenty again soon an cheap as there will be but few Purchasers if so I expect I shall be able to freght your Effects in flour if I sell the Candles, and if not shall wait on Mr Williamson for his freight for you, I h[ave] no news to write at Present as I Amagine you have had the News of Norfolk Being Burnt by Lord Dunmore.

[Endorsed] Wm Wall to N.B.

[1] Misc. Mss., RIHS.

CHARLES CARROLL, BARRISTER, TO HERCULES COURTENAY [1]

I am sorry by Your Last [2] to find that the Vessel Must be Delay'd unless We Raise the Price of flower to 13/ [However] as Our Businss Will suffer by Not Hurr[yin]g her [illegible] off With the Utmost Dispatch I now Acqua[i]nt you that we have the Consent of the Council of Safety to [ra]ise the Price for the Remainder of Her Cargo if it Cann[ot] be got Under I am &c

C C

Annap[oli]s Jany 19 1776
To Mr Hers Courtenay Mercht Balt Town

[1] Red Book, XIII, Md. Arch.
[2] Courtenay's letter of January 16, 1776.

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

[Annapolis] Friday 19 January 1776

Instructions and sailing Orders were given to Capt. Robert Forsythe, of the Brig *Sam,* and to Capt. Thomas Kell, of the Schooner *Dolphin.*

[1] Council of Safety Journal, 29 August 1775 to 20 March 1777, Md. Arch. A new Council of Safety had been appointed by the Maryland Convention on January 17, 1776. It consisted of four members from the Western Shore (Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer, Charles Carroll, barrister, John Hall and Benjamin Rumsey), and three from the Eastern Shore (James Tilghman, Thomas Smyth and Thomas Bedingfield Hands).

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO CAPTAIN ROBERT FORSYTHE [1]

Sir Annapolis 19 Jany 1776.

You are to proceed from hence to the Island of Martinico and there deliver the inclosed Letter and your cargo to Mr Richard Harrison, if Mr Harrison should not be at the Island of Martinico, addressed to Mr McCreary and if he should not be there, You are in that Case to open the Letter, addressed to Mr Harrison sell your Cargo at the very highest Prices you can get, the Money arising from the Sales you must lay out in Gunpowder if you can get it, if not, in Muskets fitted with good Bayonets & if they are not to be had, Salt petre and Sulphur & if you cannot get those Articles, then lay out the whole in strong coarse Linens & russia Duck; And take care you are not imposed on in your purchases. As soon as you have done your Business make the best of your way home, and avoid speaking with Vessels on the Coast, when you come into the Latitude of our Capes if you have a strong fair wind in, push up the Bay as far as possible, and if you find it failing, run into some small Harbour & there wait till you have a favourable Opportunity to get into Patowmack Patuxent or Annapolis. If you find a better Chance of getting into any of the Inlets between Cape Charles and Cape Henlopen, than into our Bay, you may push into one of them, and send an Express to the Council of Safety, letting them know where you are and what you have got but take Care and land your Goods under the Care of a Committee as soon as you can for fear of being followed by the Tenders.

In going out you had better take a brisk gale of wind, or get out of Nights, as Tenders commonly keep a strict Watch at the Capes in the Day Time. [We] hope you will behave with Care and Industry on this Voyage If you are chased and find you must be taken throw all your papers overboard, with Weights to sink them.

1. Red Book, XIII, Md. Arch.

Maryland Council of Safety to Richard Harrison[1]

No 1. [Annapolis] 19th January 1776

To Mr Richard Harrison. (Martinico) P Brigantine *Sam.*

Sir You have inclosed an Invoice and Bill of Lading of thirteen hundred and eighty six Barrels of Flour, in the Brig *Sam* Robert Forsythe Master, with ninety one Barrels of Bread, also 4000 Staves, on Account of the Province, which you will dispose of in the best Manner according to your general Instructions and the Le[tters] heretofore sent you. We have only engaged this Vessel to deliver her Cargo to you, as soon therefore as she is unloaded, if you should have no further Use for her you may discharge her. We shall be glad to hea[r of] her safe Arrival and likewise to have Intelligence fr[om] you of your Transactions by every good Opportunity. We are &c.

1. Council of Safety Letter Book, Md. Arch.

Minutes of the South Carolina Council of Safety[1]

In the Council of Safety,
[Charleston] Friday, 19th Jan., 1776.

Read a letter from Ralph Izard, esq., dated January 18th, 1776 – relative to the servants, and of Lord William Campbell.

Ordered, That Capt. [Edward] Blake do immediately give all possible assistance to Capt. [Simon] Tufts and Capt. [Thomas] Smith, to proceed to sea with the vessels under their respective commands, in pursuit of two scooners that have this day appeared in the offing, in order to ascertain what they are; and if they should be found putting any cargo on board the Brig. *Amphetrite,* to bring in the three vessels

Ordered, That the Hon. Capt. [William Henry] Drayton do likewise give all the aid in his power.

Don Joachim de Larraguibal, master of the snow on board which Morelli and the five negroes were found concealed, attended – produced a ticket from the secretary's office dated the 2d instant, signed by Lord William Campbell, and by Thos. Winstanley, pro. secr., certifying that "the terms prescribed by law had been complied with," and authorizing the captain to carry off said Morelli and his family – and declared, that he thought the negroes were the property of said Morelli.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society,* III, 195–96.

South-Carolina and American General Gazette,
Friday, January 12 to Friday, January 19, 1776

Charlestown, January 19.

Last Week the Brigantine *Fortune,* Capt. Brown, from London, arrived off Georgetown. We have been only able to procure a few of the latest Papers brought by her; but hope, before our next, to receive the intermediate ones, from October 10 to October 24, and fill up that Chasm in our European Intelligence.

The three Ships mentioned in our last to be in the Offing, disappeared on Monday. It is generally thought they are gone to Georgia, where it is said the *Tamar* and *Cherokee* are.

Journal of H.M.S. *Syren,* Captain Tobias Furneaux [1]

January 1776 [Off Charleston Bar]

Sunday 14 AM at 4 weighed in Co the *Raven* & her Prize, stood to the So wd at 10 saw a Sloop to the C Wt gave Chace ½ pt 11 fired a Shot & bro't too the Sloop spoke with two days before – Mode & hazy with Rain –

P: M at 1 made Sail, at 3 saw a Sail in the S Wt Quar at 4 regular Soundgs from 10 to 5 Fath's the *Raven* spoke the Chace, a Sloop from New York bound to Savannah, saw another Sail to the So ward & stood for her, at 6 bro't too a Schooner belongg to the *Tamer,* by whom we were informed that the *Tamer, Cherokee* & *Sandwich Packet* were at Anchor about 7 Leagues from us, at 8 Wore & made Sail –

Monday 15 A M at 1 saw 3 Sail at Anchor, at 2 Anchored with the Best Bower in 8 Fath's Water Fired 2 Guns Sigl to Anchor, at 3 the Cherokee's Boat came on board. –

Tuesday 16 Do Wear A M at 1 Weighed & made Sail in Co the *Tamer, Cherokee, Raven,* Pacquet & *Ravens* Prize, at 11 fired a Shot & bro't too the Sloop the *Raven* spoke with the 15th [*sic* 14th] at noon in Co as before. –

First part Mode & fair, latter fresh Gales & Clear with hard frost, depth of Water from 3 to 5 Faths Working over the Bar into the Harbour [Savannah River], at ½ past 3 came too with the best Bowr in 5 Fath's & Moored a Cable each way. P:M at 5 sent the Boats with a Stream Anchor & Cable to assist the *Raven* she being aground.

Wednesday 17th A M at 5 the *Raven* floated – Cutter empd Watering First & Middle fresh breezes & Clear latter part Mode & Cloudy with hard Frost. Empd working up Junk, Watering, & paying the sides with Tar. –

Thursday 18 AM Punished Jno Harris Seaman with 24 lashes for Drunkenness & Theft, & Edwd Thompson & John Wallais Marines with 12 lashes each for Drunkenness –

Light Breezes & Cloudy Wear Empd Watering, Gunrs on shore destroying some Gun Carriages

Friday 19 A M at 7 Lieut Josh Pennington, died of a Wound supposed to be received by a Pistol Ball in a duel with Lieut Cuming of the Marines –

Light breezes & Cloudy Empd Wooding, Watering & about the Rigging: Anchd off Cock-Spur Island, His Majesty's Sloops *Tamer, Raven, Cherokee,* & Packet & *Raven*s Prize. –

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 51/930.

Journal of the Georgia Council of Safety[1]

At a meeting of the Council of Safety [Savannah] Jan. 19th, 1776.

Resolved, That his Excellency Sir James Wright, Baronet, his Majesty's Council, and the Crown Officers in general, be enjoined upon their parole of honor not to go out of the Town, or hold any correspondence with any of the officers or others on board the ships of war now at Tybee, without permission of this Board, and that should either or any of them refuse to give such parole, such person or persons shall immediately be arrested and confined under guard.

Resolved, That John Mulryne and Josiah Tattnall, Esquires, arrested by order of the Board, be also enjoined, upon their parole of honor to the like effect.

Resolved, That in case any ships or boats of war should appear, or land in or near the Town, before the resolution of Congress in regard to the said ships of war can be entered into, and published, that then the persons aforesaid shall be immediately removed to and confined in the country.

Ordered, that Mr.[John] Smith and Mr.[William] Gibbons do wait on them with a copy of the foregoing resolutions.

p.m.

Mr.Smith and Mr.Gibbon reported that they had served his Excellency the Governor and his Majesty's Council with the Resolution entered into this morning, and that they requested to furnish them with a copy thereof, which accordingly they did.

Capt.[Francis Henry] Harris informed the Board that in pursuance of a Resolution of the same, he had arrested and had now in custody the body of

John Mulryne, Esqr., whereupon Mr.[Basil] Cowper and Mr.[John] Girardeau were ordered to require his parole of honor, which he pledged in the following manner: That he will not aid, assist or comfort the officers or others on board his Majesty's ships of war now in this Province, by holding any intercourse or correspondence with them; that he will not supply them with any provisions whatsoever, and that he will not take up arms against America on the present unhappy contest with the mother country.

Ordered, That Capt. Harris serve Col. Mulryne with a copy of the above; which he having done the Colonel assured him, on his honor, that he would strictly abide by the same.

[1] Candler, comp., *Georgia Records,* 103–05.

REAR ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON'S REPLY TO WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS [1]

I the within named Clark Gayton do certify and return that the within named Robert Sands before the Obtaining and issuing the within Writ was taken by one of his Majesty's Ships of War under my Command as he the said Robert Sands was comeing out of the Port of Cape Nicolas Mole in the Island of Hispaniola in a Sloop or Vessell belonging to the Colony of New York in North America of which Sloop or Vessel he was Master and which said Robert Sands had in the said Port of Cape Nicholas Mole discharged a Cargo which he had laden at New York aforesaid and Cleared out for one of the British Islands in the West Indies and was then on his return in the said Sloop or Vessell with a Cargo of Molasses and Coffee which he had laden and taken on Board the said Sloop or Vessell at Cape Nicholas Mole aforesaid to and for the Colony of Georgia in North America aforesaid. And that I have taken and detained the said Robert Sands by Vertue and in pursuance of his Majesty's late Proclamation dated the Twenty Third Day of August last past and His Majesty's Orders and Instructions Signified to me by the Commisioners for Executing the Office of Lord High Admiral of Great Britain &c. and by their Secretary acting under their Authority And this is the Cause of the Cap[tion] and Detention of the said Robert Sands whose Body at the Day and place in the within Writ mentioned I have ready as by the within Writ I am required –

Clark Gayton.

Filed the 19th January 1776 –

[1] PRO, Admiralty 1/240.

DECISION OF EDWARD WEBLEY, CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE JAMAICA SUPREME COURT [1]

January 19th 1776 The within named Robert Sands being this Day brought before me in Vertue of the within Writ of Habeas Corpus which with the return thereof and also the Instructions therein mentioned being read Upon Motion of Henry Browne Esquire and on hearing what could be alledged as well by him as by Thomas Harrison Esquire Attorney and Advocate General I do discharge the said Robert Sands out of Custody and he is Discharged accordingly./.

Edw^{d} Webley January 19th 1776

[1] PRO, Admiralty 1/240. Webley also discharged Nathan Bull.

REAR ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON'S REPLY TO WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS [1]

I the within named Clark Gayton do certify and return that the within named Nathan Bull was before the obtaining and issuing the within Writ taken by one of his Majesty's Ships of War under my Command as he the said Nathan Bull was comeing out of the Port of Cape Nicolas Mole in the Island of Hispaniola in a Sloop or Vessell belonging to the Colony of Rhode Island in North America of which Sloop or Vessell he was Master and which said Nathan Bull had in the said Port of Cape Nicolas Mole discharged a Cargo which he had laden at Rhode Island aforesaid and cleared out for Jamaica and was then on his return in the said Sloop or Vessell with a Cargo of Sugar and Molasses to and for the said Colony of Rhode Island and that I have taken and detained the said Nathan Bull by Vertue and in pursuance of his Majesty's late Proclamation dated the Twenty third Day of August last past and his Majesty's orders and Instructions Signified to me by the Commisioners for Executing the Office of Lord High Admiral of Great Britain &c. and by their Secretary acting under their Authority and this is the Cause of the Caption and Detention of the said Nathan Bull whose Body at the Day and place in the within Writ mentioned I have ready as by the within Writ I am required —

Clark Gayton

Filed the 19th January 1776.

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 1/240.

THOMAS HARRISON TO REAR ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON [1]

Sir As I was apprehensive that the Cou[n]sel concerned for [Bu]ll & Sands would require a copy of the Admiralty orders [?] be annext to & made part of the Return or would otherwise [co]ntend that no respect ought to be paid to them, it was necessa[ry] for me to be provided agt the worst; I therefore mentioned [in] my last letter the annexing a copy of the orders to the return [th]at the Chief Justice has, on my motion & without any ob[je]ction being made thereto by the other side, contented himself [wi]th hearing the original orders read to him at the time [of] the return; so that, they have been reced & considered one of the causes of detention, without being put on [re]cord & thereby subject to official inspection & being copied [and] dispersed abroad – These were points I despaired of [ob]taining.

[Yo]u will observe from the proceedings, of which Mr Smith [has] taken an Office-Copy, that the Chief Justice, on consideration of the return & orders mentioned therein, has thought [pro]per to discharge both Bull & Sands. As this judicial dec[ision] must prevail in every similar case, I submit it to [yo]ur consideration whet[her] their Lordships can expect you to [pu]t others in the like predicament to the expence & trouble [of] like application. For my own part, I am confident that [the] calm we here enjoy would instantly have become a storm, [?] you had not complied with these writs & that you have as much contributed to the peace of your Country by your ready submission to its civil authority as you have to [its] prosperity & [honour] by the spirited firmness of your [?]ry conduct: The Publick [illegible] must be fully satisfied that you will not affect the liberties & properties of your fellow subjects beyond what the necessity of your service & duty to his Majesty requires. I am, Sir [&c.]

Ths: Harrison

Jany: 19th: 1776

[Endorsed by Gayton] Letter from the Attorney General with respect to the two North Americans, who were Summond, before the Chief Justice, by Writs of Habeas Corpus, and his Opinion, with regard to my complying, with those Writs.

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1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240. Harrison was Advocate General of Jamaica.

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20 Jan.

RICHARD BULKELEY TO JOHN ANDERSON [1]

Sir

Secys Office Halifax 20th Jany: 1776

It being necessary for His Majestys Service, that the Governor shoud have the best & most certain information of the motions and designs of the Rebels, & more particularly as they may in any manner Affect this Province.

His Excellency the Governor has therefore thought fitt to place confidence in you, & that you will from time to time by Trusty persons hir'd for that purpose, transmitt to this Office, to be laid before him, all such usefull and necessary intelligence, as you shall Judge necessary for his information, and by the return of these Couriers, send such accounts of the motions of the Rebels, & State of Affairs in Canada, as may have come to your knowledge.

As these Couriers may want provisions for their return as far as Cumberland, it is requested that you will supply them with what will be necessary for that purpose.

And you may be assur'd that any Services you can do to Government, will be as far as can be suitably rewarded. I am &c

(Sign'd) Rich^{d} Bulkeley

John Anderson, Esqr Superintend[e]nt of Indians at St Johns River.

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1. Council Letter Book, 233, N.S.Arch.

ROBERT HANSON HARRISON TO WILLIAM WATSON [1]

Sir

Cambridge Jany 20, 1776

I am commanded by his Excellency to acknowledge the receipt of your favour of the 15 Inst. His Excellency is glad to hear of the vessels being libelled & doubts not of your assiduity to have the legality of the Captures determined as soon as It shall be in your power.

His Excellency is well pleased that the Schooner *Harrison* is yet good & fit for service, & from the Character you have given Captn Dyar, is willing that you should give him the command of her, & to Indulge such men as may offer their service to Inlist only for Six months – The Captain thinks that a square Sail & some other small sails will be of great advantage to him – This his Excellency leaves to your Judgement: If they are necessary in your opinion, and the expence will not be out of proportion to the benefit likely to be derived from them, you will please to provide them. You will immediately dispatch the Captain upon a cruize with such Sails as he has, If they will Answer, those he wants may be made while he is out.

As to the Vessels taken & carried into Dartmouth by Major [Benjamin] Tupper, his Excellency thinks they ought to be Libelled. I am &c

R H

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1. Washington Papers, LC.

George Washington's Instructions to Captain Charles Dyar [1]

To Capt Charles Dyar of the Armed Schooner *Harrison*

Sir You being appointed Captain and Commander of the Armed Schooner *Harrison* in the Service of the United Colonies are to Pay all attention and Obedience to the following Instructions –

1st You are to proceed imediately on a Cruze against Such Vessels as may be found on the high Seas or elsewhere bound Inwards or outwards to or from Boston in the Service of the Ministerial Army – and to take & Seize all such vessels, Laden with Soldiers Arms Ammunition or Provisions going to or from Said town of Boston or which you shall have good reason to Suspect are employed for the purpose of aiding or assisting the Ministerial Troops or Navy –

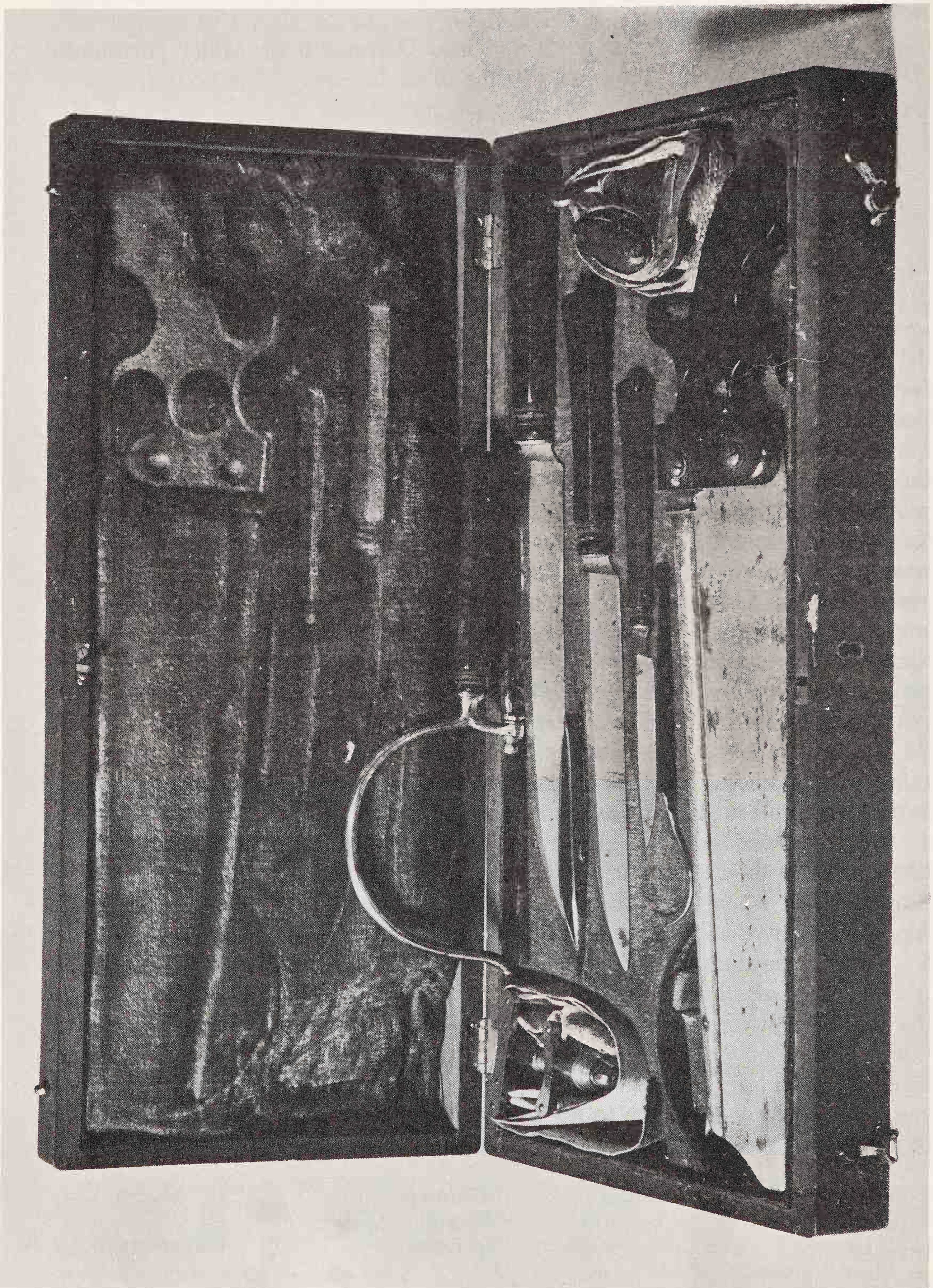
2 If you should be so Successful as to take any of Said vessels, you are imediately to Send them to the Nearest and Safest port to this Camp, under a Carefull Prize Master directing him to Deliver Said Prize unto the Agent by me appointed for the port into which a prize is Carried (if any there) if none Should be in that port notice is to be given to the nearest Agent thereto at same time an Account of such Capture to be transmitted to Head Quarters with all particulars thereto belonging by express –

3 You are to be very particular & diligent in your Search after all Letters or other papers tending to discover the designs of the Enemy or of any other kind & to forward all such to me as soon as possible –

4 Whatever prisoners you take, must be treated with Kindness & Humanity – there private stock of Money & apparel to be given them after being strictly Searched and when they arrive at any port, they are to be delivered up to the Agent [(]if any there) if not to the Comittee of safety of such port –

5 For your encouragement and that of the other Officers & men to diligence & Activity over and above there pay which will be the same as in the Army of the United Colonies – you shall be entitled to one third part of every vessel & Cargo, after Condemnation in the Court of Admiralty, which shall be [by] you taken & Sent into port if she is an Armed Vessel that resists as an inducement for you, your Officers and Men to act Courageously one half of Vessel & Cargo will be alloted to you which parts are to be devided in the following proportions –

Captain	6 shares	Gunner	1½ Shares
First Lieut	5. do	Gunners Mate	1½
2 Lieut	4. do	private	1 Share each
Ships Master	3. do		
Steward	2 do		
Mate	1½ do		



Amputation instruments used by a naval surgeon, late 18th century.

6 As Captain Manly is appointed Comodore of the four Schooners now fitted out – he will fix upon proper Signals by which you may Know each other & you are to obey him as Such in all Cases. if it Should So happen that a Prize is taken in sight of other Vessels fitted out at the Continental expence or at the Charge of Individuals – the Rules which take place among private Ships of War to be observed in the distribution of prize Money –

7 You are to be extreamly Careful & frugal of your Ammunition & other Stores – by no Means to waist any of it in salutes, or for any purpose but what is absolutely Necessary –

8 You, Your Officers & Men are from the date hereof to Consider yourselves as engaged in the Service of the United Colonies & in every respect Subject to the Rules & Regulations formed by the Congress – for the Government of the Army Raisd for the defence of American liberty – or as near as possible Consistent with the difference of the Land & Sea Service – a book of the rules & articles you will receive herewith at the end of which – you your Officers and Men must Subscribe Your names –

9 As it is very aparent that the ill Success which attended the Major part of the Armed Vessels in former Cruzes was owing to the want of Industry & the inactivity of the Officers who Commanded You will therefore take Notice, that a fondness to be on Shore – indolence or inactivity will meat with there Just deserts – for if it appears, that the Captain or any of the Officers do not exert themselves & do all that they possibly Can for there own & the publick good – they shall be dismissd the Service – & renderd incapable of Serveing there Country in any Honourable Station hereafter – in the Army or Navy –

Given under my hand at Head Quarters, Cambridge the 20th day of January 1776

[George Washington]

[Endorsed] Copy of Instructns to Capt Dyar of the *Harrison* Jany 20. 1776
The same to Captn John Ayres of the *Lynch* Schooner Feby. 1. 1776.
The Same to Capt Wm. Burke of the *Warren* Feby. [blotted] 1776 [2]

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1. Washington Papers, LC.
2. While not listed in the endorsement, a copy of these instructions went on January 20 to Samuel Tucker, commanding the schooner *Franklin*. An edited version appears in John H. Sheppard, *The Life of Samuel Tucker* (Boston, 1868), 32–35. This same source quotes a letter from Tucker to John Holmes, March 6, 1818, in which the captain said: "The first cruise I made was performed in January 1776, and I had to purchase the small arms to encounter my enemy with money from my own pocket, or go without them; and the consort [his wife] made the banner I fought under, the field of which was white and the union was green, made therein in the figure of a pine tree, made of cloth of her own purchasing, at her own expense."

ROBERT HANSON HARRISON TO STEPHEN MOYLAN [1]

Sir Cambridge Jany 20, 1776

Your letter of the 19 Inst was delivered early yesterday & would have been Answered before this Evening, had not his Excellency's time been much employed in dispatchg Expresses to sundry places.

His Excellency is much pleased that our fleet is likely to get out again & wishes your return as soon as you have dispatched them. Herewith you will receive the Commissions you wrote for, also a Copy of private Signals used by the Kings Ships in the American service, which his Excellency desires you to furnish each of our Captains with & to return the Copy sent, when you come back.

As to the Attempt on the *Fowey,* he thinks that the situation of our affairs at present will not Justifie It – But on your arrival will consider more of It, should there be the same prospect of success that you apprehend there is now.

The report you have had is too true, but not so bad we hope as you have heard – However It is certain that the Great & Gallant [Richard] Montgomery is no more – he with his Aid de Camp Capn [John] McPherson, & Capn [Jacob] Cheeseman of New York fell the first fire – Also Col [Benedict] Arnold is wounded in the Leg – I am &c.

R H H

1. Washington Papers, LC.

Robert Hanson Harrison to Joseph Denison [1]

Sir Cambridge Jany 20, 1776

I am commanded by his Excellency to Acknowledge the receipt of your Letter of the 8 Inst: As you from having fully inquired into matters respecting the Capture of Captain [John] Dennys vessell, [2] must be better able to determine the propriety of the same than here, he again refers it intirely to your decision, In full confidence that the same will be founded upon the principles of Equity & the strictest Justice – I am &c

To Joseph Denison Esqr
Chairman of the Committee &c Stonington –

1. Washington Papers, LC.
2. The sloop *Warren,* from Gaspé for Nantucket, taken November 5, 1775, by Captains Nicholson Broughton and John Selman in Washington's schooners *Hancock* and *Franklin.* See Volume 2, 899–900.

Robert Hanson Harrison to Jonathan Jackson [1]

Sir Cambridge Jany 20. 1776

I am commanded by his Excellency to acknowledge the receipt of your Letter of the 16 Inst, with the Inclosures No 1. 2. 3: 4 & 5.[2]

His Excellency desires thro you Sir, to return the Committee of Newberry port his sincere thanks for their great politeness in this Instance & wishes that these prizes may be Succeeded by others I am &c

To Jonath Jackson Esq
Chairman of the Comittee of Newb port

1. Washington Papers, LC.
2. These were letters found concealed on board the ship *Friends,* Archibald Bowie, master.

THOMAS CUSHING TO JOHN HANCOCK,[1]

Dear Sir Cambridge Head Quarters Jany 20. 1776

I arrived here the 15 Instant & delivered the Money to the Treasurer & your Letters to the General Court – I immediately endeavourd to find out the most convenient & safe place to Build the Vessells for the Continental Service,[2] Consulted the several Members of the Council & other Gentlemen who were of opinion that Newbury Port was the most suitable place Upon all Accounts & I conferred with Mr Cross of Newbury Port [3] about Building the same who is gone to that Town to Confer with Mr Jona Greenleaf upon the Subject, I think I shall Contract with those Gentlemen, I have already engaged fifteen Tons of Hemp & am Informed can procure the Rest & Duck sufficient for both Vessells of Mr Willm Dennie, I have purchased the sea Coal of Mr [Thomas] Mifflin, The Iron, in order to get it upon the cheapest Terms must be had from Philadelphia – Mr Cross tells me as the Timber for these Vessells must be very large, he must pay the Cash down for it & therefore must be furnished with at least one Third of the Builders Bill immediately or he shall not be able to procure the stuff; this will amount at least to Two Thousand pounds lawfull money; The Cost of the Hemp Duck Coal will be very Considerable so that you will perceive the Necessity of my being furnished with a Considerable Sum of Money immediately in order to proceed upon this Affair with Expedition. –

As there will be constant & frequent Calls Upon the Continental Treasury for Cash I submit it to your Consideration whether it would not be adviseable to secure the Cash for the Vessells to be Built in our Province immediately. I hope to hear from you soon with further directions and also the drafts of the Vessells, let me know the size of the Timber & the Thickness of the plank, pray be as particular in your directions as possible – We have no news here except the repulse of Our Troops at Quebec. I heartily greive for the loss of Genl Mongomery & his Aid the Camp Mr McPherson – we have taken A Vessell from London & another from Ireland with Provisions for the Ministerial Troops,[4] in great haste I conclude with my respects to Mrs Hancock [&c.]

Thomas Cushing

[1] Personal Papers, Misc., Accession 1930, LC.

[2] Cushing had arrived from Philadelphia with authority to have built the two Continental frigates to be constructed in Massachusetts.

[3] Stephen and Ralph Cross were involved in building the frigates; Cushing is not clear about which one he consulted.

[4] The ship *Friends* and brig *Sukey,* carried into Newburyport on January 15, 1776.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES [1]

[Watertown] Saturday, January 20, 1776.

A Petition of Philip Hodgkins, setting forth the cruel Treatment he met with from Col. Cargill, and praying the Consideration of the Court.

Read, and committed to the Committee appointed to consider the Letter from Mr. Samuel Jordan brought down Yesterday.

[1] Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL[1]

[Watertown] In Council Jany 20th 1776

On Examination of the Prisoners by the Major part of the Council – Orderd – That a Letter be wrote to his Excelly Genl Washington & sent with 2 of the prisoners vizt. Lieut. Hill & his Servant to be at his Excellys disposal – That a Letter be wrote to the Comtee of Safety of Newbury Port & that the Captains of the 2 Vessels[2] be sent to their care & disposal – And John Gray the other prisoner be sent to the Goal in Newbury Port & held in close confinement at his Own expence until further Ord

John Lowell Dpy Secy P T

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[1] Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 203a.

[2] Archibald Bowie, master of the ship *Friends,* and Madett Engs, master of the brig *Sukey.* See Jonathan Jackson to the Massachusetts Council, January 16, 1776.

WILLIAM SEVER TO GEORGE WASHINGTON[1]

Council Chamber [Watertown,] Jany 20th 1776.

Sir The Council upon Examination of several persons who were sent here by the Committee of Safety of Newburyport, and were taken on board a Ship from London and a Brigt from Cork, both bound to Boston, find that one of the passengers in the latter is a Lieutenant in the 5th Regimt (Earl Percy's) now in Boston, they have therefore ordered the sd Lieutenant Hill with his Servant to be sent to your Excellency to be disposed of as you may think proper –

In the Name & by order of the Council

W Sever

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[1] Washington Papers, LC.

MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL TO THE NEWBURYPORT COMMITTEE OF SAFETY[1]

Council Chamber [Watertown,] Jany 20th 1776

Gentlemen We have sent to your care Archibald Bowie and Madatt Engs Masters of the two Vessels lately taken and carried into Newbury port,[2] and you are requested to see that the Abovemention'd persons do not go without the Limits of sd Town, and if you see cause therefor you are desired to confine sd persons or either of them 'till the further order of the Council –

In the Name & by Ordr of the Council

W Severs

To The Committee of Safety Newbury Port

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[1] Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 223.

[2] The ship *Friends,* and the brig *Sukey.*

JOHN ADAMS TO THOMAS CUSHING AND OTHERS[1]

[Watertown, January 20, 1776]

Mr. Adams presents his Compliments to Mr [Thomas] Cushing Mr [Joseph] Palmer, Mr [Elbridge] Gerry and the other Gentlemen at Mr Hunts and begs the

Favour of them, to assist the Bearer, in the Business mentioned in the within Letter.[2]

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1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 212.
2. See Isaac Smith to Adams, January 19, 1776.

JOSEPH OTIS TO MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL [1]

To the Cou[nc]ell of the Colony of the Massachusetts bay
This May Certify that Isaac Smith Esqr had a vessell (Eb[e]nezer Nickerson Master) Called the *Sallee* arrived at Barnstable from St Eustatia with three hundred and Fifty Weight of Gun Powder which was Landed there as I am Informed by Letter

your Honours [&c.]
Joseph Otis

Watertown Janry 20th 1776

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1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 213.

ORDER OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL IN FAVOR OF ISAAC SMITH [1]

Council Chamber: Watertown. Janry 20th 1776

Whereas. Isaac Smith Esqr late of Boston, has Imported into the Town of Barnstable, within this Colony, in the Schr *Sally,* Ebenezer Nickerson Master, from St. Eustatius, a Quantity of Powder. ——[2]
Order'd, agreeable to a Resolution of the American Congress of the 15th July last, that he be & hereby is permitted to export, one hundred and fifty Quintals Fish to the West Indies (being about the Value of said Powder) in the Schooner *Endeavour* Jesse Harding Master, he the said Isaac Smith, giving bond, to the Committee of Inspection, for the Town, from wch he may Export the said fish, that he will lay out the Neat p[rocee]ds of the same in Powder, Saltpetre, or Sulphur, (provided they are to be had, at the port to which said Vessell may go) and Import the same into any ports within this Colony, (Boston & Nantucket Excepted.)

W Sever
W Spooner
Caleb Cushing
I Winthrop
T Cushing
Jed^{h} Foster
Eldad Taylor

B Lincoln
Cha Chauncy
M Farley
Moses Gill
Jabez Fisher
B White
S Holten

John Whetcomb

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1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 214.
2. See Isaac Smith to John Adams, January 19, 1776.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM BOSTON, JAN. 20." [1]

You desire I will tell you the State of the Fleet. By what I can yet learn they are only a nominal Fleet; almost all of them came out short of their lowest Peace Compliment, and have had no Opportunity of recruiting their Numbers; so that from Death and Desertion, and other Accidents, they are reduced to a State of

Inactivity. The whole of our Numbers put together would not man one half of the Ships, which are likewise in want of all Sorts of Stores and Necessaries. You may depend on it, the Remissness complained of did not arise from the Admiral, who frequently left his own Ship in too defenceless a State (in my Opinion) in order to keep his Cruisers at Sea. On the Information I have procured, I do not scruple to assure you he has been cruelly used. What we are to do who succeed I know not. Much will be expected, but little can be done. Those Ships who have cruized have suffered much, and are much dispirited. The Truth of the Case is: You in England complain of them; we in America complain as much of you: This is general. All Ranks of Officers think themselves neglected at home, and those of the Fleet have never served under the same Disadvantages they do at present. Ill manned, ill provided, ill supplied: They accuse you in England of being the Cause of their ill Success. The Ordnance Vessel, said to be taken, is, I believe, drove to the West Indies, as I cannot find any Authority to suppose she is in the Hands of the Provincials. Eight Ships are arrived that had Stock in, but they lost almost the whole on the Passage. The Arrival of a Ship, should she contain nothing, serves to enliven the Garrison, and to keep up their Spirits. We intend to form Packets for the Amusement of our Friends of the Fleet; most of which have for their Comfort the Change of Administration, and particularly that of Lord S —— [Sandwich].

1. *Public Advertiser,* London, February 27, 1776.

JOHN AND NICHOLAS BROWN TO JOSIAH HEWES [1]

(Copy) Providence Januy 20th 1776

Sr We being about to Enter in to a Contract with the Congress Committee of Secr[e]cy to Import on Acot of the Cont[i]nent Sundry Articels as they May Enumerate to the Amount of Twenty Four Thousand Dollers and Neither of us being at phileda Makes it Necessary to Appoint a Friend to Sighne the Contract in our behalf and have Therefore Inclosed You our Genl & Special power of Attorney for that purpose, You'l please to Apply to the Honoble Saml Ward Esqr who is one of Sd Committe of Secr[e]cy & Acquaint him of your being Desired to Negotiate the Matter for us, & we now haveing a Good oppertunity to Send for the Mony by the Berrers Mr Nichs Cooke Junr & Mr Joseph Dolbear Russill Junr we Desire You'l Finnish the Contract with Mr Ward as Soone as You Can So that these Young Gentle[men] Mr Cooke & Mr Russill may Receive And bring all the Money to us Excepting Three Thousand Dollers which You'l please to keep in Your hands & Cr John Browns act with as he proposes Sending Capt Coffin (if he arrives safe) Immediately back to You with the Sloop he is now in, for another Load of Flour Iron &c This being the needfull we Rest [&c.]

N B
Jn° B

1. Nicholas Brown Papers, JCBL.

NICHOLAS AND JOHN BROWN TO SAMUEL WARD [1]

(Copy) Providence Jany 20, 1776.

Honrd Sir Your Brother Mr secry Ward shewed Us your late Letter wherein you Mention that If we Inclined to Contract wth the Honbl Contenental Comte of Secrecy as before Hinted by Letter, That we Should write you Upon it, And having taken the Matter into Consideration, have Concluded to enter into A Contract for the Sum Mentiond by J B —— for Twenty four Thousand Dollars, the Value thereof to be shiped to such foreign ports & the Nett proceeds Laid Out in such things as shall be Derected and for that purpose have Wrote Our friend Mr Josiah Hews Mercht in Phia & Given him Our General & special Power to Make & sign in Our behalf such Contract, as the Honbl Comte make with Others for Procuring Clothing &c As Messrs Cooke & Russel [Nicholas Cooke, Jr. and Joseph Dolbear Russell] are Dispach'd by the Navel Comte here, to bring them a Sum of Money, We desire you Yr Honr to pay the Whole Amount to Mr Hewes & the sd Young Gentl[emen] that they may be Dispached on Our Accots as Soon as on Acct the Navel Affairs, You'll please to Make the Contract as Extensive as to the Articels wanted as may be We are &c

Nich° Brown
John Brown

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[1] Nicholas Brown Papers, JCBL.

CONTRACT BETWEEN THE SECRET COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS AND JOHN BROWN [1]

BE IT REMEMBERED, That it is agreed by and between John Brown of Providence in the Colony of Rhode Island of the one part, and Samuel Ward, Benjamin Franklin, Josiah Bartlet, John Langdon, Robert Morris, and Thomas McKean, Esquires, Members of the Committee of secrecy appointed by the Honourable Continental Congress of the Thirteen united Colonies of North America of the other part. That a Voyage or Voyages Shall be undertaken for the Speedy procuring Thirty Six Tons of Good Gun powder (or if Gun Powder is not to be had then as much Salt Petre with a proportion of 15 lb of Sulphur to every Hundred pounds of salt Petre as will be Sufficient to make that quantity of Gun Powder) One Thousand Stand of Good arms, one Thousand double bridled Gun Locks, Twenty Tons of Lead, and One Thousand Bolts of Russia Duck, – if the arms are not to be had, their value to be laid out in Good Gun Powder (or Salt Petre & Sulphur) If neither are to be had – then in Ticklinburgs, Oznabrigs, or Vitreys – or in Case those are not to be had the neat proceeds to be returned in Gold or Silver – That the vessel or Vessels shall be Charterd for the use of the united Colonys aforesaid, the freight to be paid on their return, the Owners runing the risque of the sea and the united Colonies to Insure them against all British Captors – That Skilful and prudent SuperCargo[es] be Employd by the said John Brown, That five pCent Commission shall be allowed for purchaseing the Cargoes to be Exported, two and a half pCent on the sales thereof in the West Indies or in Europe, and two & a half pCent for purchaseing the returns – That Twenty Thousand Dollars Continental Currency be advancd to the said John Brown for which he is hereafter to render an Account to the united Colonies, who are to bear the whole risque of the said Adventure – The said Powder &c is to be put on shore in some safe and Convenient place in the united Colonies Eastward of Chesopeak bay and notice thereof given to a Quorum of the said Committe[e] of Secrecy as soon as possible – Witness our Hands the Day and Year aforesaid –

Sam: Ward
B Franklin
John Brown Josiah Bartlett
Rob^t Morris
Tho M:Kean

[Endorsed] Providence Jany 20. 1776

Recd of John Brown Four Thousand Six Hundred & sixty six Dollars & Two thirds which together with Two Thousand Dollars sent to Nantuckett to purchase Oil Make up One Third of the Within sum And I do hereby Ingage to be One third part Consarn'd in the Within Contract & to be Accountable to the secret Committee Accordingly

Nich^o Brown

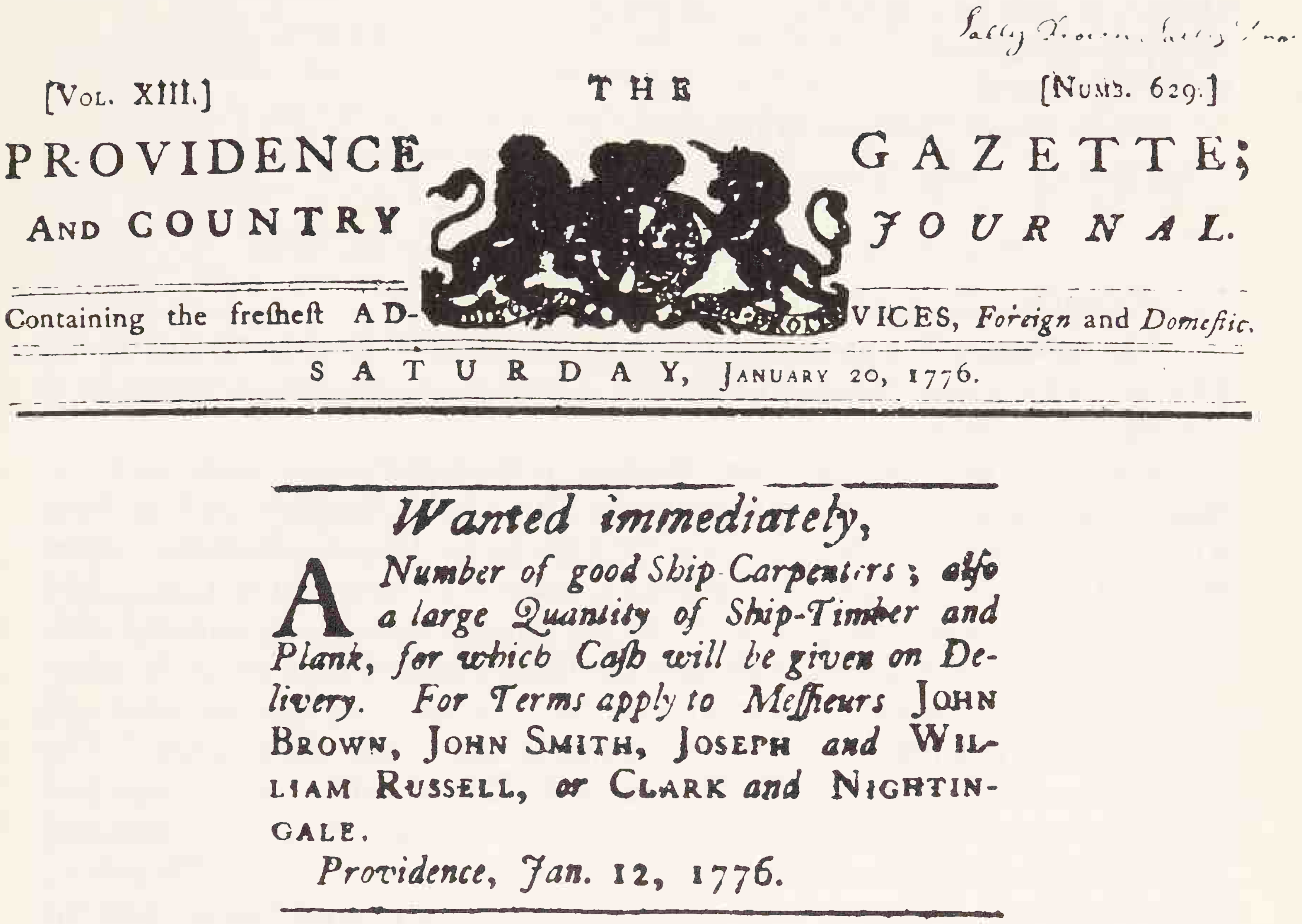
Dolrs	4666 2/3
1/3 sent p J Waterman to buy Oil	2000
Dolrs	6666 2/3

1. Nicholas Brown Papers, JCBL.

John Brown's Bond for Brig *Sally* to Proceed to Surinam [1]

Know all Men by these Presents that I John Brown of Providence in the County of Providence in the Colony of Rhode Island &c Merchant am held and firmly bound unto Joseph Clarke Esqr General Treasurer of the Colony aforesaid in the Sum of Five Hundred Pounds lawful Money of the said Colony to be paid to the said Joseph Clarke in his said Capacity for the Use of the Colony or to his Successors in said Office; to which Payment well and truly to be made I bind myself my Heirs Executors & Administrators firmly by these Presents. Sealed with my Seal Dated the Twentieth Day of January in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Six.

Whereas the said John Brown hath imported into the said Colony a Quantity of Powder and warlike Stores amounting to Eight Hundred and Thirty four Pounds 5/ and in Consequence of a Resolution of the Continental Congress of the 15th of July last for the Encouragement of the Importation of Powder hath equipped the Brige *Sally* Sylvanus Jenckes Master with a Cargo for Surinam but hath put on board Goods to the Amount of Two Hundred and Forty six Pounds 11/7 more than the Value of the warlike Stores so imported; and whence pursuant to said Resolution and of an Act of the General Assembly of the said Colony the said Sylvanus Jenckes hadth received Permission from the Honble Nicholas Cooke Esqr Governor of said Colony to proceed to Surinam in the said Brigt with the said Cargo: Now the Condition of this Obligation is such that if the said Sylvanus Jenckes shall in all Things during his said Voyage conform himself to the Rules of the Continental Congress and shall lay out such a Proportion of the Neat Proceeds



Sally Brown, Sally Brown

[Vol. XIII.] THE [Numb. 629.]

PROVIDENCE GAZETTE;
And COUNTRY JOURNAL.

Containing the freſheſt ADVICES, *Foreign* and *Domeſtic*.

SATURDAY, January 20, 1776.

Wanted immediately,

A Number of good Ship-Carpenters; alſo a large Quantity of Ship-Timber and Plank, for which Caſh will be given on Delivery. For Terms apply to Meſſieurs John Brown, John Smith, Joseph *and* William Russell, *or* Clark *and* Nightingale.

Providence, Jan. 12, 1776.

Wanted for Continental frigates being built at Providence.

of his Cargo as the said sum of Two Hundred and Forty six Pounds 11/7 bears to the Sum of One Thousand and Eighty Pounds 16/7 (the whole Amount of his Cargo) in Powder Salt petre Small Arms Sulphur, Duck, Ozenbrigs or Ticklenburgh, giving the Preference to Powder, Saltpetre & Small Arms and import the same into this or some other of the United Colonies, and lodging within Three Days after his Arrival in this Colony proper Certificates in the Secretary's Office (the Danger of the Sea and Seizure by an Enemy always excepted) then this Obligation shall be void or else in full Force.

Sealed and delivered John Brown
in the Presence of
Henry Ward William Mumford

1. Maritime Papers, Bonds, Masters of Vessels, R.I. Arch.

Providence Gazette, Saturday, January 20, 1776

Providence, January 20.

The following is sent us as a particular Account of the Movements of the Fleet in the River since Yesterday Se'nnight, and of the Actions which happened in Consequence thereof.

On Friday the 12th Inst. Capt. Wallace, with all the Vessels under his Command, consisting of 12 Sail, came up the River from Newport, and at Four o'Clock in the Afternoon landed about 250 Men on the Island of Prudence, where about 40 or 50 of our Men were stationed, under the Command of Capt. [Job] Pearce. They were soon fired upon by the Enemy, which was returned with much Spirit; but Capt. Pearce finding the Enemy greatly superior in Number, retreated, and with his Men went off the Island; he had one Man wounded and taken prisoner, and it is said several of the Enemy were killed and wounded. The Enemy about Sunset burnt seven Houses on the Island, which being discovered here, his Honor the Deputy Governor, General [William] West, Col. [William] Richmond, Col. [Nathaniel] Martin, Col. [John] Cook[e], Capt. [Matthew] Allen, and Capt. [Thomas] Wells, immediately set out to send Forces upon the Island, by Way of Warren and Bristol, from the former of which Places General West ordered 50 Men, directing them to join such as should be collected at Warwick Neck, and proceed to the Island. – His Honor, with the General, then went to Bristol, and sent off Major Talman [Benjamin Tallman], with 80 Men in Whaleboats, who landed about the Dawn of Day. – Capt. [William] Barton, with a few Men, had landed from Head-Quarters, but those at Warwick Neck were not able to join them for Want of Boats. About Nine o'Clock in the Morning the Enemy landed 250 Men, and attacked Lieut. Car [John Carr], who was stationed with a Guard of 40 Men to observe their motions; the Remainder of our Men, about 50 in Number, soon coming up, a smart Engagement ensued, which lasted three Hours. The Enemy several Times sent out flanking Parties, which were as often drove back to their main Body. They were at length drove to their Vessels, leaving our People in Possession of the Island, having the Night before got on board about 100 Sheep, but no Cattle are missing. – Two of their Men were found dead after the Action, and one wounded in the Thigh; they likewise carried off a Number of Killed and Wounded, particularly an Officer, that appeared to be badly wounded, and who it is supposed had the Command. We had only three Men slightly wounded. – Our Officers and Men behaved with the greatest Bravery, and had there been Boats at Warwick to carry over the Reinforcements from thence, it is thought the Enemy's whole Party wou'd have been killed or taken. – Sunday Evening the Enemy burnt two Buildings on Patience Island, on Monday they cut a Quantity of Wood at Hope Island, and Yesterday it is said returned to Newport.

Yesterday Se'nnight [January 12], while the Bomb Brig[1] lay off Prudence, the Gunner and 5 Seamen made their Escape in a Boat, and arrived safe at Bristol.

A Ship is arrived at the Eastward from London in which came Passenger Capt. Gideon Crawford, of this Town,[2] by whom we have received a London Print of the 31st of October; the most material Articles contained therein are as follows: that the House of Commons had resolved on granting a Supply to his Majesty; that a Bill for embodying the Militia of the Kingdom had been read in the House, and ordered a second Reading; that 7 Frigates, from 28 to 36 Guns, were to be fitted out immediately for America; and that the Men of War stationed at Newfoundland, for Protection of the Fishery, instead of returning to England, were ordered to Boston.

Capt. Crawford informs that a Ship and Brig from London laden with Coal and pickled Cabbage for the ministerial Army at Boston, were carried into Newbury-Port last Monday, by an American Privateer.[3]

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[1] H.M. Brig *Bolton*.

[2] The brig *Squirrel*; see *Essex Journal*, January 12, 1776.

[3] The ship *Friends*, Archibald Bowie, master, and the brig *Sukey*, Madett Engs, master.

NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO NEW YORK DELEGATES IN THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS[1]

[Extract]

In Committee of Safety,
New-York, Jany. 20th, 1776.

On the subject of the resolve of Congress for an exchange of Lieut. Tylee [Edward Tilley], we beg leave to inform the Congress, that a few days before the receipt of that resolve, application was made to Capt. [George] Vandeput under our direction, by a person connected with Lieut. Tylee to procure his exchange, Capt. Vandeput answered that it was not in his power to exchange him at present; that he had long since wrote to his admiral for directions on that subject, the answer to which had miscarried, and that he had not any directions to exchange. We have appointed a member to request the mayor of this city to use his influence with Capt. Vandeput or Captn. [Hyde] Parker [Jr.], to make a second application to the admiral on that matter.

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[1] *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 258.

Minutes of the New York Committee of Safety [1]

[New York] Die Sabbati, 10 HO. A.M.

January 20th, 1776.

Col. [Abraham] Lott came into the committee and conferred with them relating to his vessel, which is to go to the foreign W. Indies for gunpowder; and the material parts or outlines being fixed, the agreement was left to be completed by Mr. [Comfort] Sands.

Thomas Henderson, Esqr. a major of minute men in Monmouth county, in New-Jersey, attended on the Committee, and informed that he was sent by the Committee of Safety of New-Jersey, with a guard, to conduct several prisoners taken in New-Jersey, being inhabitants of this Colony, who had been proceeding in the sloop *Polly and Ann,* from this port, to Boston.

Major Henderson delivered to the Committee the affidavit of James Webb, which was read and filed, and is in the words following, to wit:

> James Webb, of full age, being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposeth and saith, that in Decr. last, he, this deponent, with his wife, entered on board a small sloop in New-York harbour, called the *Polly and Ann,* whereof one Hains was captain, bound (as this deponent was then informed) to Boston, which vessel was laden with provisions. That on or about the 20th of said Decr. the said vessel sailed from New-York, and that he never heard that said vessel was bound to any other port than Boston, until said vessel soon after met with bad weather, when it was said on board said vessel that she was bound to the West Indies; that on the 23d Decr. the said vessel was stranded on the Jersey shore; that the captain of the said sloop, one Isaac Gidney master, Bartholomew Hains a passenger, one Palmer who owned part of the cargo, all from Mamaroneck, in Westchester county, Moses Marden, one Graham, this deponent and his wife, with one Sanford and two more, were on board said vessel when she stranded. That this deponent verily believes said vessel was bound to Boston; that since the said vessel was on shore, this deponent observed that the labels on the packages, casks and boxes, were torn off, but that he does not remember to have taken notice of any marks or labels on any of the freight so as to describe them, before taken off; that most of the persons on board left the said vessel to go by land to New-York, soon after they got on the shore, among whom this deponent went to New-York, from whence he lately returned to this Province for his wife and several small effects he had on board; and further this deponent saith not.
>
> James Webb.
>
> Sworn the 11th Jany. 1776, before me.
> John Dennis.

Major Henderson also delivered a copy of the proceedings of the Committee of Safety of New-Jersey, with respect to those prisoners, which was read and filed, and is in the words following, to wit:

Committee of Safety,
Prince Town, January 11th, 1776.

This Committee received information from the Committee of the county of Monmouth, by Dr. Scudder and Dr. Henderson, and also by letter from the chairman of said committee, that a small sloop called the *Polly and Ann,* one Hains captain, was, on the 23d of December last, stranded on Squam Beach, on board of which was a quantity of beef, pork, and other provisions; which vessel and cargo is now in the care and custody of Col. Furman, except such articles as were perishable, which the committee directed to be sold by Dr. Scudder and Dr. Henderson; an inventory of which cargo, as well such as were sold as such as remain, was laid before this Committee; and one James Webb, a passenger on board said vessel which is stranded, appeard before this Committee, by whose deposition it appears that said vessel was bound from New-York to Boston, and from all circumstances the provisions on board were destined for the ministerial army. The committee, taking the above matters into consideration, think it proper that the whole of said cargo be immediately sold and the vessel secured, which vessel, with the amount of the sales, after deducting the necessary expenses, be referred to the disposal of the Congress of this Colony at their next sitting; and that Col. David Furman, Dr. N. Scudder, and Dr. Thomas Henderson, be and are hereby authorized and empowered to secure the above said vessel, and complete the sales of the cargo, in some convenient time, and account for their sales and report their proceedings to the Congress of this Province at their next sitting; and may deliver to the seamen and passengers belonging to said vessel, all such clothing and other effects as belong to them, (exclusive of the cargo,) provided they in a reasonable time call for the same; and that the thanks of this Committee be returned to Col. Furman for his extraordinary care and vigilance in securing the said vessel and cargo.

And, Whereas, it appears that the captain, master and passengers of the said sloop *Polly and Ann,* stranded on Squam Beach, are inhabitants of the Colony of New-York, it is therefore,

Ordered, That the said captain, master and passengers, or such of them as are in this Province, be conveyed under a guard as Col. David Furman may think proper, to New-York, and delivered to the Provincial Congress or Committee of Safety, to be dealt with as they may think proper.

A true copy, By order of the Committee.

Abra. Clark, D. Secy.

James Webb being personally brought before the Committee says, that he intended to go to Britain to take care of a relation and her estate, and expected to be enabled to return to this country at some future time and carry on his business with spirit; that he was going to Boston to obtain a passage from thence to Britain; that he went on board the sloop *Polly and Ann* before she sailed; that he did not then see the captain, but that a person then on board informed him that the sloop was to go to Boston, and that they would take him and his wife passengers; thereupon he went on board of the vessel the next day, which was the day before she sailed; that the vessel sailed on Wednesday and was stranded on Saturday night following; that the captain told him that his cousin Bartholomew Hains fled from home, and that in running away he fell down and lost either his gun or bayonet or both, and would not stay to take it up.

Major Henderson says that James Webb appeared open and candid in his examination before the Committee of New-Jersey.

James Webb requested a certificate to protect him while he tarries in this Colony. Thereupon a certificate was given to him in the words following, to wit:

> This Committee have heard and examined the case of James Webb, in his presence, and nothing appearing against him he is discharged; and this certificate is given to him as a protection whilst he tarries in this Colony and demeans himself well and consistent with the liberties of this Colony.

Major Henderson says that Hains, the captain of the said sloop, broke jail in New-York a few weeks ago, and stole a boat and got on board of the man of war, and was there protected until the vessel sailed, and the said Haines confessed this to one of the guard on the way to New-York. He farther says, that the casks and boxes found on board of the said sloop had had labels nailed to them, but that all the labels were torn off; that among the labels torn off he found one directed to Genl. How [William Howe], Boston, turnips; another, to Mrs. Ann Wood, Boston; another to Genl. [Timothy] Ruggles, Boston; several to one Willard, at Boston; and a back of a letter directed to Genl. How; that the directions to Genl. Ruggles is lost, but that the directions to Genl. How and Mrs. Wood can be sent here.

That he was informed by Wm. Taylor that several persons who had been passengers in the sloop *Poly and Ann* had informed John Morris, of Shrewsbury, that three quarter cask of Madeira wine and other things which were on board for Genl. How were shipped by Governor Tryon, and by a bit of an invoice, found it cost £ 22 10s. per quarter cask.

That John Graham declared he had shipped on board to go to the West Indies, but that he verily believes the sloop was bound to Boston.

Major Henderson says that it appears to him the sloop must have been intended to go only coastwise, for that it is testified by the late master and people on board that they did not keep any reckoning or heave a log-line.

David Rhea says that Capt. Hains told him he was put in jail because he refused to deliver up his arms, and that his punishment had been determined; that he should not eat nor drink until he had delivered them up. That he broke jail by breaking six grates out of a window, and stole a boat about midnight, and got on board of the man of war. That the sloop *Polly and Ann* was purchased for him about three days or less before the time of her sailing, and that she was purchased of Isaac Gidney.

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[1] *New York Provincial Congress,* I, 256–58.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS [1]

[Philadelphia] Saturday, January 20, 1776

The Committee of Claims reported, that there is due,

To Captain Henry Shylock [Shyrock], for his expences in bringing Dr. John Smith from Hagars town, for his expences in returning home, the sum of 89 3/0 dollars.

To John Nelson, for his expences in bringing the said Dr. Smith from the Little Meadows to Hagars town, and for his trouble in attending him to this city, with allowance of expences in returning home, the sum of 75 dollars.

Ordered, That the above accounts be paid.

The committee on General Schuyler's letter, brought in a farther report, which being taken into consideration, the Congress came to the following resolutions:

Resolved, That General Washington be desired to despatch a general officer, if he can be spared from the service at Cambridge, to command the army in Canada.

That it will not be expedient at present to send a committee of Congress to Canada.[2]

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[1] Ford, ed., *JCC,* IV, 72–76.

[2] Further resolutions were passed this day relative to supplying the army in Canada with money and gunpowder, and authorizing raising additional forces.

JOHN HANCOCK TO GEORGE WASHINGTON [1]

[Extract] Philadelphia, January 20th 1776

Sir The Colony of South Carolina has been so fortunate as to oblige Lord W. Campbell, with the armed vessel to quit their harbour. Being earnestly desirous of providing for their defence they have resolved to fit out some armed vessels, but not having seamen among themselves they have dispatched Capn [Robert] Cochran to the Northward to enlist a number of seamen for the service of that Colony.

Lest the offers he was empowered to make might prejudice the service the Congress have chalked out a plan for him to go by, as you will see in the enclosed extracts and I am directed to desire you will please to forward this service —

John Hancock President

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[1] Washington Papers, LC.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

In Committee,
[Philadelphia] 20th Jan'y, 1776.

Robert Towers, Commiss'y, Reports his having deliver'd to Capt. [Nathaniel] Falconer, on account of Congress,

500 lbs of Musket Balls,
200 lbs of Lead,

Resolved, That the Number of Artillery Men in the service of this province, be augmented to one hundred Men, (including non Commission'd officers,) and a suitable number of Commission'd officers to be appointed thereto.

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[1] *Pennsylvania Colonial Records,* X, 463, 464.

ARTICLES OF ENLISTMENT FOR THE CONTINENTAL NAVY [1]

The INVITATION
Of the CONTINENTAL CONGRESS, to their Brethren who are Sons of LIBERTY and SEAMEN, to engage in the defence of the LIBERTIES of AMERICA.

[Reedy Island, Delaware River, January 20, 1776] [2]

WE whose hands and marks are hereunto set and subscribed being officers, seamen and marines, do and each of us doth agree to and with *Hoysteed Hacker Esquire* of the good *Sloop* called the *Fly* belonging to the Thirteen United Colonies of North-America, now bound on a cruise, from the port of *Philadelphia* against the enemies of the Thirteen United Colonies of North-America in manner and form following, That is to say,

In the first place – We do hereby agree for, by, and under the considerations after mentioned, to and with the said Commander, forthwith to enter and ship ourselves, and in due and seasonable time, to repair on board the sail *Sloop* called the *Fly* and during the term of twelve months, unless sooner discharged by the CONGRESS, to the utmost of our power and ability respectively to discharge our several services or stations, and in everything to be conformable and obedient to the several requirings and lawful commands of the said *Hoysteed Hacker Esquire* and his successors in command.

Secondly – We do also oblige and subject ourselves, to serve on board the said ship, during the said cruise, and as she is a ship of war, We do severally oblige ourselves by these articles, to comply with and be subject to the rules and discipline of the American Fleet as established by the CONGRESS, and to be governed and commanded in time of action with an enemy according to the same rules, and submit ourselves to the same punishments and penalties as are there inflicted, in case we or any of us, offer to desert our quarters, or not obey the commands of the said *Hoysteed Hacker Esquire* or his successors in command, in giving chase to any ship or ships, vessel or vessels, or otherwise, and if upon a scrutiny of our said *Commander* or his said officers, we or any of us should be found guilty of any breach contrary to the tenor of this agreement, or any act of cowardice, We do hereby severally submit and agree, to allow and forfeit our several and respective shares, of and in any prize or prizes we shall then have taken to be divided among the said ships company.

Thirdly – We do also severally agree and oblige ourselves that when any prize or prizes have been taken, to follow the express directions of the said *Hoysteed Hacker Esquire* or his successors in command in boarding the said prize, and be under the command of any officer whom the said *Hoysteed Hacker Esquire* shall appoint, and be assisting to him to carry the said prize to whatever port or ports such prize or prizes shall be assigned by the said *Commander* And we do hereby further severally agree and covenant in that case, to be true and faithful in discharge of our duty and trust, and will not in any shape embezzle, defraud or plunder any thing on board such prize or prizes – And in case any or either of us shall be found guilty of any breach, contrary to the true meaning of this agreement, we and such of us being guilty thereof, do hereby severally submit and agree, to allow so much of all and every of our shares and parts of our shares of and in the said prize and prizes then or thenceafter to be taken, and of all our respective wages that then shall be due and coming to us in respect of our services, as shall make good such plunder or embezzlement we shall have been found guilty of.

Fourthly – And it is also further agreed, to be the true intent and meaning of all parties hereto, that the officer or officers, or any of the ships company sent on board any prize, shall have as good a share and interest of any prize as shall be thereafter taken, during his or their absence, as if he or they had been on board the said vessel at the time of taking thereof, any thing herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding. – Provided always, And it is hereby agreed to be the meaning of the said last abovementioned clause, that if the said officer or officers, and such of the said ships company to whom the conduct and management of any prize has been entrusted, do not (first having accepted the commands of the said commander concerning the said prize under his or their custody) immediately repair to the respective port or harbour where the said *Hoysteed Hacker Esqr* or his successors in command shall order or do not proceed with the said prize or prizes so taken to the respective port or ports to be assigned by the said *Commander* for the time being, that then and in failure of any or either of the agreements aforesaid contained on our parts, We and each and every of us so offending, do hereby severally submit and agree to be cashiered not only for our several and respective interests and shares of and in the captures or prize money, but totally to be excluded and divested from the payment of any wages then due to us for and in respect of our several services on board the said ~~ship~~ Sloop *Fly* and the interest and shares of such delinquents that otherwise would have accrued to us.

Fifthly – And the said *Hoysteed Hacker Esquire* for and in behalf of himself and the said Thirteen United Colonies of North-America, doth hereby covenant and agree to and with the said officers, seamen and marines whose names or marks are hereto set or subscribed to pay them in consideration of such services, so much money per month as in a schedule hereunder mentioned and set opposite to their names or marks of each respective officer, seaman or landsman, and likewise to advance unto each and every of them one months pay at entrance (due security for the same being first given) the receipt whereof they do hereby acknowledge.

Sixthly – And as an encouragement to exert the valour of the seamen and mariners, in defending the said *Sloop* and in subduing and distressing the said enemy, the said *Hoysteed Hacker Esquire* for and on behalf of the said Thirteen United Colonies of North-America, doth further covenant, promise and agree to and with all and every of the officers, seamen and marines parties hereto, that in case any prize or prizes shall be taken by the said ship during the intended cruize, that the same shall be proceeded against, and distributed according to the resolution of the CONGRESS, passed the 15th day of November, 1775.

Seventhly – And it is by these presents mutually agreed and consented to by and between the said *Hoysteed Hacker Esquire* and the officers, seamen and marines parties thereto, That in case the Commander for the time being lose a limb in an engagement or be otherwise disabled so as to be rendered incapable afterwards of getting a livelyhood to subsist upon, he shall receive out of the neat profits of such prize or prizes and prize goods, if so much arise, before a dividend or distribution be declared the sum of Four Hundred Dollars, or if he lose his life, his widow or children (if any) shall receive the said bounty of Four Hundred Dollars, together with all prize money to him belonging at the time of his decease. And if the Captain of the marines, or any other commission or warrant office lose a limb or be otherwise disabled, so as to be rendered incapable afterwards of getting a subsistance, he or they so disabled, shall receive a bounty of Three Hundred Dollars if so much arise from the neat profits as aforesaid, and in case of death, the widow or children (if any) is, are, and shall be entitled to the same together with their share of prize money, due at the time of their decease. And if an inferior officer, marine or sailor, lose a limb or be otherwise disabled so as to be rendered incapable afterwards of getting a subsistance, he or they shall receive a bounty of Two Hundred Dollars, to be deducted as aforesaid, and in case of death, his widow or children (if any) is, are, and shall be entitled to the same, together with his share of prize money due at the time of his decease.

He who first discovers a ship or other vessel which shall afterwards become a prize, shall be entitled to a double share of such prize.

He who shall first board a ship or other vessel making resistance, which shall become a prize, shall be entitled to a triple share.

There shall be ten shares of every prize which shall be taken and condemned set apart to be given to such inferior officers, seamen and marines, as shall be adjudged best to deserve them by the superior officers who shall be appointed to make such determination.

Provided always – And it is hereby declared to be the true intent and meaning of the parties to the afore-mentioned orders and articles, that any of the officers, seamen or marines shall be liable to be removed by the CONGRESS, or Committee of CONGRESS, during the recess thereof, or by the Commander in chief of the American Fleet for the time being, from the aforesaid vessel to any other armed vessel in the service of the United Colonies, any thing contained in the foregoing orders and articles notwithstanding.

We further agree as an addition to the above Invitation that all Prize or Prizes that shall be taken in Company or in Case of a Separation by the Ship Alfred Dudley Saltonstall Esqr Commander, Abraham Whipple Esqr of the Ship Columbus, Nicholas Biddle Esqr of the Brigantine Andrew Doria, John Hopkins Esqr of the Brigantine Cabot, John Hazard Esqr of the Sloop Providence and Hoysteed Hacker of the Sloop Fly Shall be equally divided according to the Resolution of the Congress, as if at all times they were Embodied in one Fleet – In Case any of the above Ships or Vessels should be taken, Lost, or Cast away they shall be Entitled to as good a Share or Shares thereof as if they had actually been at the Capture of the aforesaid Prize or Prizes during the Term mentioned in the above Invitation – Provided always that the Officers or Seamen so Cast away or Taken shall do their best Endeavours to get Onboard some One of the above Mentioned Vessels – And the Captain of each Ship shall send as soon as may be to the Commander in Chief a Certificate under his hand that his Ships Company has Subscribed the above agreement – [3]

1. RIHS. This document is based upon "Orders of Congress" as set forth at the conclusion of the "Rules for the Regulation of the Navy of the United Colonies," adopted November 28, 1775, by the Continental Congress. Immediate printing was ordered by Congress on November 30, 1775. That enlistments should be until January 1, 1777 was determined December 5, 1775. Hence, actual printing of the "Invitation" was not undertaken until after the passage of the December 5 resolution, as is indicated by the insertion of the words "twelve months" in the first article. Undoubtedly it was used by all the vessels in the fleet, but the printed "Invitation" is a rare document. Only two of them have been located, and one is imperfect. The second one, for the ship *Columbus,* also was used by Hoysteed Hacker at the time he assumed command of that vessel on January 5, 1777. It, likewise, is in the Rhode Island Historical Society.
2. The date is an approximate one. It is the date that Hoysteed Hacker was commissioned to the command of the *Fly.* That sloop, with forty men from Rhode Island for the fleet, had arrived at Reedy Island a day or two before, and Congress on January 16, 1776, had authorized a tender for the fleet.
3. The italicized paragraph was entered at the bottom of the "Invitation" in the same hand that had inserted names in the printed form. Nicholas Biddle, writing to his brother, James, have Signd an agreement to Share all Prizes that may be taken in Case of seperation on February 16, 1776, said: "I forgot to tell You that all the Officers and Men of the Fleet the same as if the whole fleet were together and concerned in taking Such Prizes." Nicholas Biddle Papers, HSP. A copy of the agreement, undated, is in *ibid.* John Paul Jones, in a letter to Robert Morris, February 10, 1777, stated: "No man or private Society of men hath a Right to add to the Established laws of the land Yet by the Inclosed Invitation we see that Individuals in the Navy have Assumed that Authority," Papers of John Paul Jones, LC.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO MARYLAND DELEGATES IN THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS [1]

No 2.

Gentn By a Resolution of the Convention, the City of Annapolis and the Town of Baltimore, are to be for[tified] if it be practicable; as we are much at a Loss for Cannon, and as we hear they have more at New-York and Philadelphia than they have Occasion for; we imagine they may be willing to spare some of them. We must therefore request you will be pleased to enquire of the Gentlemen of those Provinces in Congress, or of the Committee of Philadelphia, whether it will be agreeable to them, to Lend us any of them and acquaint us with their Answer; We shall want about thirty or forty eighteen Pounders – if we are favoured with the Loan of them, they shall be returned, or paid for, if lost, or damaged, as there will be great Danger in attempting to get them round by Water, if we borrow them from the Province of New-York; we judge it may be best to get them down by Land to Delawar[e]-Bay, from thence over short carrying Places, they may be got into our Bay.

Any Money, that may be necessary to defray the Expense in getting them down, shall be sent you, or lodged, where you think proper –

We inclose you a Copy of the Resolutions of the Convention for emitting Bills of Credit, as some Clauses require particular Duties to be performed by Yourselves. We are [&c.]

[Annapolis 20] Jany 1776

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1. Council of Safety Letter Book, No. 1, 1776, Md. Arch.

STEPHEN STEWARD TO CHARLES WALLACE [1]

[West River] Saturday the 20 of January

Dr Charles

I have long been thinking of a moshen of sum sort to save your town I think I have now fell on one that shall withstand against any ship in the navey that they can trust before your town the moshen must float and carey 20-18 pounders it must be about 108 feet long 32 feet or less broad 5½ feet deep the sides and ends to be glasaded so that the men shall fight under cover and the sides and ends canon proof, this moshen I think may be completed in two months at the expense of 2500 £ or less the friendship I have from yourself &c Tome Hyde and Tome Harwood has partly emploied my mind this six weeks past – If the commetey of safety thinks well of this mater there is no time to be lost and you must come down to me tomorrow morning as I cant wait neither on you nor the comitey in all next week, if this moshen or floating batrey can be got ready in time I think it will save your town from any thing that can be dun to it by sea, every man of you must atend to this matter as one hundred men may be employed.

I am Charles with sencir Respect yours

S. Steward

You must get John Saverson to rede this for I Cant this moshen may allways keep a Propeatill fier on the enemy as there must be two canon in each end and 8 on each side she may carey 52 swivels on her sides and ends to prevent her being boarded – My friend I think, ill used both Congress and convention the congress gave them ships to build to men that nose nothing of the business Jack Steward you no has been used ill by convention but still I am ready to serve my country in every degree that lys in my power.

If any opportunity send Tome Johnson a copy of this to day as he desired I would think of this sort to save the town.

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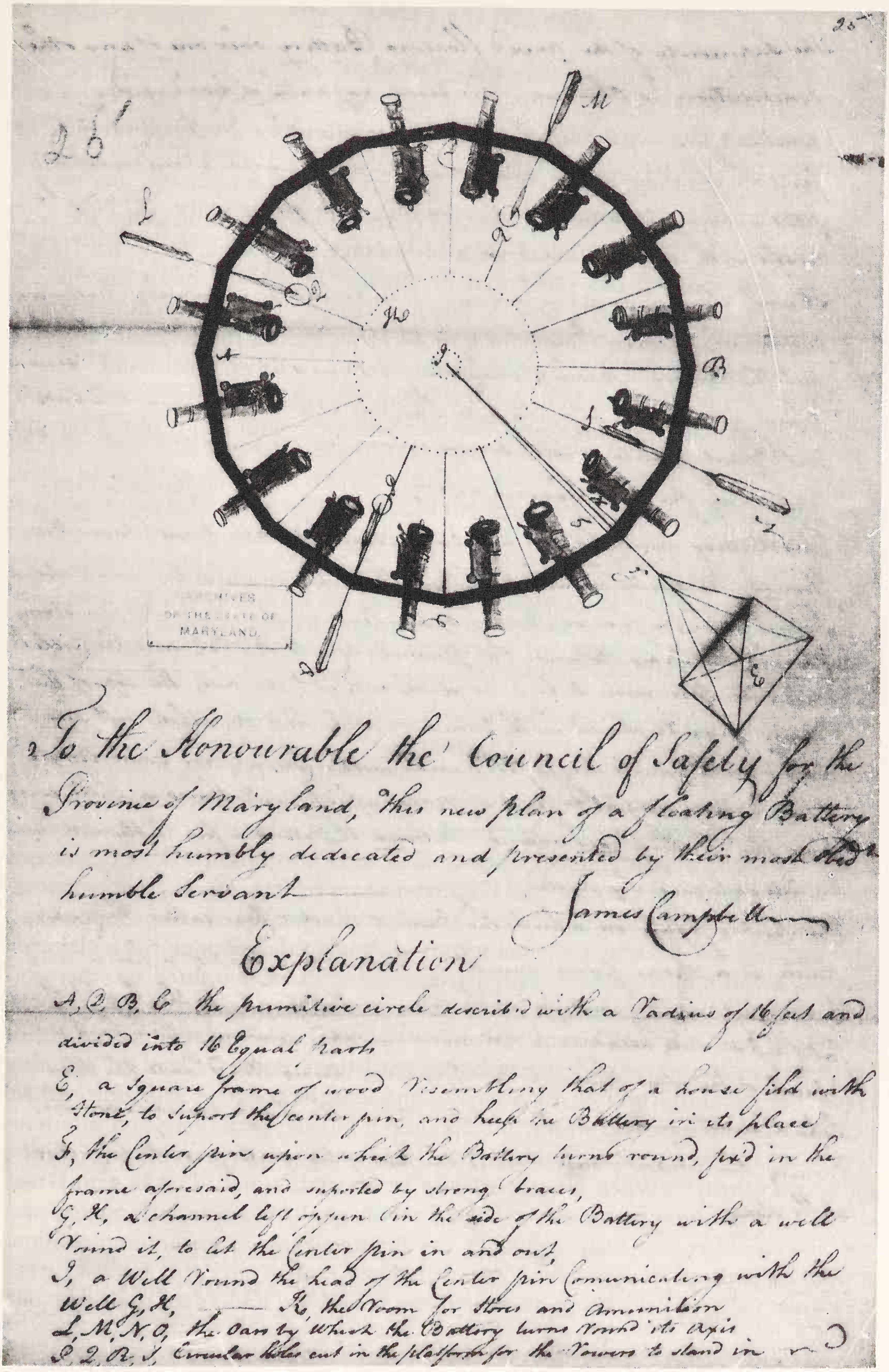
1. Correspondence of Council of Safety, Md. Arch.

JAMES MURRAY TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

Gentn The Bearer hereof Mr James Campbell (who acted as a Capt of our militia) had the Honour, on application of being appointed a lieut of the light



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ARCHIVES OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND

To the Honourable the Council of Safety for the Province of Maryland, this new plan of a floating Battery is most humbly dedicated and presented by their most obedt humble Servant

James Campbell

Explanation

A, D, B, C the primitive circle describ'd with a Radius of 16 feet and divided into 16 Equal Parts

E, a Square frame of wood resembling that of a house fild with Stone, to Suport the Center pin, and keep the Battery in its place

F, the Center pin upon which the Battery turns round, fixd in the frame aforesaid, and suported by strong braces,

G, H, A channel left open in the side of the Battery with a well round it, to let the Center pin in and out,

I, a Well round the head of the Center pin Comunicating with the Well G, H, —— K, the Room for Stores and Ammunition

L, M, N, O, the Oars by which the Battery turns round its Axis

P, Q, R, S, Circular holes cut in the platform for the Rowers to stand in

James Campbell's plan for a floating battery.

infantry company at our last convention. I am to beg Leave to introduce this Gentleman to you, as particularly worthy your notice.

I think upon conversation with him he may afford some very useful hints in those branches that we, at this time stand so much in need of, I mean gunnery & Fortification,

Have known him for several years in character of a Capt of a ship the seafaring life having been his calling from his infancy, and think, to do his [him] justice in that scene or any other that he engages in, he will merit esteem. I believe he brings with him a plan of floating battery, his own invention, which may very probably afford matter for improvement, should the original fail.[2] If you attempt fortification and are not already supplied with an abler hand, believe you'll find him very cleaver in drawing & taking charts of yr harbours & Bay and pointing out the fittest place to erect Fortifications on. with due regard I remain [&c.]

Cambridge [Maryland] James Murray
20th Janry 1776.

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1. Letters to Council of Safety, Md. Arch.
2. In the Maryland State Archives is Campbell's drawing of a circular battery of sixteen cannon with an explanation of its operation and bearing the inscription: "To the Honourable the Council of Safety for the Province of Maryland, this new plan of a floating Battery is most humbly dedicated and presented by their most obedt humble Servant James Campbell." See illustration, page 893.

"An American" to the Printer of the *Virginia Gazette* [1]

[Williamsburg, January 20]

Mr. Pinkney,

As the ministry, and their tools, have persisted in charging America with a desire of independence, and, in spight of all the most solemn declarations on her part, that she is still (or rather, I hope, was) willing to be subject to Britain, as compleately as she was in the year 1763, and as we have good reason to suppose, great as their lust of power is, that avarice has the greatest share in influencing their conduct, and that therefore not merely an empty title to superiority is claimed, or even a substantial revenue, but that something more is insisted on, the total monopoly of our trade; I say, as these things are evident, we have just cause of complaint, and may well resent such low suspicion, and base treatment. Whoever considers the acts of parliament, laying restrictions on the trade of the colonies, before the year 1763, will be astonished to find that the congress, after one of their petitions had been treated with contempt, and a bloody, perfidious, and inhuman war, was entered into against them, should consent that those acts should still be binding on them! When we entered into an association not to trade with Great Britain, provided she had been contented to try who could hold out longest, and see who would repent first, and make the first overtures of an accommodation, it would have been right to have contended ourselves with our own manufactures: But when they not only laugh at our efforts in this way, and affect to despise our whole trade as of no importance to them, but also have, by levying against us a heavy and savage war, obliged us to incur many and great expences, and to neglect in many parts of our country, agriculture and manufactures, we must be fools indeed not to open our ports, and to try what value may be put on our trade by France and Spain, and how we may thereby influence them in our favour, and endeavour, by our trade, to procure every thing necessary for the support of the war, and our defence and comfort. By doing this we pave the way to a powerful alliance, and by it may humble the pride of our enemies, may shew them we bid defiance to their attempts to enslave us, and that, so far from being sufferers for want of their trade, we can do ten times better without it.

If the ports were open to all nations, except the British, we might soon sink our paper money, and our estates would be of ten times their present value. Our tobacco, hemp, flax, cotton, tar, pitch, turpentine, iron, lead, staves and lumber; our wheat, oats, barley, rye, rice, Indian corn, peas, beans, &c. &c. might be sold for their real value, in cash, or such commodities as we might wish to barter them for. Our tobacco would then always command a good price, and ready money; we should seldom get less than 30 or 40s a hundred for it in cash; good wheat would sell for 6 or 7 shillings a bushel, and all other things in proportion; and, instead of paying the high price we now do for British goods, bought of Scotch factors, at an extravagant rate after selling them our tobacco for a mere nothing, we should buy every thing equally good, if not better, at half price, and often get them in exchange for articles of our produce, which now we never attend to: The truth of this can be asserted by those who have traded in French, Spanish, Dutch, or Italian ports. Claret would then be as cheap as Madeira wine, and velvet as broadcloth, and rum, sugar, molasses, wine, oyl, olives, French brandy, arrack, tea, spices, &c. &c. would be exchanged here for such necessaries, or rarities, as would be wanted in the different ships, by the captains, factors, or men, and by their friends and customers, at the different ports they come from. Our ports would then be filled with ships, and our towns with respectable merchants; the value of our country would soon be known aboard, and numbers of people of ingenuity and property would come and settle among us. We should have the trade protected against our present oppressors, the amplest means of defence afforded us, and even Great Britain herself would soon court our favour, and be willing to form a commercial league with us. Let any one consider these things, and then let him say, whether he would hesitate a moment to open our ports.

An American.

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1. Pinkney's *Virginia Gazette*, January 20, 1776.

Dixon and Hunter's *Virginia Gazette*, Saturday, January 20, 1776

Williamsburg, Jan. 20.

Some time this week two tenders seized, and carried into Norfolk harbour, a topsail vessel belonging to Mr.Ritchie of Hobb's Hole, loaded with salt.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

In the Council of Safety,
[Charleston] Saturday, Jan. 20th, 1776.

Mr. President laid the following copies of letter's before the board, which he had written by their direction.

Charles-Town, Jan. 19th, 1776.

Gentlemen – Capt. Crawford this morning delivered us your letter of the 12th, to which we have paid due regard.

The thirty pounds paid to the four New-England seamen for the reasons which you have assigned, we think was well applied.

We desire you will give us the earliest intelligence of the *Tamar* and *Cherokee,* supposed to be now at Cockspur, and of any other man-of-war or armed vessels belonging to the enemy: and you cannot be too much upon your guard against their procuring provision from some part of our coast and on the north banks of Savannah – against all illicit correspondence with them and against attempts to make an attack upon your town and plantations and for recovering the Brigantine *William.*

The whole coast should be alarmed, and every friend to American interest ought in an especial manner to exert himself.

Lord William Campbell may possibly visit a plantation on our side of the Savannah. In such a case, it would be well to conduct him with politeness and security to the seat of government which he ought not to have deserted, and all expences will be properly reimbursed.

By order of the Council of Safety.

Henry Laurens, President.

Committee at Beaufort.

Charles-Town, South Carolina
Jan. 19th, 1776.

Sir – As we have been informed that seamen, arms, ammunition and vessels may be procured at Bermuda, and as you have been pleased to offer your service to this colony, we desire you will immediately proceed in the scooner *Little Thomas* to that island with such rice as Capt. [Edward] Blake has shipped on board her, an invoice of which he will put into your hands. Upon your arrival there, lose no time, but immediately endeavour to inlist for the service and defence of this colony, two hundred, or as many not exceeding that number as you can, able seamen, on the following terms – bounty money ten pounds Carolina currency – wages twenty-one pounds per Calendar month, and provisions, to commence the day of embarkation in a vessel at this port or to some of the inlets to the southward of this port which will be less exposed to the ravages of the enemy.

You will stipulate with the men whom you may inlist to serve till the 1st of March, 1777 – liable to be sooner disbanded by the Congress or

Council of Safety of this colony on receiving one month's additional pay, and that they are to be subject to similar rules and orders as well as intitled to the same share of prizes as seamen who are employed by the continent in sea service. If the men will receive rice in lieu of bounty-money, you may dispose of the rice in that way, otherwise lodge or dispose of it in such manner as Capt. Blake shall direct.

It will be no small encouragement to men to inlist in our service, to be informed, that the Provincial Congress have resolved, that provision shall be made for the support of such men as may be maimed or disabled and for the families of any who may be killed in the service of the colony.

You are to procure also at Bermuda any quantity you can of good gunpowder and salt-petre, and good muskets, good six and four-pound cannon, with shot, match, and all necessary appurtenances, swiveled guns and shot, swiveled bluderbusses, and good pistols, cutlasses and half-pikes or lances, musket, pistol and bluderbuss ball, hand-grenades, good flints and cartridge-paper. We refer you more particularly for the articles to a gentleman to whom Mr. Thos. Savage will write.

If you are so fortunate as to inlist more men than the *Little Thomas* can conveniently and safely accomodate, you are to purchase a proper vessel on account of this colony, appoint a master and mate, and man her with the men whom you shall have inlisted over and above the number in the scooner and give the master proper orders for proceeding as you are directed above, particularly to be careful not to fall into the hands of an enemy. Pay great attention to the goodness and reputation for fast sailing of any vessel which you may purchase, and no less to the price which we expect will be very moderate in these times – and it will be no small consideration to the parties from whom you may purchase powder, arms, military stores and vessel, that we will, if required, pay in the produce of this colony and permit such produce in any vessel sent for that purpose to be shipped to a foreign market. And we desire you will acquaint all proper persons (not to be publickly advertised) that we will give a liberal price for good gunpowder and good muskets, with bayonets, and pay in produce with license to export.

If it shall happen that men will not inlist in our naval service at Bermuda, you are to call in your way hither at [New] Providence, and attempt to inlist men there; and if you fail there, purchase a cargo of salt, and return with all possible dispatch, and prefer entering any of our southern inlets to this harbour. Transmit intelligence to us immediately upon your arrival, and also from Bermuda, if you have opportunity.

If these instructions are not sufficiently clear for your guide, in particular cases which may occur, exercise your own discretion, and take the advice of the gentleman to whom Mr. Savage will write, and we shall be satisfied with your best endeavours for the service of the public. We shall likewise allow you a reasonable commission for your several transactions in the affairs now committed to your charge.

By order of the Council of Safety.

Henry Laurens, President.

Mr. Elisha Sawyer.

Resolved, That Mr. Paul Pritchard be ordered forthwith to proceed, with all his hands, to work upon the fortifications on Sullivan's Island; and, if he shall sustain any damage in consequence of his obedience to such order, that the same shall be considered.

Ordered, That Mr. Ferguson and Col. Parsons be added to the committee to confer with the field officers of the army and navy on a plan of defence for Charles-Town.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society,* III, 196–203.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Tamar,* CAPTAIN EDWARD THORNRBOUGH [1]

January 1776	River [in] Savanah Georgia
[Thursday] 18	Fresh breezes at 2 PM Weighd & made Sail Employ'd in working up the Harbour at ½ past 4 Came too with the best bowr in 3 fm water, Veered away & Moor'd Ship a Cable on the Small bowr and ½ a Cable on the small bowr
[Friday] 19	at 9 A M unmoor'd Ship & hove into ½ a Cable on the small bowr the Light House Et the Block house on Cockspur Island WBN ½ a Mile Do Wthr Moord Ship with the Stream Anchor & Cable
[Saturday] 20	A M Recd out of the Sloop *York Packett* from New York, Stephen Weeks – Master which we detained with Bread 6733 lb & Flour 9390 lb [2] Recd 186 lb fresh Beef which we Shot on Tybey Inspected by the Acting Master Mode & Clear

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/968.
2. The prize, a sloop, was bound from New York for Savannah. Shuldham's Prize List, April 24, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

LIEUTENANT WILLIAM GRANT, R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES [1]

Sir *St John* New providence 20th Jany 1776

I had the honour to acquaint you with the Schooner's arrival at Pensacola; as also with the State and Condition of her, and at the same time informed you of the Orders I had received from Capt Bromedge; and altho I conceived those orders Incompatible with your's of the 10 June, Yet I readily obey'd them Notwithstanding the Condition of the Schooner made it very hazardous to Carry her into deep water, she accordingly proved Leaky all the passage; & as her Leaks daily increased at Pensacola I gave in her State and Condition to Capt Davey Commander of His Majestie's Ship *Defiance*; but found it quite impracticable to get her repaired there, As neither Materials nor Stores were to be purchased at any Rate: and after having waited Six weeks without hearing any Accot of Govr [Montfort] Brown and it being quite uncertain when he might return from the Mississippi (the place he was supposed to be at) and well knowing that it would be impossible on account of the Worms to keep the Schooner free much longer, I proposed getting to my Station again if possible, tho' at the Extreme hazard of our Lives. The day preceeding that of my Intended departure an Express arrived from the Indian Nation informing that the Spaniards had attacked and taken St Augustine the opinion of the Council which was Immediately conveened, on the receipt of this News was I suppose the Occasion of my receiving the Inclosed Orders from Capt Davey, which I immediately complyed with Notwithstanding the bad Condition of the Schooner for such a Service: For the reasons of my being forced off that Station, the Difficulties and Danger we have encountered & the distress to which we have been reduced I beg leave to refer you to my Journal.

We arrived here with near four Feet water in the hauld and She went to the bottom a few minutes after while we were mooring her; – I immediately apply'd to the Commander in Chief for a survey on her to which I also refer to & have sent another Copy Inclosed –

It is realy impossible to find Words to express the very bad Condition of the Schooner's Bottom, which as soon as it is touched with any Tool, crumble to Dust: her fore part, as far as abafft the main Chains is quite a honey Comb: With the people that were able to work I have hove her down, Keel out several times, I have also purchased, tho' at a very Extravagant rate, Mahogany Plank and some other Materials in order to new Bottom and sheath her but as this place cant supply me with every necessary Article – I am obliged to leave of[f] work after giving her New bows, Sheathing part of the Starboard side and Chaulking every Seam in her, that will bear it: I have paid [payed] her bottom four times over, but without Effect! She still Continues leaky & Keeps the pumps Continually going, – Add to this her Masts & Boombs are either Sprung or Carried away; her Sails and rigging worn & torn to pieces & her Boats all straved [stoved] or worn out. In short its my Opinion she never can be made fit for service again, without a thorough repair in a dry Dock – And as she is destitute of every kind of Stores, should it be yours Orders to have that done here, her refitting must amount to a very Large Sum, Owing to the very high price of Labour & every Materials at this place – I have been obliged, to send already money to all parts of America and the West Indies to purchase Stores but without Success owing to the Disorder of the Times – To this account of the Schooner I must beg leave to subjoin that of my self and my people, which is really alarming and Deplorable – I have been sick for a Considerable time past, and am at present very unwell, My Officers and Servants all sick on Shore My Master is Dead and there are not three Well men to help the Sick on board: and the Sick are so Extremely Weak that it will be a long time if ever before they can recover their Health/ I must therefore beg your Advice & Directions with regard to my future Conduct relative to the Schooner, as soon as possible as I cant but be very uneasy untill I receive them – There are some few Materials lately arrived here, such as Nails Pitch Tarr &ca and I now intend beginning to repair her with what things we can scrape together in the best manner we can. I have the honour to be with much respect Sir [&c.]

W^m^ Grant

Copy
P.S. I beg leave to observe that I have been supplied with no Stores for three Years past but what I purchased & have had no Orders from any Commanding Officer since yours of the 10th June 1775, which subjects me to inexpressible Difficulties at the public Offices. They neither do nor will know my Situation and have only to rest on your good offices and Assistances, which I hope will be granted as it will be of the most Essential Service to me, having a just sense of your humanity and great goodness. I am Sir [&c.]

W^m^ Grant.[2]

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1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485.
2. *Ibid.*, this letter traveled to England before it was received by Graves, who forwarded it to Philip Stephens on August 5, 1777.

21 Jan. (Sunday)

REV. JACOB BAILEY TO BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID WOOSTER [1]

[Extract] Newbury Cove January 21st 1776 –

Dear Sir – We have here the Malancholy News of a Defeat of General Montgomery at Quebec, tho' we are not Certain of the Truth of it yet think it our Duty to send Men not only to get Intelligence ourselves but that the Situation of Affairs in Canada may be known at Head Quarters & the quickest way to March from Cambridge to Canada . . . nothing new here only four Vessels taken from England by Capn Manly and another Privateer,

Jacob Bayley, by Order of
the Committees of Haverhill and Newbury –

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1. Washington Papers, LC.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Fowey*, CAPTAIN GEORGE MONTAGU [1]

January 1776 At Single Anchor Marble Head WbS½S The So most rock on Cat Island SbE½E – Off Shore ¾ of a Mile

Saturday 20. at 9 AM veered away & unmoor'd hove up the best Bower & into ⅓ on the small, at 11 sent the Cutter & Longboat Man'd & Armed in pursuit of two schooners And run them on shore.

Sunday 21. A M reced water on board at 1 PM fired 2 Guns and made the signal for the boats to return.

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1. PRO, Admiralty 51/375.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Mercury*, CAPTAIN ALEXANDER GRAEME [1]

Jany 1776 At single Anchor in Nantasket Road

Saturday 20 [Fresh Gales & Cloudy] came on Board Major Genl [Henry] Clinton Saluted him with 13 Guns at 7 PM fired a Signal Gun for the Convoy to weigh and come to sail at 10 fired a Gun to Anchor ½ past anchored with B B in 7 fm

Sunday 21 Cape Cod S W b W Diste, 6 or 7 Leags
Modt & Cloudy at 5 weighed and came to sail in Co with the *Kitty Glascow Packet* & *Three Sisters*

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1. PRO, Admiralty 51/600.

GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE TO GEORGE WASHINGTON [1]

[Extract] Providence January 21st 1776

Sir Your Favour of the 6th instant I received & laid before the General Assembly. It had great Weight: And I believe that no Supplies to the Enemy's Ships would have been permitted had it not appeared to us that the Members of the Continental Congress were of Opinion that they should be continued. The following is an Extract of a Letter from our Delegates on that Subject "A Memorial from the town of Newport forwarded to us by Express having been referred to the General Assembly we now inclose that with the Papers pertinent thereto. We should not do Justice to the Benevolence of Congress or to the distressed Situation of the Town if we did not acquaint you that all the Gentlemen who spoke in this Debate expressed the most tender Regard for the distressed People and gave it as their Opinion that as long as the Ships of War now in the Harbour could be supplied with fresh Provisions Beer and such like – Necessaries for their own immediate Support consistently with the great Principles of the general Good and Safety of America the Town ought to be permitted to furnish them; the greatest Care being taken by Government that no more than the barely necessary Supplies be furnished them from Time to Time, lest the common Enemy in other Parts of the Continent should through them obtain Provisions." – In Consequence of which the General Assembly have ordered that Capt. Wallace should be supplied, as you will see by the inclosed Vote.[2] But, as he may canonade and even burn the Town, a discretionary Power, by a private Vote, which it is designed should be kept a profound Secret, is given to the Commander of the Forces on Rhode Island to permit Supplies in Cases of imminent Danger until the next Session to be holden on the last Monday in next Month.

Similar Measures to those taken by Connecticut as mentioned in your Letter have been adopted by this Colony. Besides which the commanding Officer of any Body of the Continental troops is empowered to impress Carriages &c

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1. Washington Papers, LC.
2. See Journal of Rhode Island Assembly, January 17, 1776.

INTELLIGENCE FROM RHODE ISLAND, SUPPLIED BY CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE, R.N.[1]

Intelligence from Rhode Island the 21st Janry 1776. Says.

That the Morning of the 31st Ulto the Rebels Army Commanded by Montgomery attempted to get Possession of Quebec by Escalade, but were repulsed with the loss (by their own Accounts) of 70 killed on the Spot, and 300 taken Prisoners within the Walls. – Among the Dead are General Montgomery and his Aid De

Camp – Colonel Arnold wounded in the Thigh, but not a Prisoner – Major [Christopher] Green, of [James Mitchell] Varnum's Regiment, a Prisoner and many other Officers Killed and Wounded.

N.B. This account from Genl Wooster to Govr Trumbull.

That the Congress had order'd 30 Ships to be built, and ready for Sea by the 1st of April, force, from 20 to 36 Guns – All the Carpenters in this part of the Country (Vizt Newport) are gone to Providence to assist in building Two Ships, that are ordered to be got ready there, one of 28 the other of 32 Guns.[2]

That the Rebel Army about Boston, consists of about 12,000 Men, and that General [Charles] Lee was gone to New York.

That a Detachment from the King's Forces (under command of Lord Dunmore) Commanded by Captain [Charles] Fordyce, attacked a Party of the Rebels in their Intrenchments near the great Bridge at Norfolk, in which Captain Fordyce was killed on the Spot, and the Detachment lost 90 or 100 Men killed and taken Prisoners. – That Lord Dunmore with the Main Body of his Army, had retreated to the Ships, and had Cannonaded the Town of Norfolk. –

Signed Ja^{s} Wallace

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484. Enclosed in Shuldham to Stephens, January 28, 1776.
2. Referring to the resolution of the Continental Congress on December 13, 1775, to build thirteen frigates; specifically to the two which were contracted to be built at Providence, subsequently named the *Providence,* 28 guns, and the *Warren,* 32 guns.

Captain James Wallace, R.N., to the Inhabitants of Newport [1]

His Majesty's Ship *Rose* at Rhodeisland
the 21st January 1776 –

Gentlemen,

I can make no Treaty with People in open Arms against their Sovereign committing every Act of Hostility – I wish & believe the Town of Newport is not so; therefore they shall be safe & unmolested on our Part, upon their granting us our Supplies – Boats with Fuel & Provisions to pass as usual, having my Permits I am Gentlemen [&c.]

Ja^{s} Wallace

1. Letters to the Governor, 1776, vol. 8, R.I. Arch.

Minutes of the New York Committee of Safety [1]

[New York] Die Solis, 3 ho. P.M.
Jany. 21st, 1776.

Mr. William Leary the town major came and informed this Committee of Safety that part of the city guard under his direction, had apprehended a certain Joseph Woolcombe, who was come from on board of a transport ship off Sandy Hook to go on board of the ships of war in port; and that he had also apprehended Capt. William Dobbs, the pilot, who had brought him on shore for that purpose, and that he had sent them to the guard-house. That he caused the said Joseph

Woolcombe to be searched, and had found in his custody five letters, which he had brought to the Committee of Safety for their inspection or direction.

The said several letters being opened and read, appeared to be wrote and directed to the persons for that purpose hereinafter named, and to the following effect, to wit:

1st. A letter from I. H. Dempster, captain of the ship *Blue Mountain Valley,* dated January 22nd, 1776, and directed to his brother, George Dempster, Esqr. Oxford-street, London. He therein informs him "that he was now preparing to send an officer on shore to be fully satisfied of the propriety of going into New-York. That he had been three weeks on the coast without seeing or speaking with any of the King's ships.

"That he was greatly amazed at not yet seeing any of the men of war; his instructions strictly forbidding him *to enter Boston or any other port or harbour in America 'till he had spoke with some of His Majesty's ships, proper orders having been sent out for that purpose.* That the ship was in a bad state; he feared that her rudder must be unhung before he could proceed any further, and that they were in want of water."

2nd. Letter from the said I.H.Dempster of the same date, directed to Robert Hunter Esqr. Coleman-street, London. In this letter he says "they had been three weeks on the coast, that they had not seen any of the King's vessels, though by the tenor of his instructions from the board he had reason to suppose he should long ere this time have met some of them."

3d. A letter from the said I.H.Dempster, of the same date as the others, directed to Richard Cardin, Esqr. Bucklersbury, London; containing advices to the same effect as the letters before mentioned.

4th. A letter from I.H.Dempster, of the same date, directed to his brother[?], I.Townshend, London; containing the like advices as the others.

5th. A letter dated said 22d January,[2] from Joseph Woolcombe, the mate (and now in the barrack) to his father, containing advices of a long passage, very bad weather, loss of sails, ship in bad order; that they had 80 hogs when they sailed, and had now only ten left; that pork would come dear to the soldiers.

Capt. William Dobbs, by order of the Committee, was brought before them and examined: He described the ship *Blue Mountain Valley,* says she is a transport from England with porter and coal for the ministerial army; that Joseph Woolcombe is mate of the said ship; that he did not promise to put said Woolcombe on board of one of the ships of war, but only promised to bring him to the city; that Woolcombe did not mention any thing about the going on board of the ships of war, or either of them, until he was near the city, and that he, the said William Dobbs, refused to put him on board.

Capt. William Dobbs returned with a guard to the guardhouse, at the upper barracks.

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1. *New York Provincial Congress,* I, 259–60.
2. A probable explanation of the dating of the five letters a day later than they were written is that somehow on the long passage the reckoning became a day off.

NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO LORD STIRLING[1]

[Extract] In Committee of Safety, New-York,
My Lord: Sunday Evening, 8 o'clock, January 21, 1776.

By the seizure of a man brought up from the Hook by one of our pilots from on board a transport, we, this instant, have learned her being in a distressed condition, and waiting there for direction and assistance from this port. She has been out thirteen weeks, destined for the Head-Quarters of the Ministerial troops, so that, if she receives relief, she will, doubtless, proceed for Boston. She is deeply laden with all kinds of stores for the army.

Our intelligence is from letters found on the prisoner, directed to certain persons under fictitious directions, which were intended to be conveyed, by him, on board of the man-of-war. It would greatly serve the publick cause could she be seized. There are the most evident reasons why we, in New-York, ought not, in point of prudence, to do it. We have two ships-of-war lying here, and our exports, as yet, happily, uninterrupted by them. This Discovery cannot be kept long a secret and we deem it our duty to submit this case to your immediate attention.

. . . Should it be known to the ships-of-war, they will, doubtless, send down their boats, which consideration has induced us, by express, to furnish you with this opportunity of serving the publick.

The above reasons point out the propriety of keeping the source of your information a secret, and, to this end, we beg you will destroy this as soon as read.

We are, my Lord, [&c.]

By order of the Committee:

P.S. She is a ship of between three and four hundred tons, a galley-built ship, without a head; has yellow sides, blue quarter-boards, with the trophies of war painted on the quarter-boards; has six three-pounders on the quarter-deck. She has, it is thought a quantity of ammunition on board. She has about twenty hands, and lies hovering off and on, without the Hook, and will not leave that station till she receives intelligence from shore. Captain William Rogers, the bearer of this, will be a proper person to take the direction of the undertaking.

[1] Force, comp., *American Archives,* 4th, IV, 795–96.

PERMIT TO JOHN RIDDELL FROM THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY[1]

Permit the Bearer Mr. John Riddell mercht at Dumfries to pass to any Seaport town in this Colony by Land in order to take his passage for Great Britain, with his Baggage

By Order of the Commee of Safety

Jan. 21, 1776
Virginia Edmd Pendleton Sr

[1] Charles G. Slack Collection, Dawes Memorial Library, MCL.

JOURNAL OF H. M. SLOOP *Otter,* CAPTAIN MATTHEW SQUIRE[1]

January 1776 Elizabeth River [Virginia]

Sunday 21 at 10 A M Departed this life John Dawson Seaman
Variable Weather at 4 P M the Rebels fired on a Merchantmans boats taking off Tobacco the property of English Merchants from Norfolk, on which the *Liverpool* and us began to cannonade them to cover the boats which continued till 8 o'clock

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM COL. WOODFORD TO THE HON. THE PRESIDENT OF THE [VIRGINIA] CONVENTION, DATED NORFOLK, JANUARY 21, 1776."[1]

We have had a party, these ten days, upon Tanner's creek, who yesterday had a brush with a tender's boat attempting to land at [Andrew] Sprowle's plantation; they beat her off and killed one man.

8 *o'clock at night.* About 4 this afternoon, another heavy cannonading began from the *Liverpool* and *Otter,* during which the enemy landed and set fire to some houses that remained unhurt, near to what is called Town Point wharf. I sent strong parties to reinforce our water guards. We had three fine men killed with cannon shot, and one wounded, who, it is thought, will lose his arm. We have found one sailor and two negroes dead, and suppose many others were killed and wounded, that were carried off in their boats. Capts. [John] Green and [John] Markham arrived in the height of the fire.

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[1] Purdie's *Virginia Gazette,* January 26, 1776.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY[1]

In the Council of Safety,
[Charleston] Sunday, Jan. 21st, 1776.

Mr. [John] Rutledge from the committee to confer with the field officers of the army and the commanders of the navy, and form a plan of defence, reported.

The Council then proceeded to take a view of the several forts and batteries about this town.

And adjourned to 5 o'clock in the evening.

In the Council of Safety,
Sunday evening, Jan. 21st, 1776.

Resolved, That three twenty-six pounders be taken, one from the battery on Col. [Henry] Laurens's land, one from Mr. Prioleau's wharf, and one from M. Beale's and immediately transported to Sullivan's Island, to be mounted on the works there: and that the said twenty-six pounders be replaced by twelve pounders from the lines upon Charles-Town neck.

Ordered, That Capt. [Edward] Blake do give all possible aid and assistance in providing proper boats and men for transporting cannon and stores.

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[1] *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society,* III, 203–04.

JOURNAL OF H. M. SLOOP *Tamar,* CAPTAIN EDWARD THORNBROUGH [1]

January 1776	River Savanah Georgia
[Sunday] 21	AM came in the *Shark* pilot Boat from St Augustine & *Pensicola Packet.* Recd out of the above boat one puncheon of Rum Contg 111 Gallns Fresh breezes & Clear P M unmoord Ship & dropt further up the Harbour at 6 Moor'd in 4 fm water, a Cable on the small Bowr & ½ a Cable on the best bowr the Light house E½N the Block house on Cockspur Island nne ¼ of a Mile.

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 51/968.

REAR ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON TO PHILIP STEPHENS [1]

Antelope Jamaica January 21st: 1776

Sir./ I have received your Four Letters; dated the 5th October 1775, Three of them, Answers to those of mine, from Janry to July 1775, and am happy, their Lordships, approve of my Proceedings – The Fourth, respecting the Ships, under my Command, not being supply'd, with Fresh Beef, more than One Day, in each Week, agreeable to the Contractors Contract, except in cases of urgent Necessity – I beg leave, to acquaint their Lordships, that they never have, unless when their Captains, have represented to me, of their People being Sickly, & the Surgeons, of Opinion, that Fresh Meat, twice a Week, would contribute to their Recovery – I then have order'd them, to be supply'd with it, for a Month, which has never happen'd but twice, since I releev'd Sir George Rodney, excepting the *Pallas,* who I order'd it, during the time she was here, (which was about Six Weeks) her People, being much afflicted, with the Scurvey.

I beg leave to Inclose you, the Duplicate of a Letter, which I wrote you, by a Merchant Ship, the 22d of last December, which I hope, you have received, in the Latter part, of which, I beg'd you'd inform their Lordships, of the *Maidstone*s, having sent, into this Port, a North American Sloop, Since which, she has sent in, a Schooner & two Sloops, from Cape Nichola, Loaden with French produce, and bound to the Rebellious Colonies

The *Squirrel,* has likewise sent in, two Sloops, one from Cape Nichola, with French produce, the other from Turks Islands, with Salt, both bound to the Rebelious Colonies.

I beg leave to acquaint their Lordships that the 4th instant, I received a Letter, from the Collector & Comptroller of His Majestys Customs at Kingston, demanding these Vessels, to be Deliver'd into their Custody, to be proceeded against as Smuglers – In answer, to which I acquainted them, that they were Seized in pursuance of the Kings pleasure, signi[fied] to me by their Lordships, not as Smuglers, but as belonging, to People, in actual Rebellion; against His Majesty & his Authority therefore, I should detain them, 'till their Lordships Pleasure, was known – But as I thought, they had done, no more, than their Duty, as Officers of the Customs, by applying to me, they were exceedingly welcome, to transmit my Letter, to the Commissioners of the Customs, to take off any Imputation; which they might lay on them, which hope, will meet, with their Lordships Approbation.

I beg leave, to acquaint their Lordships, that agreeable to their directions, signified to me, in your Letter of the 6th Sept I order'd the People, who were sent in, in the North American Vessels, to be put onboard the *Antelope,* as I judged it unsafe, to continue them in their Vessels, and order'd Captain [William] Judd not to permit them, to go ou[t] of the Ship, without my Orders, the 16th instant I was Served, with two Writs of Habeas Corpus Commanding the Appearance, of two, of the Masters [2] of those Vessels, before the Chief Justice and to assign, a reason, for the Caption of their Vessels, & detention of the People, which I answer'd by complying with the Writs, communicating their Lordships orders, on which, the Chief Justice, order'd them, both to be Discharged. And as I was apprehensive, my refuseing to comply with these Writs, might Occaision great Disturbances, here, I acquiessed, with the Chief Justices Decission, & have order'd Captain Judd, to Discharge them. Inclosed, for their Lordships information, are attested Copies of the Habeas Corpus Writs, with the Affidavits & Petitions, for their being granted I likewise, beg leave to Inclose their Lordships, a Letter, I received from His Majestys Attorney General, respecting these Writs, wherein he says, he is very confident, that the Calm, we here enjoy, would instantly have become a Storm, had I not comply'd with them.[3] I hope therefore, their Lordships, will approve of my Conduct in this Affair.

I likewise beg leave to inclose, the Opinion of the Attorney General, respecting the Detention of these Vessels,[4] and am to acquaint their Lordships, that only one of them can be proceeded against, in the Court of Admiralty – the others; agreeable to their directions, I shall detain; 'till further orders; As the Gentlemen of the Law, seem to be much; at a loss, in regard; to the proceeding[s] against these Vessels, if there's any; late Act of Parliament, or Proclamation, should be glad to have it, by the first Opportunity.

I further beg leave, to acquaint their Lordships, that the 10th instant, the French Frigate Saild from here, & with regard to the expence, incurred by her Heaving down, I order'd the Storekeeper, to charge for the Workman Ship, the Kings Pay, & for what Stores, he had Supplyed (which has been very trifling) to take a Conditional Bill, for such Value, to be paid for the same as the Commissioners of the Navy, should [pass] thereon – and by this Oppertunity, have wrote to the Navy Board, & Inclosed them, a Copy of my order, for that purpose – I have the Pleasure, to acquaint their Lordships, that the Count was exceedingly Pleased, with the Assistance, which I gave him, in Careening and fitting his Ship for Sea, & very well satisfied, with the Manner, in which, I had order'd, the Expence, attending the same to be Settled I further beg leave, to acquaint their Lordships, that the 19th inst the Contractor, compleated the Careening Wharf, &c that, I have order'd; the Storekeeper to pay him, the Remainder; of what is due to him, for the above Work, amounting to the Sum of £1051–17–2 Currency, & have likewise; wrote to the Navy Board; & transmitted them, a Copy of my Order, to the Storekeeper, for Payment of the same.

In my Letter; of the 24th December I acquainted their Lordships, with the private Intelligence, I have gained from Hispaniola, with respect; to the Warlike preparations; making there, & have it now, from undoubted authority, that they have; a Reinforcement of 3000 Troops, already arrived, & the same Number; Dayly expected, that they are Mounting all their Guns, in the Different Forts, furnishing; their Magazines, with Shot and Powder With regard; to the Dissposition; of His Majesty's Ships & Vessels under my Command, I beg leave; to acquaint their Lordships, that the *Squirrel,* and *Maidstone,* are still on their Cruize, and *Antelope,* at Port Royal – The *Florida;* Surveying Sloop, arrived the 15th instant, from Pensacola, & has brought me Letters, from Captain Davey, of the *Diligence,* & Mr Gould, the Surveyior Captain Davey, informs me, that he, shall be again; fit for the Sea, by the end of November, & shall then proceed, into the Mississippi, in Pursuance of my orders – Mr Gould, acquaints me, that he has survey'd; as far as Cape Florida; for particulars, I refer you, to his Letter, which I inclose The *Ferret* Sloop, was spoke, the 22nd of last August, off the Havanna, since that, she has never been heard of, and as, on the 26th of the same Month, there was a violent Hurricane, I think, it is more than probable, she was lossed in it I've order'd the *Florida,* to be Careen'd as fast, as possible, after which, I shall employ her in the best manner, for His Majestys Service, 'till 'tis time, for her to return to the Surveyior I am, with great Respect Sir [&c.]

Clark Gayton

[Endorsed] Recd 20 Mar

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1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240.
2. Robert Sands and Nathan Bull.
3. Thomas Harrison to Gayton, January 19, 1776.
4. See the following entry.

LEGAL OPINION RELATIVE TO SEIZURE OF THE SLOOP *Dove* [1]

By a British Act of Parliament made in the 15th year of the reign of his present Majesty Chap: 10th it is (among other things) Enacted "That from & after the 1st Day of July 1775 and during the Continuance of this Act, No Goods wares or merchandizes, which are particularly enumerated in and by the therein before mentioned Act, made in the 12th year of King Charles the 2d or any other Act, being the Growth, product, or Manufacture of the provinces of Massachusetts Bay, or New Hampshire, or Colonies of Connecticut, Rhode Island, or providence plantation in North America, or any or either of them, are to be brought to some other British Colony, or to Great Britain; or any such enumerated Goods, Wares, or Merchandize, which shall at any Time or Times have been imported or brought into the said provinces or Colonies, or any or either of them shall be Shipped, carried, Conveyed or Transported, from any of the said provinces or Colonies respectively to any Land, Island Territory, Dominion, Port, or place whatsoever, other than to Great Britain or some of the British Islands in the West Indies, to be laid on Shore there, And that no other Goods Wares, or Merchandizes whatsoever, of the Growth product or Manufacture of [the provinces or Colonies hereinbefore mentione]d, or which shall at any Time or Times have been imported or brought into the [same, sh]all from and after the said 1st Day of July, and during the Continuance of this Act, be shipped, Carried, Conveyed, or transported, from any of the said provinces or Colonies respectively, to any other Land, Island, Territory, Dominion, port, or place whatsoever, Except to the Kingdom of Great Britain or Ireland or to some of the British Islands in the West Indies, to be laid on Shore there; Any Law, Custom, or Usage, to the Contrary Notwithstanding." And it is thereby further enacted "That from and after the said 1st Day of July, before any Ship or Vessell shall Lade, or take on Board, any Goods, as aforesaid, in any or either of the Provinces or Colonies before mentioned, Sufficient Bond, with one Surety, besides the Master of Such Ship or Vessell shall be Given to the Collector, or other principal Officer, of the Customs at the Port or Place where such Goods are intended to be laden, or taken on Board, in the Penalty of One thousand pounds, if the Ship be of less burthen that One hundred Tons, and of the sum of Two thousand pounds, if the Ship Shall be of that or any Greater burthen, with Condition that such enumerated Goods shall not be landed or put on Shore at or upon any other Land, Island, Territory, Dominion, Port, or place whatsoever except some port or place within the Kingdom of Great Britian, or some of the British Islands in the West Indies And that all other Goods, Wares or Merchandizes, so intended to be laden as aforesaid, shall not be landed or put on Shore at or upon any Land, Island, Territory, Dominion, Port or Place whatsoever, other than and Except some port or place within the Kingdoms of Great Britain or Ireland or some of the British Islands of the West Indies; and with further Condition, to bring a Certificate in discharge thereof, within Eighteen Months from the Date of such Bond, for such of the said Goods as shall be entered for or landed in Great Britain or Ireland respectively, and within Six Months for such of the said Goods as shall be entered for or landed in any of the British Islands in the West Indies; which respective Certificates shall be under the hands and Seals of the Office of the Collector and Comptroller, or other Principal Officer of the Customs, resident at the Port or place where such Goods shall be landed, testifying the landing thereof; or such Bond or Bonds shall and May be Discharged by proof, upon Oath made by Credible persons, that the said Goods were taken by Enemies or Perished in the Seas. ["]

And it is thereby further Enacted "That where any such Bond or Bonds shall be Given as aforesaid, in pursuance of this Act, the Collector, or other Principal Officer of the Customs to whom such Bond or Bonds shall have been Given, shall deliver, under his hand and Seal of Office, without Fee or reward, to the Master of the Ship or Vessell taking in such Goods, for the Security of her Navigation a Certificate that such Bond or Bonds hath or have been given, Expressing therein the Quantity and Species of the Goods with the Marks and Numbers of the Packages, and the Port or place for which they were entered, and if any such Goods shall be laden on board any such Ship or Vessell in any of the Provinces or Colonies in this Act before mentioned, before such Bond or Bonds shall be Given, or shall be found on board any Ship or Vessell without the Certificate hereinbefore directed that such Bond or Bonds hath or have been Given, the Goods so laden, together with the Ship or Vessel, with her Guns, Ammunition, Tackle, Apparel, and Furniture, shall be forfeited, and if any Goods, so laden as aforesaid, shall be landed or Discharged at any Port or place Contrary to the Intent and meaning of this Act, over and above the Penalty of the Bond or Bonds, the Shipper and Owner of such Goods, and the Master or Person taken Charge of the Vessell on Board which they were laden shall respectively forfeit the full Value of the Goods so landed or Discharged, to be Estimated according to the highest price or Value which such Sort of Goods bear in the Province or Colony where and at the time when they were Shipped and laden; which Ship and Goods may be Seized and Prosecuted or the Value of such Goods Prosecuted for, by any Admiral, Chief Commander, or Commissioned Officer of his Majesty's fleet or Ships of War, or by any Officer of his Majesty's Customs in the manner therein after directed"

And it is hereby further Enacted "That the several Forfeitures and Penaltys inflicted by this Act, shall and may be prosecuted Sued for and recovered and be divided paid and applied in like Manner as other penaltys and Forfeitures inflicted by any Act or Acts of Parliament relating to the Trade or Revenues of the British Colonys or plantations in America are directed to be prosecuted Sued for or recovered divided paid and applied by two Several Acts of Parliament the one Passed in the Fourth year of his present Majesty. Chap. 15. Clause 41 & 42 and the other passed in the Eighth year of his present Majesty Chap 22" See the Copy of the abovementioned Act & also Ruffheads Statutes Vol 9 & 10

Admiral Gayton lately received Orders from the Lords of the Admiralty dated 2d September, 1775, of the following Tenor, You are hereby required and directed, in pursuance of the Kings pleasure Signified to us, by the Earl of Dartmouth one of his Majestys principal Secretarys of State in his letter of the 2[9]th of last month to Give Orders to the respective Captains and Commanders of his Majestys Ships & Vessells under your Command to Seize all Ships & Vessells, belonging to any of the said Colonies or owned by the Inhabitants thereof Except only in Cases where it shall Clearly appear from their papers or from other Evidence that they are bound to or returning from some port or place in Great Britain, Ireland or his Majestys Islands in the West Indies; But you are to Observe that this Exception is not to Extend or be applied to such Ships or Vessells as may have Armes or Ammunition on Board, which Ships & Vessells, are to be Seized in all Cases whatsoever, unless it shall appear that the Arms & Ammunition shall have been Shipped with Licence either from his Majesty in Council, from the Master General & principal Officers of the Ordnance or under the usual Clearance from the Commissioners of his Majestys Customs.

And in pursuance of his Majestys further pleasure Signified to us as aforesaid you are to Cause all Ships and Vessells which shall be Seized in the Cases before mentioned to be Carried to some British port not within the Twelve Associated Colonys and there detained 'till further Orders, or be prosecuted against according to Law as the Nature of the Case shall require – See the Copy of the above Orders and also the Copy of their Lordships former Orders of the 11th August 1775

Admiral Gayton in pursuance of the above mentioned Orders sent Captain [Alan] Gardner in his Majesty's Ship the *Maidstone* to Cruise off Cape Nicholas Mole and put their Lordships Orders in Execution

On the 13th Day of this Instant December Captain Gardner Seized the Sloop *Dove* Jonathan Bull [2] Master, just as she came out of the Harbour of Cape Nicholas Mole upon Searching for her papers they found all the proper Clearances & Certificates from Rhode Island for Jamaica Dated the 4th of September

1775 The Cargo Shipped Consisting of 2500 feet of Board & Scantlings, 50,000 Shingles, 1500 hoops, 2250 Staves, 45 Shaken Casks 162 Boxes of Spermacati Candles 1000 Ropes of Onions, 15 Barrels of Apples & 9 Chairs – They also found a proper register for the Sloop – See the Clearance register & Certificate.

Upon Seizing the Vessell the Master Acknowledged that he had landed & Sold his Cargo from Rhode Island at Cape Nicholas Mole and that he had then on Board 36 Barrells of Sugar & 11,000 Gallons of Molasses and was bound on his return to Rhode Island the weather was so bad at the Time he seized the *Dove* that Captain Gardner had not Time or Opportunity to search her hold, But Ordered the Hatches to be fastned down & Sent her to Port Royal Harbour where she now lays, Nor do the Captors know any thing of her present Cargo but from the Account which the Master of the Sloop has Given them

Captain Gardner is extremely anxious that the proceedings against this Seizure should be Strictly legal, least he should be subject to an Action at the Instance of the Master and Owners of the Vessell or Cargo at a future Day – Your Opinion is therefore requested on the following Points.

Quere – Is the Sloop *Dove* & her present Cargo or either & which of them liable to Condemnation in any & what Court? And if so what Mode of proceeding do you advise to Attain that End?

Answer – We are of Opinion that neither the Sloop *Dove* nor her present Cargo are liable to Condemnation, or a forfeiture

2d Quere – If the Vessell and Cargo are not forfeited, are they or any part of them Subject to any penalty and what? And if so how should the same be prosecuted?

Answer – The Master of the Sloop is liable to forfeit the full Value of the goods, Landed & Discharged at Cape Nicholas Mole, to be estimated according to their highest price, at Rhode Island, when the same were Shipped. The Master likewise as Owner & the other Owners of such Goods are liable to forfeit the face value of them according to their respective Interests therein. If the Respondent does not appear, or is justly Suspected of flight, & Sufficient sureties are not Given to Answer the sentence & for Divers other reasons mentioned in Clerke's praxis (Title 28) the Vessell & Goods May be arrested to Answer the penalty –

3d Quere – If the Vessell & her Cargo or any part thereof is Subject to Condemnation; In what proportions and to whom will the Nett proceeds of the Seizure be payable?

Answer – One moiety of the Penalty in this Case will Go to the Captors & the other will go to the Collector of the Customs both of them Subject to such Distribution as the King shall be pleased to make by Order of Council or by his Proclamation.

4th Quere – Is it adviseable, that the Captors should open the Sloops Hatches & Search her hold, in order to take an Account of her present Cargo before any legal proceedings are Commenced, or should they wait untill they have the Authority of a Court so to do?

Answer – The Sloop's Hold should be Searched, as her Cargo May furnish other grounds of Condemnation or penalties, than what in this Case are stated & the Authority of the Court should be Obtained for this purpose –

5th Quere – Upon the whole of this Case, how do you advise Captain Gardner's Agent to proceed with respect to this Seizure? keeping in View his Expectations of present advantage, & Fears of future Troubles from it.

Answer – The Admiral is the most Competent Judge which part of his disjunctive instructions he will follow; either the prosecution for the Penalty in the Admiralty Courts, or the detention of the Sloop & Cargo 'till further orders; If he means to proceed judicially, the above mode of proceeding must be pursued.

Tho: Harrison
Richard Welch

[Endorsed] In Vice Adml Gaytons Letter 21st January 1776

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1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240.
2. According to the legal proceedings for his release, the master of the sloop *Dove* was Nathan (not Jonathan) Bull.

22 Jan.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES [1]

[Exeter] Monday Jany 22d

Voted, That Coll Nicholas Gilman Capt Josiah Moulton & Capt Ezekiel Worthen be a Committee of this House to join a Committee of the Honble Board to hire or agree with a Person or Persons to build for the use of this Colony, a Row Galley, agreeable to a Plan or Draught Presented to this house by Major [James] Hackett.

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire,* VIII, 47–48.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M. SCHOONER *Halifax* [1]

January 1776 Remarks in Marble Head Harbour

Tuesday 16 AM got up Yards and Topmast at 9 Unmoord and Hove short at 11 Weighd & Came to Sail at Noon Standing to wards the No shore to prevent the Rebel Vessels getting out of Beverley Harbour First and Middle parts light Breezes and Cloudy Weather Latter Do and Foggy at ½ past Noon Came too with the Sml Br in 7½ fathoms of Water Veer to ¼ of a Cable Beverly Church NWbW No Mt point of Bakers Island East the Middle Steeple at Marblehead town SW Muddy Bottom PM got all Clear for Action Boat Empd during the Night rowing Guard

Wednesdy 17 AM Heard the report of Seven Guns supposed to be from Boston First part fresh Breezes and foggy W with snow & hail Middle fresh Gales and thick fogg

PM Servd slops to the Ships Company at 5 a Large schooner Came down from Beverley and Fird several shott at her but it being a thick fogg and fresh of wind she soon got past us after fiering seven shott at us, and Not being acquainted wt that passage she got safe out to sea at Sunsett cleared for Action the *Fowey* feird several shott at a Schooner comeing through the So Wt Passage but could not bring her too – Rowd Guard –

Thursday 18 AM Empd making Wadds & as pr Occasion
First and Middle parts fresh Breezes and fair Weather wt frost
at ½ past Noon weighd and Gave Chace to a Schooner on the Et Side of the Bay fird several shott to bring her too Sent the Yawl Mannd & Armd after her. The Schooner run on shore the Boat boarded her and brought her off Notwithstanding the feiring of the Rebels from the Beach found the Chace to be a Small fishing schooner belonging to Marble Head with two Men on bd at 5 Anchord wt the Sml Br in 8 fathems Muddy Bottom Veerd to ⅓ of a Cable Middle Steeple at Marble Head SWbW – the Shoul off Eagle Island NW

Friday 19 AM got the prize a long side and fitted a Swivel stock in her
Fresh Breezes and Cloudy Weather
at Sunsett sent the schooner to look out a Head of us as a Guard Boat

Saturday 20th AM Captn Montague [George Montagu] Came on Board Weighd and Came to sail run down the NE passage to Bakers Island Came too wt the Sml Br on the W side Bakers Island Veerd to ⅓ of a Cable Hardys Rocks W¼N Eagle Isld SW the House on Bakers Island SE in 9 fathoms Muddy Bottom sent the Cutter Mannd & Armed and people to Cutt wood on Bakers Island saw a Schooner comeing down from Beverly Made the signal for Do to the *Fowey* fird two Shott at her – She Run in on the Back of Mt Missery the *Fowey* sent her Boats in Chace Do Mannd and Armd the Schooner and Boats and sent them In Chase of the Schooner
First part fresh Breezes and fair Weather Middle and [latter] Mod wt frost
At 2 the Boats Returnd haveing Run the Schooner on shore Near Manchester but the Rebels coming down and feiring on our Boats Prevented them from destroying Her Sent the Pinnace on shore on Bakers Island to Cut Wood weighd the Small Br and dropt further to the So Wd and came too again Veerd to ⅓ of a Cable and Moored with the Kedge Anchor Eagle Island WSW the NE point of Bakers Island ENE

Monday 21st [*sic* Sunday] AM Empd wooding & watering
First and latter part Moderate Breezes and Clear Weather Middle fresh Gales & Squally wt Frost
PM Empd wooding and watering from Bakers Island

Monday 22d AM at 8 the *Fowey* made our signal to Chace to the Southward weighd and Came to sail and stood under the *Fowey's* stern and spoke Her. Saw 4 Sail in the Offing at 10 run back and Came too off Bakers Island pr Order from the *Fowey,* When Anchord bearings as Before Steddied with the Kedge Anchor

Mod Breezes and fair Weather wt some Frost.

PM saw a fishing Schooner within the Missery Islands sent the prize in Chace and fird two 4 pound shott at her at 4 the Tender returnd having Chaced the Schooner into Beverley Harbour.

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1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1775.

Journal of the Massachusetts House of Representatives [1]

[Watertown] Monday, January 22, 1776
Afternoon.

The House considered the List of Fees for the Courts of Admiralty, and *Ordered,* That it be re-commended, and Mr. [William] Story, and Capt. [Josiah] Batcheldor were added to the Committee, in the Room of Mr. [Dummer] Jewett, and Mr. [Daniel] Perry, absent.

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1. Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch.

Boston Gazette, Monday, January 22, 1776

Watertown, January 22.

Last Monday a large Ship from and own'd in London, laden with Coal, Cheese and Porter, bound for the Ministerial Assassins at Boston, was taken by one of our Privateers and carried into Newbury Port.[1]

The same Day a Brig from Ireland, bound also for Boston, laden with Beef, Butter, Cheese and Potatoes, was likewise taken and carried into the same Port. – This Brig we hear, belong'd to Lewis Gray, son of Lady Harrison Gray, a noted Mandamus Councellor, and formerly Treasurer of the (now) Province of Boston.[2]

Yesterday Capt. Manly sent another Prize in to Newbury[por]t; where from, or what laden with, we have not heard.[3]

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1. The ship *Friends,* Archibald Bowie, master.
2. The brigantine *Sukey,* Madett Engs, master.
3. An erroneous report.

Narrative of Vice Admiral Samuel Graves [1]

[Boston] 1776 Jany 22

The *Nautilus* anchored in Nantasket having chaced a Privateer 30 Leagues off the Coast and at last lost her in thick Weather; Lieutt [Christopher] Mason her Commander informed the Admiral he had met with several Vessels bound to Boston, which he had seen safe within the Lighthouse, and that Want of Fuel had obliged him to come in with a Vessel with fresh Beef from Halifax. The Admiral ordered an immediate Supply of Coals, Wood, Beef and some Stores to the *Nau-*

tilus, and directed Lieutt Mason to push out again as fast as possible; and finding she was short of Complement and had many sick, ordered the *Chatham, Renown* and *Centurion* to lend each seven men to her.

1. Graves's Conduct, II, 30, BM.

CHARTER PARTY FOR THE RHODE ISLAND SLOOP *Diamond* [1]

This Agreement or Charterparty made between Nicholas Cooke Esquire of Providence Owner of the Sloop *Diamond* burdened eighty Seven Tons and Two Thirds of the One Part and John Jenckes of said Providence Merchant who acts in this Matter for and in Behalf of the Colony of Rhode-Island Of the other Part witnesseth That the said Nicholas Cooke hath letten unto Fright unto the said John Jenckes for the Use of the Colony the aforesaid Sloop for a Voyage from Providence aforesaid to the West-Indies and back again And the said Nicholas Cooke shall be at the Expence of keeping her in good and customary Repair during the Voyage. In Consideration whereof the [said] John Jenckes on the Part of said Colony shall pay unto the [said] Nicholas Cooke for the Hire of said Sloop at and after the rate of one Dollar a Ton per Month for the whole Time she shall [be i]n performing said Voyage to be computed from the first Day of January instant until she shall be returned back and redelivered to the said Nicholas Cooke And the said John Jenckes on Behalf of the Colony shall wholly risque said Sloop in all Cases during the Voyage and in Case of Loss by any Means whatsoever he shall pay unto the said Nicholas Cooke Fifteen Hundred Dollars for her In Witness whereof the said Parties have hereunto interchangeably set their Hands and Seals the twenty second Day of January in the Year of our Lord One Thousand seven Hundred and Seventy Six.

Witnesses
Jabez Bowen
Joseph West

Nich^{s} Cooke
John Jenckes

P S. If the Sloop is taken or Lost, no Charter money is to be paid only the Fifteen Hundred Dollars.

1. Emmet Autograph Collection, NYPL.

NICHOLAS BROWN TO JOSIAH HEWES [1]

Esteemd Frd

Provid[ence] Jany 22nd 1776 –

My last was of the 18 Inst p Capt Phinehas Potter In the Schooner *Unety* with Abot 40 seafareg Men for the Contl fleet wth him I sent you 68 Cask Qy 31 bbs [?] Galls of Straind Oile & 50 Box[e]s Candl[e]s, wch I tho't by this Oppoy wod Just mention, As have Not time to give a full Coppy [of] that Letr I here Mention the Articles we Ordd by him as some of them May be Carr[te]d below where he must be in Case of Ice – Vizt 10 Tons best Refined Bar Iron For /9s As Much papr as Can be purchased a 4/a 4/3 Pha Cury from 10 to 50 Doz silk Romalls a 6/. to 6/3. same Qy Black Barcelong Do a £5.10 small £5 – these & the papr wod ha[v]g purchas'd as May be Car'd to the Vesell Cocoa 10 hhd a £4.10 [?] 40 firkins Butter a 8d 10 Do if it Cost 12d to fill in with flour In this Voyage Messrs Clark & Nightin[gale] Brown & Power & My Self are Concernd & if All our Money in yr hands is no[t] sufficient you are Desir'd to Call on Govr [Stephen] Hopkins & take what you want wch hes to Charge the Nav[a]l Comte

P.S. Brother Jno Brown & I wrote you of the 20th Inst p this Oppoy requesting your Assistance with our full power to Compleat a Contract with the Secret Comte wch I now Confirm & Desire you to be refer'd thereto – as they Messrs [Nicholas] Cook [Jr.] & [Joseph Dolbear] Russel [Jr.] will have a Bulkey Sum to bring us (the Navel Comte) here, Shod be Glad of yr Advise & assistance in Changing what they bring us into larger Money on Accot of Carrage –

1. Nicholas Brown Papers, JCBL.

Journal of the Committee Appointed to Build Two Continental Frigates in Rhode Island [1]

[Providence] Jany 22, 1776

Meeting in being according to adjournment.

Voted. That thirteen pounds 10/ LMy for good sound four Inch pl[ank] of thirty feet long and upwards.

Voted. That Good sound square Plank logs of 30 feet long & upwards & well hewed be 20/ P Ton deliver'd in Town.

Voted. That Sylvester Bowen be master workman for the smallest of the Ships. –

Reckoning 22/6 paid by Coll Nightingale

Meeting adjourned to Wednesday night 6 o'clock

1. Journal R.I. Frigates, RIHS.

Brigadier General William West to the Newport Town Council [1]

Head Quarters Middletown Jan'y 22d 1776 –

Gentlemen – I understand you are upon a Negociation with Capt [James] Wallace in Consequence of an Act of the General Assembly and that a Committee appointed by you for that Purpose hath been on Board and laid the Act relative thereto before him. – Your Committee informs me that Capt Wallace hath sent You a Letter by them, the Contents of which I am entirely ignorant of, and would be much obliged to you for a Copy of the same, transmitted to me as soon as may be. –

I now take the Opportunity to inform You, that if you have not compleated your Treaty with Capt Wallace, You must finish it this Day, as there will be no Negociation allowed of hereafter with him, unless by a particular Permit from me. –

When Your said Negociation is compleated I shall expect a Copy thereof, immediately. – I am Gentlemen with Respect[&c.]

W^{m} West

1. Letters to the Governor, 1776, vol. 8, R.I. Arch.

Newport Mercury, MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 1776

Newport, January 22.

We are told Major [Benjamin] Tallman and Captain [Andrew] Waterman behaved with great spirit, and distinguished themselves much in repulsing the enemy from Prudence.

The men of war, &c. lay near Hope Island several days last week, where 'tis supposed they supplied themselves with wood and water. On Friday they came down to this harbour again.

Within a week past, the Continental Cruisers have taken a ship and a brig from England, loaded with provisions, bound into Boston, said to be rich prizes [1]

[1] The *Friends* and *Sukey* were not taken by "Continental Cruisers."

MINUTES OF A NEWPORT TOWN MEETING [1]

At a Town Meeting Newport January 22d 1776

Voted, that this Town will Supply Capt Wallace with Beef, Beer &c agreeable to Act of Goverment

Voted, That Mess Wm Ellery & Jos Anthony be a Committee to wait on Genl [William] West at Head Quarters, & to lay before him the above Vote of the Town; And also to request that he will appoint a Person to provide & deliver the Provisions to Capt Wallace, & to request that he will give Orders to his Officers at Jamestown and elsewhere, to permit the Ferry Boats to Pass & repass with Provisions &c.

By Ordr Wm Coddington Town Clerk

[1] Letters to the Governor, 1776, vol. 8, R.I.Arch.

BARNABAS DEANE TO SILAS DEANE [1]

[Extract] Wethersfield Jany 22d 1776 –

. . . I propose Setting out this Afternoon from Say Brook, to Engage Carpenters Timber &C. I Shall Write you by Every Opportunity, pray get the Plan of the Ship compleated [2] & Send it by the first hand, Also Enquire in Regard to What the New York Carpenters have Said Ab[out] the Length of the Ship, I Suppose you have their plans before this Time

[1] Silas Deane Papers, ConnHS.
[2] Continental frigate building in Connecticut; later named the *Trumbull.*

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO JOHN HANCOCK [1]

[Extract] Albany January 22d 1776

The Resolve of the 8th Instant "That Shipwrights be immediately sent from New York and Philadelphia to build Batteaus" I could wish not to be put into Execution; as our Albany Shipwright will do nearly as much of that Kind of Work as two that are not accustomed to it – I can also make them work early and late which the others will not, besides there will be great Saving in the travelling Charges.

I shall immediately desire General Wooster to cause the River St Lawrence to be explored, agreeable to the Resolution of Congress, but I fear he is much in Want of an Engineer for the purpose as well as for a proper person to ascertain what Kind of armed-Boat it would be most expedient to build.

I shall immediately proceed to get every Thing in readiness for building Batteaus at Fort George as Wood Creek cannot be cleared this Winter and I shall send up all the provisions and other Stores.

I fear I shall not be able to get a sufficient Quantity of Nails made in Time at this place what I cannot get I shall be obliged to pay 15d per pound for.

Part of the Troops, which I sent Colo. [Seth] Warner to raise are already on their March, the first party I have Reason to think is at farthest within a Days March of St Johns. I have ordered them off by Fifties as they would get ready – A Regiment on the last Continental Arrangement is compleating in the County of Berkshire; part of it is already marched. I was however obliged to give the like Bounty as I did to Colo: Warner – It is commanded by Colo: [John] Fellows and all the Officers were nominated by the General Committee of that County – They will not engage beyond the 15th of April – It was however lucky that I took these Measures for General Washington writes me that he cannot spare a Man. Inclose you a Copy of his Letter, a few Hours before I received it I wrote him by Express that the Necessity of sending Troops from Cambridge to Canada appeared to me to be superseded because of those going which I have mentioned above, and that there were two Regiments on their March from Pensylvania and New Jersey, which in all probability would reach Canada as soon as any he could send.

Governor Trumbull in a Letter of the 20th Instant advises me that a Regiment is raising in Connecticut to march immediately to Canada to be engaged to the first Day of November next.

As I have had no accounts from Canada since those which Mr [Edward] Antill brought I conclude that Nothing material has happened since the unfortunate affair of the 30th Ultimo.

I have in a former Letter observed that all the heavy Cannon and Mortars were ordered to Cambridge; I suppose they are there now – Should Quebec not fall into our Hands this Winter we shall want a considerable Number of these. Whence are we to be supplyed? And from whence are we to get Ammunition?

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, I, 408–10, NA.

Invoice of Merchandise Shipped On Board the Schooner *Polly* [1]

Invoice of Sundry Merchandize Shipped by Comfort Sands for acct & risque of [the New York Provincial] Congress on board the Schooner *Polly* Matthew VanAlstyne Master for Martinico [illegible]

30 Barrels Pork (bought pickled) [burned] [2]
16 ditto do
32 do do
12 do beef
20 do do
paid picklin & Cooperage [72] barr[el]s
27 Furkens salt m[ea]t wt 1607 lb
16 ditto do 862 lb

13 Firkens 2/ Cooperage & nailing
1 Cask 60 hams 580 lb
1 do 25 do 369 lb
1 do 25 Chases 231 lb
1 do 14 do 120 lb [do] 3 Hams 27 lb 154 lb Smokd beef
24 Tierces Ship bread 45..1..2 wt
24 Casks & packing
8 barrels & 3 Tierces midlin bread 12..1..19 wt
8 barrels 1/9 3 Tierces
441 barrels Flour Nt weight 825..3..3
441 barrels
Inspecting & Carting
paid Carting Pork salt & hams
8 bushel [bran] for hams 1/9 4 Casks for do & beef
2250 hogs[head]s Staves
paid Carting 7 loads Staves & Trimming Flour

£1302.11..4

Cr

13 bbs Flour part of a parcell bought of James Stewart			
Left behind Nt wt 25..4..15	19/	24..2..3	
12 Casks 1/9 Inspection & Carting	3d	1..6	25..8..3
			1277.13..1

Errors Excepted N York Jany 22d 1776

Comfort Sands

[Endorsed] Examined & allowed the above Acct of Twelve Hundred & Seventy Seven pounds [1]3/1 on Provincial Acct

[burned] Livingston Esqr

James Beekman
John Ray
Bra [burned]

---

1. NYSL.
2. This document was salvaged after the State Library at Albany burned. While some figures are visible in the right hand column, the items are so incomplete that it was judged better to show the total only, except the credit items which were unharmed by the flames. See Minutes of the New York Committee of Safety, February 1, 1776.

MEMOIRS OF WILLIAM SMITH [1]

[New York] 22 Jany 1776

In several Visits from Lord Drummond, who left England in Sepr. and came in the *Roebuck* to Hallifax & thence to Boston where he tarried only one Night and then set out in the *Phoenix* Man of War for New York & after some Days went with Mr. [Andrew] Elliot the Collector a Brother of Sir Gilbert Elliot the Minister to Philadelphia where he conversed with several of the Continental Delegates I learnt

That he had been intimate with several Persons now at the Head of the British Councils . . .

He denied that he had Credentials for Proposals of Peace but spoke in Terms of great Confidence that he knew those to be Sentiments of Administration—confessed that he had communicated them to the Congress and asserted that if they would send Home Commissioners who would assure the Ministry of America's closing with them upon some such Agreement it would put an End to the War – He expressed great Satisfaction in his Journey to Philadelphia, was happy in discovering that the Congress had more moderate Sentiments than People on either Side of the Water imagined and that he saw Nothing to discourage him . . .

I relied muc[h] upon these Hints from Lord Drummond because he was related to the Arch Bishop of York & Lord Mansfield & had been about the Ministers in Hopes of gaining a Part of the forfeited Estate of his uncle the attainted Duke of Perth and I thought that neither he nor Elliot would dare to intermix with the Delegates without authority from Administration, nor risk their Fortunes here by any Plan of Perfidy.

It was some confirmation that Lord Drummond expressed the greatest Uneasiness for Fear of a Rupture between the Town and the Captains of the *Asia* and *Phoenix* who he knew were under the old unrepealed Orders of June last to fire upon Towns were [*sic*] stores were seized Forts erected Officers imprisoned &c And he seemed to be anxious lest Mr. Tryon's Impatience in his disgraced Condition should put [Hyde] Parker and Vanderput to Difficulties who he said well knew the Admn. had changed their Sentiments greatly since Tryon left England in May.

Upon Advice that General [Charles] Lee had left Boston and was raising Troops in Connecticut to possess and fortify New York Lord Drummond required me to urge the [Provincial] Congress here to prevent his approach as it would imbarrass the Captains & might end in the burning of the City and render the expected Negotiations abortive – I told him that I did not intermeddle in their Affairs nor seek their Confidence . . . Lord Drummond declared that the Captains knew Peace would take Place soon and that Admn. would not thank any servants of the Crown for irritating Men's Minds – That General [William] Howe was also apprized of the amiable Desires of Government and that if Mischiefs ensued he was perswaded the Fault would be our's – That Adml. Greaves (this in Answer to the Activity of the Navy) was a Fool seeking to prefer six Nephews & watching the Halting of others for that Purpose & that Lord Dunmore's Operations were neither authorized by Genl. Howe nor from Home but only countenanced by the Admiral.

1. William H. W. Sabine, ed., *Historical Memoirs from 16 March 1763 to 9 July 1776 of William Smith* . . . (New York, 1956), 257–59. Hereafter cited as Sabine, ed., *Memoirs of William Smith.*

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

[New York] Die Lunae, 10 HO. A.M.
Jany. 22nd, 1776.

Col. [Alexander] McDougall informed the Committee that the captain of the man of war had despatched a pilot boat with mariners and marines to the relief of the transport ship at the Hook.

The Committee are of opinion that notice thereof should be given to Lord Stirling by express.

Thereupon a draft of a letter to his lordship was read and approved of, and is in the words following, to wit:

> In Committee of Safety,
> New-York, Jany. 22d, 1776 – 12 o'clock.
>
> My Lord – This minute the captains of the men of war have taken a pilot boat, and sent her down towards the Hook with mariners and marines on board from 20 to 25 in number.
>
> If your party goes to secure the ship, they should secure the pilot boat first; or, in our opinion, there should be two or more boats with men, to contain at least 50 or more men in the whole, otherwise they may fail of success.
>
> We have the honour to be [&c.]
>
> By order of the Committee of Safety.
>
> To the Right Honble. Wm. Earl of Sterling,
> and in his absence to the Chairman of the
> Committee at Elizth. Town.

Ordered, That a copy thereof be engrossed, and signed by the Chairman, and transmitted by Sampson Dyckman.

Col. McDougall informed the Committee that he had purchased the sloop *Sally* to be made an armed vessel, for the sum of £325, and requested an order for that sum.

Ordered, That Peter V. B. Livingston, Esqr. as Treasurer of the Provincial Congress of this Colony, advance to Col. McDougall the sum of £325 to enable him to pay for the sloop or vessel called the *Sally,* which he has purchased in pursuance of an order of Provincial Congress of the 20th day of December last past. And,

Ordered, farther, That the said Treasurer advance and pay to Commodore James Smith, on Continental account, the sum of £26 13s.4d. for 2 months' pay, in part of his pay while in the Continental service at Lake Champlain, and that Mr. Livingston take a receipt or receipts for the same.

The Committee took into consideration the necessity and advantage of having sundry small armed vessels to protect trade in this and the neighbouring Colonies, and also to seize transports with provisions intended for the ministerial army and navy, and to prevent the same from being exported by persons unfriendly to the measures of the Colonies.

Thereupon a draft of a letter to the Delegates of this Colony at [Continental] Congress, was read and approved of, and is in the words following, to wit:

> In Committee of Safety,
> New-York, Jany. 22nd, 1776.
>
> Gentlemen – With the utmost anxiety we have beheld the supply of provisions collected last autumn on board the ship of war, by the means of small boats from Queens and Westchester counties, for the purpose of supplying the ministerial army at Boston. Our [Provincial] Congress, impelled by a desire to prevent so great a mischief, authorized Col. McDougall to equip a small armed vessel, to watch those and other dangerous supplies of the like kind.

We are informed by one of our Delegates that Congress will readily take this vessel into the Continental service; should it be so determined, her flag should be described to us, marine articles of war provided, with a toll of pay, and sent to us without delay. An acquaintance with the navigation in our neighbourhood, points out the necessity of immediately equipping three other small vessels of easy draft of water, sufficiently manned and provided both to attack and repulse the barges of the men of war with success, and constructed in such manner as to take shelter in coves and inlets out of the reach of superior force, and under cover of the musketry of the country. Those vessels will effectually scour the navigation of this port and its environs, and besides procuring offensive advantages, will prevent the above mentioned mischiefs. One of them should be stationed at Amboy, to watch the navigation from thence to Sandy Hook; another at Elizabeth Town, to attend that between Staten island and New-Jersey and the southwardmost parts of our bay; another on Hudson's river; and a fourth, the parts of the Sound to the eastward of this harbour, and they all might be occasionally used as express boats. The one already provided, is commanded by James Smith, who was commodore on the lakes the last summer with the rank of major. He has approved himself a man of worth in the naval service of the Continent, and as he has yet received no pay, we shall advance him some money on that score for his last year's service. Should the Congress approve of the proposed plan, we will cheerfully engage under their direction in the equipment of three more vessels; but to answer the good ends proposed, their order should be handed to us without delay. The vessels completely equipped, except the artillery and musquetry which we will supply, will cost about £600 each.

Egg Harbour is now known to our enemies as a place of debarkment for certain necessaries. We therefore think that a small redoubt should be there built, garrisoned always by a proper captain's guard, with barracks to contain 200 men, so situated as to command the entrance of the harbour, and provided with cisterns to take rain water. Cedar wood is plenty there, which will answer all the purposes of wood work; and to complete the defence, a galley to mount a six pounder in her stem should, we think, be provided.

We have no grape shot for our field pieces, six pounders, nor coals to manufacture them. We beg to be informed if we can be supplied with that article at Philadelphia? If so, be pleased to send two tons to Elizabeth Town without delay, to our direction, together with the amount of the cost, which we shall remit without delay.

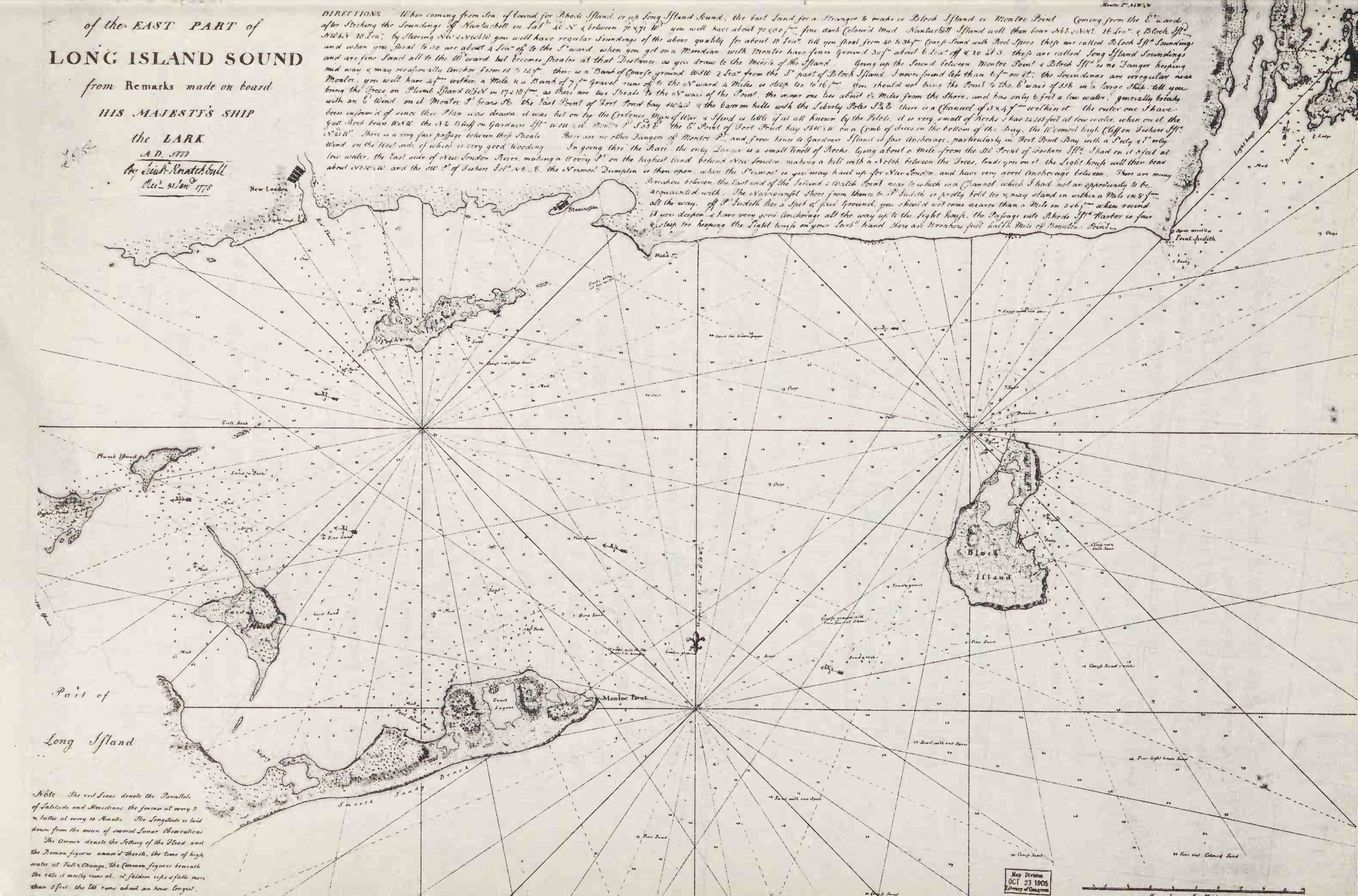
We are, gentlemen, [&c.]

By order of the Committee.

To the New-York Delegates in
Continental Congress, Philadelphia.

Ordered, That a copy thereof be engrossed, and signed by the Chairman, and transmitted.[2]

# of the EAST PART of
LONG ISLAND SOUND
from Remarks made on board
HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP
the LARK
A.D. 1777
By Lieut Knatchbull
Recd 31 Jany 1778



DIRECTIONS When coming from Sea & bound for Rhode Iſland, or up Long Iſland Sound, the best Land for a Stranger to make is Block Iſland or Montoc Point. Coming from the Eastward after Striking the Soundings off Nantuckett in Latd 40 N & between 70 & 71 W you will have about 70 & 80 fm fine dark Colour'd Mud. Nantuckett Iſland will then bear NbE & NNE 26 Leag & Block Iſld NWbN 28 Leag; by Steering NW & NWbW you will have regular Soundings of the above quality for about 18 Leag till you Shoal from 40 to 36 fm Coarſe Sand with Red Specs theſe are called Block Iſld Soundings and when you Shoal to 30 are about 4 Leag off to the Soward when you get on a Meridian with Montoc have finer Ground 30 fm about 6 Leag off & 20 at 3. theſe are called Long Iſland Soundings and are fine Sand all to the Wward but becomes Shoaler at that Distance as you draw to the Middle of the Iſland. Going up the Sound between Montoc Point & Block Iſld is no Danger keeping mid way & may occaſionally Anchor from 10 to 12 fm. there is a Bank of Coarſe ground WSW 2 Leag from the So part of Block Iſland I never found leſs than 6 fm on it: the Soundings are irregular near Montoc. you will have 4 fm within a Mile & a Bank of 7 fm Gravel runs off to the Noward 4 Miles is steep too to 16 fm. You should not bring the Point to the Eward of SSE in a large Ship till you bring the Trees on Plumb Iſland WbN in 17 & 18 fm as there are two Shoals to the Noward of the Point. the inner one lies about 1½ Miles from the Shore, and has only 6 feet at low water, generally breaks with an E Wind on it Montoc Pt bears SE the East Point of Fort Pond bay SW½W & the barren hills with the Liberty Poles S½E there is a Channel of 3 & 4 fm within it. the outer one I have been inform'd of since this Plan was drawn it was hit on by the Cerberus Man of War & I find is little if at all known by the Pilots. it is very small of Rocks & has 14 & 15 feet at low water. when on it the Gull Rock bears WbN the NE Bluff on Gardners Iſld WSW ½ W. Montoc Pt S33E the E Point of Fort Pond bay SbW½W on a Clump of Trees in the bottom of the Bay. the Wermost high Cliff on Fishers Iſld N 21 W. There is a very fair paſſage between thoſe Shoals. There are no other Dangers off Montoc Pt. and from hence to Gardners Iſland is fair Anchorage, particularly in Fort Pond Bay with a Soerly & Eerly Wind. on the West side of which is very good Wooding. In going thro' the Race the only Danger is a small Knoll of Rocks lying about a Mile from the SW Point of Fishers Iſld. I had on it 8 feet at low water. the East side of New London River making a Woody Pt on the highest land behind New London making a hill with a Notch between the Trees, leads you on it the Light houſe will then bear about NbW½W and the SW Pt of Fishers Iſld NE ½ E the Nermost Dumplin is then open when the Sermost is you may haul up for New London and have very good Anchorage between. There are many Breakers between the East end of the Iſland & Watch Point near to which is a Channel which I had not an opportunity to be acquainted with. The Narraganſet Shore from thence to Pt Judith is pretty bold too & may stand in within a Mile in 8 fm all the way. off Pt Judith lies a Spot of foul Ground, you should not come nearer than a Mile in 5 & 6 fm when round it you deepen & have very good Anchorage all the way up to the Light houſe. the Paſſage into Rhode Iſld Harbor is fair & steep too keeping the Light houſe on your Larbd hand. there are Breakers full half a Mile off Brentons Point.

Note The red Lines denote the Parallels of Latitude and Meridians. the former at every 5 & latter at every 10 Minutes. The Longitude is laid down from the mean of several Lunar Observations.

The Arrows denote the Setting of the Flood and the Roman figures annex'd thereto, the time of high water at Full & Change, the Common figures beneath the rate it mostly runs at. it seldom riſes & falls more than 5 feet. the Ebb runs about an hour longest.

Map Division
OCT 23 1905
Library of Congress

Joseph Woolcomb, mate of the ship *Blue Mountain Valley,* was brought before the Committee and examined. He says he was chief mate of the ship *Blue Mountain Valley;* that she is laden with hogs, provisions, &c. for Boston; left London 13 weeks ago; that he was sent up to New-York by the captain, to put some letters for England on board of the men of war, and to return; that the ship was to lie off and on 14 hours for him; that they have had bad weather; that 36 sail of transports with stores and provisions came out with them; that as many more transports were ready to sail; that they have had such weather that he believes many other transports are gone to the West Indies; that the *Blue Mountain Valley* is a sharp built ship, and would make as good weather on a winter coast as any ship; that two troops of light horse came out in transports with *their* vessel, and were to winter in the West Indies.

Ordered, That Mr. Woolcombe remain in custody in Capt. [Benjamin] Ledyard's room, for farther examination.

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1. *New York Provincial Congress,* I, 260–61.
2. The original of this letter, enclosed in one from General Charles Lee, is in Papers CC (Letters from General Officers, 1775–89), 158, I, 9, NA. For action upon it, see Journal of the Continental Congress, January 26, 1776.

Captain J. H. Dempster to George Dempster[1]

Ship *Blue Mountain Valley* Jany 22nd 1776.

Dear Brother, After a tedious and disagreable passage of near thirteen Weeks, I have the pleasure to inform you that I am safe arriv'd at the Mouth of New York Harbour, but am not yet determin'd on going in 'till I am fully satisfied of the propriety of such proceeding; for which purpose I am now preparing to send an Officer on shore in order to gain, the necessary intelligence. I am urged to this step haveing been near three Weeks on the Coast, and not seeing or speaking with any of the King's Ships am (consequently) oblig'd to any small Vessels for information, which I am doubtful how far I can with safety rely on the truth of at this time. I am greatly amazed at not yet Seeing any of the Men of War, my instructions strictly forbidding me "to enter Boston or any other Port or Harbour in America 'till I have Spoke with some of His Majesty's Ships – proper Orders having been sent out for that purpose" – How far, and, in what manner these orders are obey'd, I think my present situation sufficiently evinces – However the present Condition of the Ship obliges me to go into some Harbour, and for these two cogent reasons, First, The bad State of the Ships rudder, wch I fear must be unhung before we can proceed any further, and Secondly, The Want of Water; in these two particulars we have suffer'd much from the frequent severe Gales of Wind we have met with, having in general had a very hard passage – From what is here premis'd I hope you will think my present Conduct Strictly justifiable – I have only now to inform you that from the necessary hurry of the Ship – I am oblig'd to employ one of my Officers to write this – therefore hope your Candour in excusing all defects – You may fully depend on hearing from me by every opportunity either here or elsewhere.

I remain Dear Brother Yrs Affectionately

J H Dempster

P S I am in perfect health but have not time to Write More fully Remember me to Mrs Dempster my mother &c And Am [&c.]

J H Dempster

A Most Dreadful Voyage we have made

To George Dempster Esqre No 71 Berner's Street
In Oxford Street London England

[1] PRO, Colonial Office, 5/40. This intercepted letter, and the next entry, should have been dated January 21, 1776. See Minutes of the New York Committee of Safety of that date.

CAPTAIN J. H. DEMPSTER TO RICHARD CARDIN [1]

Ship *Blue Mountain Valley*
Off New York Jany 22, 1776

Dear Sir I am, after a turbulent passage of near thirteen Weeks Safe arriv'd off New York harbour but am not yet satisfied with going in 'till I am assur'd such a Step will be prudent repecting the Ship's safety, which is very precarious on this side the water, in these times. I am now sending on Shore in order to gain the proper intelligence, which opportunity my friendship and esteem for yourself & family cou'd not think of missing, to inform you of my present Welfare &ca You may fully depend on hearing from me by the earliest opportunity & in a more particular manner, as I have not time at present to write myself from the necessary hurry of the Ship – in the mean time beg you will present my best respects to Yr Spouse & family and accept the same Yr Self with the greatest Sincerity from Dr Sir [&c.]

J H Dempster

To Richd Cardin Esqre
Bucklers Bury London – England

[1] PRO, Colonial Office, 5/40. An intercepted letter.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS [1]

[Philadelphia] Monday, January 22, 1776

The Committee of Claims reported, that there is due To Colonel Benedick Arnold, on account of the expences in the expedition against Ticonderoga and Crown Point, a ballance amounting to £245 14 1 lawful money – 819 dollars, Ordered that the same be paid to Silas Deane, Esqr

[1] Ford, ed., *JCC*, 77–79.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a, 22nd Jan'y, 1776.

Mr. [John] Ross, Muster Master, agreeable to a Resolve of this Board, made a Return of the Men employed on Board the armed Boats, which is as follows, viz't:

Men in pay,	410,
of whom are sick,	25,
of whom in Gaol	1,

Resolved, That Mr. Samuel Morris of this Board, Mr. [David] Rittenhouse, Mr. [John] McNeal & Capt. [Daniel] Joy, be a Committee to Survey the Jersey Shore from Billingsport to Newtown Creek, to determine what posts it may be necessary to fortify against the attempts of an Enemy who may endeavour to land, to make an Estimate of the Expence thereof, and to Report to this Board by this day week.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records,* X 464, 465.

Pennsylvania Packet, MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 1776

Philadelphia, January 22.

By an express arrived here last week from Canada we are informed that General Montgomery was most unfortunately killed in storming the city of Quebec; that the Provincial Troops were drawn off; and that John M'Pherson, jun. Esq; Aid de Camp to General Schuyler, was also killed.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE [1]

Monday 22 Jany 1776 – The Committee met –

Messrs R. & A. McKim having applied to this Committee for Liberty to ship a Cargo of Provisions to some Port of New England in a Sloop lately arrived in this Port from Nantucket commanded by Capt Seth Paddock: This Committee do permit the said Robt & Alexr McKim to load said Vessell, on these express Conditions, That the said Capt Paddock shall not proceed in said Vessell, and that she shall be put under the Command of a Master, who shall be approved of by this Committee, the said R. & A. McKim also giving Security, that the said Vessel shall not proceed to any Port or Place prohibited by the Resolves of the [Continental] Congress –

Mr Thomas Ewing made Application to the Committee for Permission to load the Schooner *John,* Danl Merchant Master, lately arrived in this Port for Salem in N England with a Cargo of Flour & Corn; At the same Time a Certificate from the Committee of Gloucester in New England, and a Letter from Major Richard Carey were produced, which being deemed satisfactory, a Permission was granted to Mr Ewing to load said Vessel –

Captn William McNeil applied to the Committee for Permission to take in a Cargo of Provisions for New England on Condition of the Shipper of said Provision giving sufficient Security, that said Vessel shall not proceed to any Port or Place prohibited by the Resolves of the Continental Congress, which Application is granted –

1. Baltimore Committee, LC.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO STEPHEN STEWARD [1]

No 3. [Annapolis] Monday 22d Jany 1776.

To Mr Stephan Steward, West River.

sir The Council of Safety are informed that you have been at Philadelphia, and are acquainted with the Method, the Committee [of Safety] have taken there to prevent the Approach of Men of War, and armed Vessels to that City. As the

Convention have resolved, that the Sum of five thousand, nine hundred Pounds be appropriated to fortify Annapolis, and place Obstructions in the Channel of the River – the Council would be glad to see you, and take your Opinion on any Plans, or Designs, that may be thought necessary in carrying this Resolution of the Convention into Execution. Mr [Charles] Wallace has been so kind as to lay before us your Letter of the 20th Inst on which we shall be glad to confer with you. We are with Respect [&c.]

[1] Council of Safety Letter Book, No. 1, 1776, Md. Arch.

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

[Annapolis] Monday 22d January 1776.

The following Agreement was made with Captain John Pitt.

Whereas the Honorable the late Convention of the Province of Maryland, Resolved, that two pilot Boats be immediately employed and stationed to gain and [communicate notice of any Attem]pt that might be made by the Men of [war to com]e into this Province, I do hereby agree with the Honorable Daniel of St Thomas Jenifer Charles Carroll (Barrister) John Hall & James Tilghman Esqrs (of the Council of Safety for this Province) to furnish one pilot Boat for the above purpose at the Rate of twenty five Shillings per Day, and immediately to sail with my said Boat for the purpose of gaining Intelligence agreeable to said Resolution; and that I will from Time to Time use my best Endeavours to gain such Intelligence and as Occasion may require, communicate the same to the Council of Safety.

Jn° Pitt.

Instructions were given accordingly to Captain pitt.

Mr Jo. Middleton agreed to furnish a Boat for the like purposes and on the same Terms as Captain pitt and received his In[structions accordingly.]

A Copy of the Letter (No 3) relative to placing Obstructions in the Channel of this River was sent to Mr Stephen Steward,

[1] Council of Safety Journal, 29 August 1775 to 20 March 1777, Md. Arch.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Liverpool*, CAPTAIN HENRY BELLEW [1]

Janury 1776 Off Norfolk in Virginia

Monday 22 at 3 A M the Rebels fird on a party of Volunteers who were bringing off some Tabaco from the Shore belonging to the British Merchants here, fird several Shot and Dispers'd them arrived here our Tender with a small sloop taken from the Rebels.[2]

[1] PRO, Admiralty 51/548.

[2] *Ibid.*, the sloop *Edward*, tender, which had sailed on her first cruise, January 14, after being supplied from the *Liverpool* with "a Lieut and 25 men." The prize was the sloop *Susannah*, Francis Bright, master, the property of Christie & Gilmore, of Baltimore. She was returning from Antigua with a cargo of salt; Shuldham's Prize List, April 24, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

Minutes of the South Carolina Council of Safety [1]

In the Council of Safety,
[Charleston] Monday, Jan. 22nd, 1776

The report of the committee to prepare a plan of defence, being taken into consideration, the council resolved to issue the following orders:

1. That proper signals, for giving notice of the appearance of vessels on the coast, be fired on, at the Light-House, Sullivan's Island, and Fort Johnson. That a corporal and six men of the first or second regiment be stationed at the Light-House, and that a good look-out be kept, at all those places. The signals not to be by guns, except in thick foggy weather.

2. That one hundred and thirty men, rank and file, of the first or second regiment, under proper officers, be posted on Sullivan's Island, for manning the battery there, and eighty good rifle-men, rank and file, under proper officers, to prevent an enemy's landing.

3. That no boat or other vessel, be suffered to pass that island, without a permit, from the Council of Safety, the commander of the troops, or the officer commanding at that or some other post, and that the forces stationed on Sullivan's Island use their best endeavours to take or destroy every boat or other vessel, which shall pass, or attempt to pass without such permit.

4. That no boat be suffered to land on that island, without such permit; and that the forces stationed there, use their best indeavours, to take or destroy all boats attempting so to do.

5. That fifty men, rank and file, of the first or second regiment, under proper officers, and a detachment of two officers and twenty-five men of the volunteer and militia companies in Christ-Church Parish (the latter to be relieved every forthnight, by a like detachment from the companies) be always posted at the battery on Haddrell's Point, for the like purposes as those stationed at Sullivan's Island.

6. That two hundred and fifty men, rank and file, of the first or second regiment, under proper officers, be stationed at Fort Johnson, for the like purposes.

7. That the command of the battery westward of Fort Johnson, being given to Capt. [Benjamin] Stone's company of militia on James Island, twenty men of that company under a proper officer be constantly posted there; the remainder of the company to repair thither upon any alarm by beat of drum. That sixty men rank and file, of the first or second regiment, under proper officers, be posted near that battery, to sustain it – and that the commanding officer of Fort Johnson do reinforce that battery when necessary; and if he shall see occasion, send an officer to take the command of it, that the forces stationed at this battery use their best endeavours to take or dstroy any vessel which shall attempt to annoy or pass Fort Johnson.

8. That the scooner *Defence* be stationed about Crab Bank in Hog Island Creek, and the Ship *Prosper* to the westward of and near the battery next to Fort Johnson; and that the commanders of those vessels use their best endeavours to take or destroy the enemy's boats or other vessels.

(Eighth order postponed, till Capt. [William Henry] Drayton according to his desire, be heard.)

9. That on the drums in Charles-Town beating to arms, the artillery company, together with an officer and twenty-five men of Col [Charles Cotesworth] Pinckney's regiment, to be appoinited for that purpose, repair to, and take post in, Broughton's battery – Capt. Darrel's company, and an officer and the like number of men from Col. Pinckney's regiment, Lyttleton's Bastion – the grenadier company of the second regiment augmented to fifty men, and one subaltern and twenty men from the regiment of artillery, in Granvilles – the fuziliers company in Beale's – Capt. Cannon's company in Prioleau – Capt. Alexander Moultrie's musketeers to Craven's Bastion – the remainder of the artillery regiment in Lauren's – and forty men of Col. Pinckney's regiment, under proper officer's in Gibbes's.

10. That six subalterns, six sergeants, and one hundred and twenty rank and file, of Col. Pinckney's regiment, take post at the State House, Branford's Corner, Grimke's, Rantowles, Ramadges, and Brewton's, viz: one subaltern, one sergeant, and twenty privates at each of those places, with one of the Fire engines, and a sufficient number of negroes with fire hooks, axes, ropes, and every thing necessary for extinguishing fires or pulling down houses, that Mr. Manigault and Mr. Smith, and four such persons as they shall think proper and appoint for that purpose (which they are desired to do) be requested to attend at the places above mentioned (one at each of them) and to give such directions as they shall think necessary for extinguishing any fires that may break out in the town: which directions are to be obeyed by the detachments aforesaid.

11. That if fire should break out in the night, some persons from the main guard go to the upper gallery of St. Michael's Church Steeple, and there hold out a lighted lantern on a pole, pointing to the fire.

12. That a guard of fifty men, rank and file, of the militia be stationed at the magazine and prison: and the like number at the barracks, for the protection of women and children who may be sent there.

13. That there be proper patrols, on horseback or foot as shall be ordered, in the back parts of the town, to prevent disorder.

14. That the remainder of the first and second regiments – of Col. Pinckney's regiment – and of the country militia and volunteer companies who may be in town, repair to such places as the commanding officer shall appoint, and there wait orders.

15. That able-bodied negro men be taken into the public service, and enrolled and employed, without arms for the defence of the several batteries in Charles-Town, Fort Johnson and other batteries, at the rate of two to each gun, and that this be done as soon as possible, for every battery, by the officer whose company is directed to be stationed at it. That they be in constant pay at the rate of ten shillings per day, and the public to find them in provisions. If killed, wounded or disabled in the public service, the loss or damage to be paid for by the public, and that suitable rewards shall be given to those slaves, who behave well in time of action.

16. That the men directed to be stationed at or on an alarm, to take post in the forts and batteries, be exercised at the cannon there one hour every day,

from eleven to twelve o'clock, for ten days next ensuing, the delivery of these orders.

17. That a return be forthwith made to this board, of the state of the first and second regiments, the artillery regiment, Col. Pinckney's regiment, and Charles-Town artillery company, and the country militia and volunteer companies now in town; and of the scooner *Defence,* ship *Prosper* and Brigantine *Comet,* and of what arms and ammunition are still wanting for those forces and vessels respectively.

18. That no guns be fired in or about town without permission from the proper officers.

19. That as the Council of Safety will repair to the State-House on any alarm, the commanding officer give them notice where he is to be found in such case.

Read a letter from the Hon. Capt. Drayton of this date.

The Council issued an order for the payment of £160 to James Barker, for his expenses and service in engaging seamen for the naval armament of this colony.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society,* III, 204–09.

Captain John Stanhope, R.N., to Philip Stephens [1]

Sir *Raven* at Savannah 22d Jany 1776

I beg you will please to acquaint my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that in consequence of Admiral Graves's order dated the 29th of last November, I sailed from Boston with directions to endeavour to land some dispatches for the Governors of Philadelphia, Virginia, Maryland, the Carolinas and Georgia, but being repeatedly blown off the Coast by violent Gales of wind, I was only Able to fetch Charles Town bar, off which place I anchored on the 12th instant, where I found riding His Majesty's Ship *Syren*: after waiting on Captain [Tobias] Furneaux, he advised me not to go into the Harbour with His Majestys Sloop under my Command, that Lord William Campbell had been forced to quit his Government and was on board the *Cherokee* Arm-Ship: upon this intelligence I declined going in, and proceeded in Company with the *Syren, Tamer,* and *Cherokee* which two last Ships we fell in with on our passage hither, and arrived here on the 16th where I am Stationed until further Orders.

Since my arrival at this Port, I have had no Open communication with this Colony or Town of Savannah, and from the intelligence which I have received, they are in open Rebellion against the King: that on the 18 instant the Governour and Council were confined, but were again released on a promise that they would not leave the Town without permission.

I am sorry to acquaint their Lordships, that since my leaving Boston, the greatest part of the Ships Company have been very much afflicted with the Scurvey, (some of whom died of this distemper) but I am in hopes, that with the few refreshments I have already procured and the prospect of future supplies, I shall be able to restore them to their proper health.

I further beg you will please to acquaint their Lordships that I fell in with, and Seized a Ship belonging to Philadelphia with near Two Thousand Pounds on board in Money, which she brought from Lisbon; [2] and on my arrival here I seized a Ship belonging to Rhode Island, laden with Lumber,[3] an account of which

Ships I have transmitted to the Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships at Boston. I am, Sir [&c.]

Jn° Stanhope

P.S. I herewith inclose the *Georgia Gazette* for their Lordships perusal in which the[y] will perceive in some measure what is going on in this Province, as well as the other parts of America.

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1. PRO, Admiralty 1/2483.
2. The ship *Rittenhouse,* Ambrose Bartlett, master. Shuldham's Prize List, April 24, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.
3. *Ibid.,* the ship *Clarissa,* Richard Bissell, master.

Captain Tobias Furneaux, R.N., to Philip Stephens,[1]

Syren, Sevanah River, January the 22d 1776 –

Sir I take this opportunity by the *Sandwich pacquet,* which Lord William Campble sends home express, to acquaint the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, of the Arrival of His Majesty's Ship *Syren* under my Command off Cape Fear, on the 4th Inst after a most disagreable passage of seven Weeks, and four days from Plymouth Sound, and found my stay must be two or three days there to procure Pilots, thought it most prudent to run the Ship within the barr, for her more security; as it is an open Road, and very much exposed to Southerly and Easterly winds, which prevail much, and occasion such a heavy swell, as no Anchors could have held her. And on the 10th sail'd from Cape Fear, for Charles town, with four Pilots on board, on the 12th Anchored off the Barr, and made the Signal, but had no Answer. it being thick heavy Weather could not see any thing of our Ships; the next Morning sent the pinnace with the first Lieutenant, Mann'd and Armed, into the Harbour, but finding neither the *Tamer* or *Cherokee* there went on board a Spanish Snow, that then lay at Anchor in Rebellion Road, who informed Lieutenant Pennington that they had left that place about eight or ten days before; Mr Pennington had two Shots fired at him from the Fort, which fell short of the boat, and as he was returning on board, saw a small Schooner at Anchor without the Barr, in the Channel he was to go, and being informed she was looking out for him was on his Guard, as soon as she saw the boat she got under way, and stood towards him, and hail'd Mr Pennington and ordered him, to go before him into Charles town, but on Mr Pennington's answering him he fired two Shott at the boat, on which the people were ordered to lay their Oars across and fire; and after an Engagement of Ten minutes (supposing to have kill'd their Captain) she bore away for our boat, which gave chase but could not come up with her, our boat return'd having received no damage. The Schooner mounted Six Swivels, and some Musquetoons, and had between Twenty and Thirty hands. –

As I was sure the Ships could not be gone to the Northward as Captain [John] Stanhope of His Majesty's Sloop *Raven* who had that day Anchored off Charles town barr, from Boston, bound to Georgia, and myself from Cape Fear must have fallen in with them; thought most probable they were gone to Port Royal: on the 14th I got under way; the 15th at four OClock in the evening, having nearly run the length, of Port Royal saw a Sail to the Southward, which we chased, at 8 spoke her which proved to be the *Polly* Schooner belonging to the *Tamer,* who informed me that Lord William Campble in the *Cherokee,* and the *Tamer,* were at Anchor about eight leagues to the S W of us; we then stood for them, and very luckely fell in with them (it being thick fogg and heavy rain) about 2 oClock in the Morning, and Anchor'd about five leagues off the Land, that evening sent his Lordship's pacquet on board to him, intending to have gone to Port Royal, as I was very short of Water, but as [there] was no Pilot for that place to be got out of any of the Ships, and none would come off to us, and the place being Fortified, thought it most prudent to go into Sevanah for Water, and having got on board about twenty Tuns, shall proceed off Cape Fear as soon as possible. –

On my arrival at Cape Fear, I found the Ships short of all stores, and the *Cruizer* very much worm eaten, and as she had no boat fitt for service, on an application from Captain [Francis] Parry, Supplied him with the spare boat; The *Tamer* is so bad that she is not fitt for Sea, her bottom much worm eaten, main Yard gone, and in great want of all stores, and short of Provisions; The *Raven* very sickly having had a passage of seven weeks from Boston. –

I am sorry to acquaint their Lordships of the death of Lieutenant Pennington, who was shot in a Duell with Lieutenant Cumming of the Marines; Mr Cumming is now under Confinement on board. –

During our passage from England had very bad weather, in general found the Ship answer to our expectations. – I am Sir [&c.]

Tob^{s} Furneaux

[Endorsed] Read 4 Mar 5 Mar Own rect

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/1790.

Journal of H.M. Sloop *Raven,* Captain John Stanhope [1]

January 1776	Laying in Savannah River
Saturday 20	(AM) Unbent the Mainsail The people empd Occasionally First middle and Latter mode and Cloudy Detained a Ship belonging to Rhode Island, Laden with Lumber bound to Jamaica, took out all the People and sent on board an Officer with 2 Men to take Charge of her [2]
Sunday 21	(AM) Stopt a Schooner and examined her The people empd as above First part mode and Cloudy middle and Latter fair Carpenters empd Sheathing the small bower Anchor Stock.
Monday 22	(AM) sailed hence the *Syren* Frigate Recd on board from the Sloop [3] that was Stopt 10 Barrels of Cyder and 10 of Apples

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1. PRO, Admiralty 51/771.
2. The ship *Clarissa,* Richard Bissell, master, owned by Roch and Lopez, Rhode Island merchants; Shuldham's Prize List, April 24, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.
3. Note that on Sunday, January 21, she is spoken of as a schooner.

INFORMATION TO THE TOWN OF SAVANNAH FROM GOVERNOR SIR JAMES WRIGHT [1]

Savannah, Monday, January 22, 1776

Doctor Jones and Joseph Clay waited on the Governour in consequence of a written request from him, when he informed them, that as soon as he heard there was a man-of-war in the river, which was on Tuesday last, he sent orders to Captain Lightenstone to go on board them and to inquire who they were and what number, and endeavour to learn their intentions. And as the Governour was apprehensive, if any of the man-of-war boats came up to town, it might be the occasion of disputes between them and the inhabitants, and, perhaps, bloodshed, for which reason he directed Captain Lightenstone to acquaint them that the town was in much confusion, and to request that they would not send any of their boats up to town.

But his orders reached Captain Lightenstone at Skidway, on Wednesday morning, who, immediately went on board the men-of-war, and returned from them on Thursday afternoon, and to Savannah this morning; who acquainted him, the Governour, that in pursuance of his orders, he had been on board the ships-of-war – that they informed him, by Lightenstone, that the *Syran* and the packet would prob'y, go to sea this day or to-morrow; that the *Tamar* had sprung her main-yard, and was in want of provisions, as was the *Cherokee;* that as soon as she (the *Tamar*) had got a new yard, which they expected to supply themselves with from Tybee, that she (the *Cherokee*) would, as soon as that was done, and they had supplied themselves with provisions, which they expected soon to procure, having already got five or seven beeves from Tybee, and expected to get some other provisions from Little Tybee (which they were then sending for,) go to sea also; and then there would be left in this harbour only the *Raven,* which is stationed here; and that he apprehended this town had nothing to fear from the men-of-war, unless they should attempt any thing in consequence of hearing of his, the Governour, being under arrest, which he assured us if they had, it was not from him or with his knowledge.

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[1] Force, comp., *American Archives,* 4th, IV, 799.

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23 Jan.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES [1]

[Watertown] Tuesday, January 23, 1776.

Moses Gill, Esq; brought down the Report of a Committee appointed to consider a Plan for fitting out armed Vessels, with the following Vote of Council thereon, *viz.*

In Council, January 23d, 1776.

Ordered, That Thomas Cushing, Esq; be of the aforesaid Committee on the Part of the Board, in the Room of John Adams, Esq; who is absent.

Read and concurr'd.

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[1] Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL [1]

[Watertown] Tuesday, Jany 23rd 1776

Petition of Joseph Deane, setting forth that he has for several years past used the Surrinam Trade, in Consequence of which a very considerable part of his Interest, to the amount of Five hundred pounds, now remains in the Hands of the Merchants in that place – The time limitted for the payment of which, has already expired – Your Petitioner begs leave further to represent to the Honle Court, that he last spring purchased a Bill of Exchange to the amount of Five hundred pounds more, drawn by a dutch Merchant there on his correspondent in Amsterdam – which Bill has since come back protested to your Petitioner – both of which Sums must be infallibly lost to your Memorialist, in case of failure of any of his debtors (which at this day is not improbable:) He therefore prays your Honors, to grant him Liberty to sail from this Colony to Surrinam in a Brigantine, which he now has by him, and laying totally useless, in order to secure the aforesaid Sums – He means not, nor does he wish to contravene the Resolves of the American Congress, or the regulations made by this Colony – He therefore only Asks permission to carry empty Molosses Casks enough to bring home the proceeds of his said debt in the produce of Surrinam and the rest ballast – He intends, if by any means can be obtained, to purchase a Cargo of Powder – But as this is a matter altogether uncertain, and as Molosses Casks can not be procured in Surrinam, he prays your Honors to grant him the Permission above prayed for.

In the House of Representatives Read and committed to the Committee appointed the 15th Currant to consider the subject matter of Thomas Russels Petition –

In Council Read and Concurred

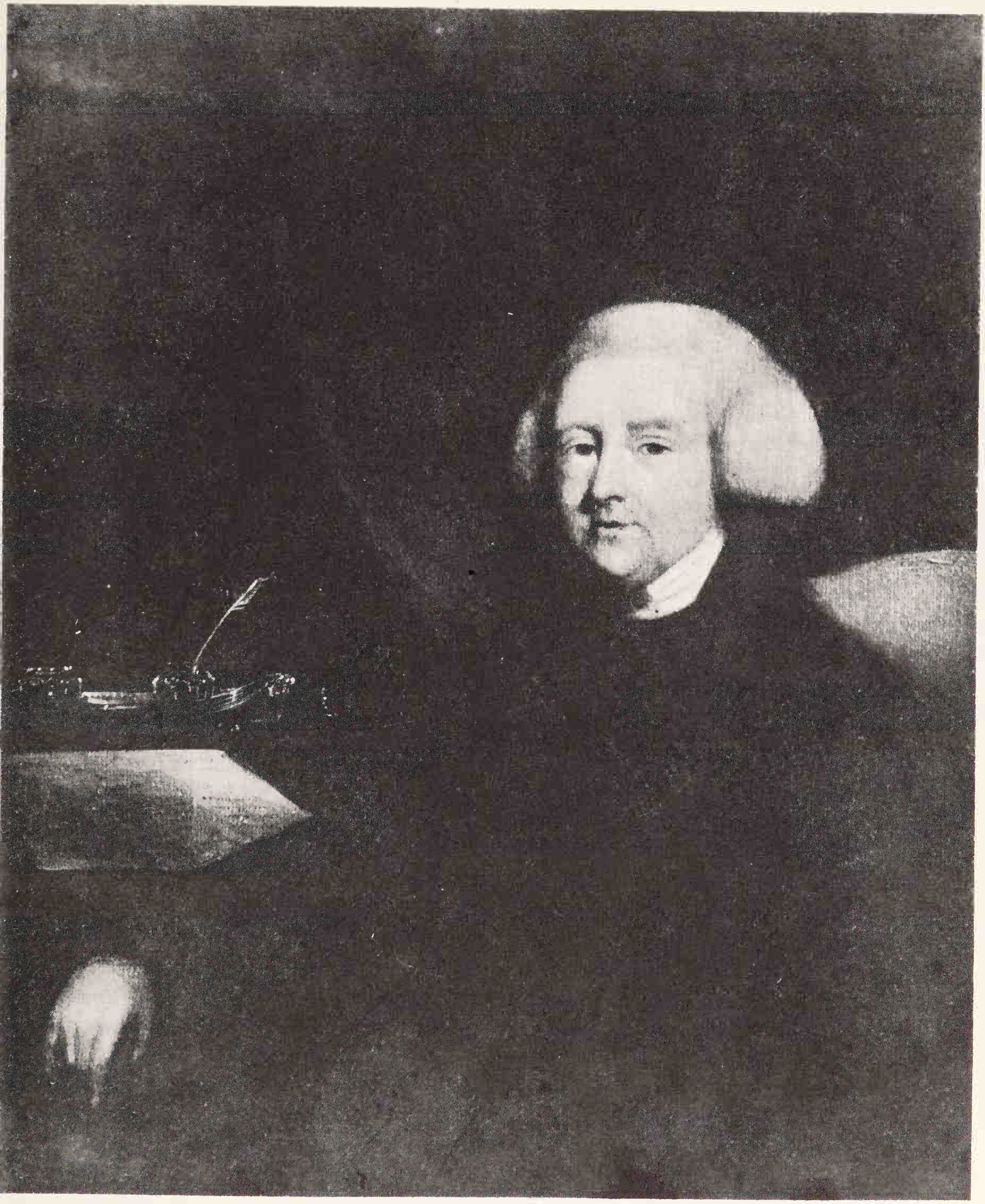
The Committee of both Houses on the above Petition, have attended that service, and having Considered the same, report the following Resolve. –

Resolved, That Joseph Dean be allowed to send the Brigantine, in his Petition mentioned, to the Foreign West Indias, in order to collect any money's which may be due to him there – he giving Bonds with sufficient sureties, in the sum of One Thousand pounds, to the Treasurer of this Colony, that he will not export in said Brigantine, any Cash or produce of the Colonies. – And it is recommended to the said Joseph Dean, to purchase and return here, Arms, Ammunition or any species of Military Stores enumerated in a late Resolution of the Congress, if they are to be obtained –

In Council read and accepted

In the House of Representatives read & Concurred

Petition of Thomas Russell late of Charlestown setting forth that he has now due to him considerable sums of money from the foreign West India Islands, for the recovery of which he conceives there are no possible means, if the intercourse between them and us is totally stopped: That your Petitioner is also possessed of a small Schooner of which Mathew Groves is Master, now in the Harbour of Salem, the Inactivity of which, if a total stagnation of Trade takes place, your Honors are doubtless sensible must prove a dead loss. –



John Adams.

That your Petitioner by no means proposes to export the Produce of this Province to the foreign West Indias, but to sail in Ballast and make a return with the Commodities of said foreign Island. – Wherefore and considering the amazing scarcity and consequently high Price of West India commodities – your Petitioner prays that the said Schooner may be permitted to perform said Voyage. –

In the House of Representatives – Ordered that the Speaker, Mr [Daniel] Hopkins, and Colo [Ebenezer] Sawyer, with such as the honle Board shall join, be a Committee to consider at large the Subject matter of the within Petition and report –

In Council Read and Concurred and William Sever and John Winthrop Esqrs are joined. –

The Committee of both Houses on the Petition of Thoms Russell have attended that service and having considered the same, report the following –

Resolved that Thomas Russell be allowed to send the Schooner, of which Mathew Groves is master to the foreign West Indias, in order to collect any Monies which may be due him there, he giving Bonds with sufficient Sureties in the sum of One Thousand pounds to the Treasurer of this Colony, that he will not export in said Schooner, any Cash, or produce of the Colonies: and it is hereby recommended to the said Thoms Russell, to direct the Master of said Vessell to purchase Arms, Ammunition, or any kind of Military Stores enumerated in a late Resolution, of the Congress, if they are to be obtained. –

In Council Read and Accepted

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1. Mass. Arch., vol. 34, 539–43.

[JOSEPH PALMER] JOHN BORLAND TO JOHN ADAMS [1]

[Extract] Watertown, 23d January 1776.

Dear Sir To regulate the trade of the United Colonies, being a field of vast extent, far exceeds my present comprehension; & 'tis not likely I shall ever fully investigate that complicated System of Regulation, which will best Serve the trade of these Colonies; however, I will venture to Suggest to you several reasons which incline me to favour the following Regulation, which respects the importation of foreign Articles. I wou'd first premise, that I apprehend it necessary that we shou'd have a good Sumptuary Law, well adapted to our circumstances: This being supposed, I think we Shall be best able to guard against some breaches of this Law, by being our own Carriers; & by having all imports in our own Bottoms, we Shall have all the advantages of Supplying & carrying; this will also encourage Ship-building, & will be an effectual Nursery for Seamen; & will also prevent other Nations obtaining Such knowledge of our Ports, as may, in Some future time, enable them to improve it to our damage, as our unnatural enemies have lately done. When this matter is contemplated, I shou'd be very fond, for the reasons mentioned, to Secure this point, even at a great expence (if necessary) in Some other way. For as we don't want any Imports, as necessary to Life; & as our Exports of the Provision kind will be large, I think we may, in treaty, fairly claim the proposed Article. I have no time, but only at the Board, where many interruptions necessarily take place; if I shou'd have oppo, will write more fully.

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. . . We now see that our enemies are determined to push with all their might early in the Spring; how necessary it is then that we take effectual measures for reduceing both Que[bec] & Bos[ton] before the Spring arrives. But this is not all; may we not also attempt to divert the Storm? If the United [Colonies] shou'd declare for independence, & offer their Trade, in some general way, until treaty shall settle particulars, to Somebody else; wd not our Enemies find themselves immediately involved in a War with that Somebody? & wd not that involvment break the Storm, in some degree, for the present? and can anybody accept such Trade without such involvemt? And if these things must be done at all, prudence says that they must be done soon, without any delay, & that a better form of Governmt, at least a more compleat one, is necessary for expedition. –

Borland

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1. Adams Papers, MassHS.

William Watson to George Washington[1]

Sir Plymouth 23. January 1776.

I am much obliged by your Excellency's favour of the 20th instant pr Capt [Charles] Dyar – I shall do every thing in my power to dispatch the *Harrison*. shall get the square sail prepared, & think it very necessary, the expence wont be great – Lieutenant [John] Wigglesworth the bearer of this will wait on your Excellency for his Commission as 2d Lieutenant, by whom youl please to send a Commisn for Mr Thomas Doten as first Lieut – Mr Wigglesworth has conducted in this matter with great Dignity. – I had appointed him as 1st Lieut but Mr. Doten offering his service, Wigglesworth generously gave way to Doten as being a more experienced sailor, & as haveing been some years commander of a good ves[sel] –

Nothing is wanting for the *Harrison* but a Guner & a few Quire of cartridge paper, which your Excellency will please to order. – I have the honr to be your Excellencys [&c.]

William Watson

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1. Washington Papers, LC.

Brigadier General William West to the Newport Town Council[1]

Head Quarters Middletown Jan'y 23d 1776 –

Gentlemen Yesterday I received the Copy of Capt Wallace's Letter to you of the 21st Inst. by which I perceive he refuses making any Treaty with any part of the Colony, while in Arms against their Sovereign (Newport only excepted) which he believes is not so: Nevertheless considering the present defenceless Situation of the Town of Newport, shall permit said Town to supply Capt Wallace, with two thousand Weight of Beef and with Beer as usual, so long as he shall continue peaceably within the Colony, without committing any Depredations upon the Islands, or upon any of the Lands within the Colony & no longer. – I also received a Copy of the Votes of the Town of Newport by the hands of Your Comtee Mess Wm Ellery and Joseph Anthony appointed for that Purpose, in which You have voted Capt Wallace Supplies agreable to Act of Government and requested me to appoint a Person to provide and deliver the Provisions to the said Wallace; agreably thereto I have appointed Mr George Irish to deliver the Supplies. In your Vote you also request, that I would give Orders to my Officers at Jamestown & elsewhere to permit the Ferry Boats to pass and repass with Provisions &c which Request I cannot comply with, But do strictly forbid any Boat or Vessel from passing within Hail of Capt Wallace or any of his Fleet, unless by a particular Permit from me. – I desire you Gentlemen of the Town Counsel of Newport when You have Occassion for any Treaty to be made with the Commander in chief at Head Quarters relative to the Town & Capt Wallace by a Committee, that Mess. John Collins, Wm Ellery and George Sears or either of them be the Committee for that Purpose. – Any Boat or any Vessel of any kind, that shall pass so near Capt Wallace or any of his Fleet, as to be spoke with, shall be immediately taken up and dealt with according to the Law of this Colony for Persons giving Intelligence to the ministerial Fleet

I am Gentlemen [&c.]

W^m^ West

P:S: The Supplies for Capt. Wallace will be deliverd from the Ferry Wharf, at the Point, as heretofore, untill I may judge some other Place more convenient.

W W

a True Copy Witness W^m^ Coddington Town Clerk

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1. Letters to the Governor, 1776, vol. 8, R.I. Arch.

NEWPORT TOWN COUNCIL TO BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM WEST [1]

Newport January 23d 1776 –

Yours of this Day we received, and as its contents were in our opinion of the highest Importance to the Peace and Security of this Town, we conceived it to be our Duty immediately to convene the Inhabitants in order to lay the same before them, for their Information, and to take their opinion upon the Subject Matter thereof, which we have accordingly done this afternoon.

You observe, Sir, in Answer to the Vote of the Town passed Yesterday requesting that you wou'd appoint a Person to provide and deliver the Beef, Beer &c for Capt [James] Wallace, that you have appointed Mr George Irish to deliver the Said Supplies from which we suppose you have left it with us to employ a Person to procure the Same; We shall therefore give Directions to some Person who may be agreeable to you to provide & kill the Beef, the appointment of Mr Irish to deliver the same being Satisfactory to us: This we presume you will approve of as Consistent with the Law of the Colony which allows the Town Council of this Town to Supply Capt Wallace weekly with Beef &c

When you consider the distressed and unhappy Circumstances of the Inhabitants of this Town we perswade ourselves you do not wish to adopt any Measures that have a Tendency to increase their Difficulties; And as the Fleet under the Command of Capt Wallace are so numerous that they may be extended along the Whole Western side of this Island it must appear to you impossible that any Boats can pass them without being within Hail either with or without your Permits; and when it is further Consider'd that it is not Criminal for any of the Boats to Pass within Hail of the Ships of War and that no Permits are required by any Act of the General Assembly we are at a Loss to account for your strictly forbidding any Boat or Vessel from passing within Hail of Capt Wallace or any of his Fleet unless by a particular Permit from you without you have received any Orders for so doing; in which Case we cou'd wish they might be communicated to us; But if you have no such Directions, we request that you wou'd give Orders to your subordinate Officers for the Ferry Boats and Wood Vessels to pass with Provisions and Fuel for the Use of the Town without Interruption –

We have no Objection to the Gentlemen you have desired may be appointed a Committee to treat with the Commander in Chief at Head Quarters on any Matter relative to the Town and Capt Wallace, however we must beg leave to observe that the confining our Choice to any three particular Persons may not only be attended with great Inconveniences, but is in our opinion inconsistent with the Liberty we have an Indisputable Right to of nominating our own Committee –

By Order of the Worshipful Town Council, I have the honor to be sr [&c.]

W^{m} Coddington Council Clerk

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1. Letters to the Governor, 1776, vol. 8, R.I. Arch.

COLONEL GURDON SALTONSTALL TO SILAS DEANE [1]

Dear Sir, – New London, Jan. 23d, 1776.

Lieutenant Elisha Hinman sailed for Philadelphia, in Sloop *Lizard,* Joshua Hempsted, Junr, Master, Friday morning, 19th inst.; wind at W.N.W.; continued in same point next day; Sabbath and yesterday N.E., this day N.W.; all the time, moderate breeze and clear weather; make no doubt the *Lizard* will be this day at Reedy Island, unless she meets the Fleet sooner. I thought it prudent to furnish the *Lizard* with six weeks' provisions, and twenty Sloop oars, to serve in case of distress, which, with all the other stores and provisions not used on the passage and charged in the accompt, will be delivered to the Fleet.

First Lieut. Hinman's crew, 48; Second Lieut. [Jonathan] Maltbie's, 16; Mastr David Phipp's, 18; total 82; [2] deduct one of Hinman's men, Samuel Slack, left very ill with a fever, (who died this morning;) and possibly some charge will arise, that can't be known just now. Thought it not improper to charge the Sloop *Lizard*'s hire, although not paid, as it must be paid, by Charter Party, in three days after advice received that she has performed the service.

You have enclosed, my accompt [with] Sloop [*sic* ship] *Alfred*, D. Saltonstall, Comr, amounting to £314 14*s*. 3*d*. Lawful Money, or 1049 Continental Dollars; which sum, desire you will remit me as proposed, to New London, immediately. I could not find any person that wanted money at Philadelphia, and was obliged to borrow of a friend.

Enclosed also, you have the roll of Lieut. Hinman's men, containing their months' pay, and billeting paid them from time of shipping to 13th instant, when they went on board the *Lizard*.

Thank you for the Journal of Congress, received some time since. This evening the western Post came in, and am not favoured with a line from you or Capt. Saltonstall. Tell him, all well, here and at Westerly. I am [&c.]

G. Saltonstall.

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1. "Correspondence of Silas Deane," *Collections of the Connecticut Historical Society,* II, 352–53.
2. Narrative of Richard Bulkeley: "In the Winter of 1775 and 1776 Capt. Dudley Saltonstall was appointed to the command of the Ship *Alfred,* lying at Philadelphia. I was then appointed a midshipman under him. Lt. E[lisha] Hinman, Lt. [Jonathan] Maltbie, Sailing Master [David] Phipps, Midshipman Peter Richards, Alexander P. Adams, Capt. Clark, myself, and about 74 others, sailed from N. London to join the fleet then lying in the Delaware," NLCHS.

MAJOR GENERAL CHARLES LEE TO THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

Sir –

Yesterday on the road I had the honour of receiving yours, and ought to make a thousand apologies for not having answered it immediately, but the circumstance of being on the road, together with the necessity of finishing some despatches to General Washington, and to the Continental Congress, rendered it almost impossible.

I should certainly, sir, have apprized you of my march, had I not concluded that you would have learnt it time enough from the Congress. The letter I have from the general, directed to the Chairman of the Committee of Safety, I was ordered to deliver with my own hand.

With respect, sir, to the alarms of the inhabitants, on the suspicion that my business was to commence active hostilities against the men of war in your harbour, I can assure you that they may be perfectly easy. Such never was the intention of the general, and I hope you will believe that I never entertained a thought of transgressing the letter of my instructions. The motive of the general for detaching me, was solely to prevent the enemy from taking post in your city, or lodging themselves in Long island, which we have the greatest reason to think, sir, is their design.

Some subordinate purposes were likewise to be executed, which are much more proper to communicate by word of mouth than by writing; but I give you my word that no active service is proposed, as you seem to apprehend. If the ships of war are quiet I shall be quiet; but I declare solemnly that if they make a pretext of my presence to fire on the town, the first house set in flames by their guns, shall be the funeral pile of some of their best friends; but I believe, sir, the inhabitants may rest in security on this subject. I am convinced, and every man who considers a moment must be convinced, that the destruction of the seaport towns, would, if possible, be a severe stroke to the ministry and their instruments, than to the inhabitants themselves. The seaport towns are the only holds they have in America; they are considered as the pledges of servitude; the menacing destruction of them may indeed be of admirable use, but the real destruction of them must extinguish all hopes of success.

In compliance, sir, with your request, I shall only carry with me into town a force just strong enough to secure it against any designs of the enemy, until it shall please the Continental Congress to take measures for its permanent security.

The main body I shall leave on the western frontiers of Connecticut, according to your directions. I hope, sir, and persuade myself, that the Committee and inhabitants can have no objection to this plan. If Mr. [William] Tryon and the captains of the ships of war are to prescribe what numbers are, and what numbers are not, to enter the town, they are absolute directors to all intents and purposes. The condition is too humiliating for freemen to put up with.

You take pains to assure me, sir, that your Congress and Committee are not less zealous in the cause of American liberty than any representative body on the Continent. I give you my word, sir, that this assurance was unnecessary. I am not one of those who have entertained a bad opinion of the virtue of New-York, or made it my business to asperse them; on the contrary I have condemned loudly the illiberal, impolitic, and unjust reflections I have heard frequently thrown out. I should not have taken the liberty of troubling you with the opinion, good or bad, which an unimportant individual like myself may entertain of so respectable a body as your Committee or Congress, had not this particular paragraph of your letter thrown the temptation in my way.

I am, sir, [&c.]

Charles Lee.

Stamford, 23rd January, 1776.
Peter V. B. Livingston, Esqr. Chairman of the Committee of Safety.[2]

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1. *New York Provincial Congress,* I, 266.
2. *Ibid.,* the letter, received by the Committee on the morning of January 24, 1776, was recorded in the minutes and filed.

INTELLIGENCE CONVEYED FROM NEW YORK TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM [1]

[New York, January 23, 1776] [2]

Intelligence received by persons who may be depended upon, since 18th Decemr 1775.

1776 Janry 4th Two Brigs fitting out as Privateers from New Haven in the Colony of Connecticut, 12 or 14 Guns each. Their Plan was supposed to make an Attempt upon the Magazine of Gunpowder at Needham's Fort upon the Island of Barbadoes, which they had Intelligence was weakly Guarded.

4th By two Seamen who deserted from the Row Gallies at Philadelphia, that then there was Six Privateers laying there, that the Rebels had sunk seventeen Caissoons in the Channel about Nine Miles below Philadelphia (and had five more ready) in such a form as to make a Serpentine Channel, and that each Caissoon was Armed with very large Iron Spikes the bigness of a Man's thigh.

8th By a Letter from Baltimore, there were Two Ships of Twenty Guns each, then fitting out as Privateers at that place.

9th By Letters from Philadelphia about 2d of January, Two of the Privateers fell down the Delawar; the rest were to follow as soon as possible.

9th By a letter of Authority from the Island of Hispaniola, dated the 23d of November. The Port of Ocayes, was opened as a free Port by Proclamation for Six Months for the Importation of North Admerican Produce; the same Letter also Mentions their expectation of the Arrival of Seven Thousand five hundred French Troops at Cape Francois and the same Number at Martinique, and that there is a great Importation of Ordnance Stores daily coming upon that Island.

1776 Janry 23d A Schooner the Master's name Stanbury is to discharge her Cargo of Gunpowder at Egg Harbour or Cape May; Ordered not to come within Cape Hinlopen for fear of King's Ships. A great many Merchant Ships cleared out from Philadelphia for the West Indies, and many expected in the last of January, or the first Week in February.

23d Received the disagreeable News that the Ship *Blue Mountain Valley* loaded with Coals, Porter, &ca was Seized off Sandy Hook by William Alexander commonly called Lord Sterling, he having Arm'd Two Sloops from Elizabeth Town for that purpose.

Copy

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1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484. Enclosed in Shuldham to Stephens, March 8, 1776.
2. Date established by the last item of intelligence.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

[New York] Die Martis, 10 HO. A.M.
January 23d, 1776.

A bill of sale from Robert Wosan, master and part owner of the sloop *Sally*, and from Isaac Scudder, Hooker St. John and Sarah Isaac, executors of the last will and estate of Benjamin Isaac, deceased, the other owners, to Col. Alexander McDougall and Capt. Anthony Rutgers, for the said sloop and her appurtenances, was prepared and delivered to Capt. James Smith to take to Norwalk to have it executed.

Die Martis, 3 ho. P.M. 23rd Jany. 1776

Joseph Woolcombe, mate of the ship *Blue Mountain Valley*, was brought before the Committee; he says he had not any other letters than those taken from him when searched. That he was mate of the ship; that 25 or 26 transports sailed with their vessel, which was the whole number then in the Downs. There were other transports taken up; that their ship was loaded with porter and coals; that two transports with horse came out and went to the West Indies for winter quarters; that he had no verbal instructions, but to deliver the letters on board of the man of war; that the ship was to stand in, in the night for him, which would be about 24 hours after he left her, and if he did not arrive in four hours after, the ship was to put off for Boston.

Joseph Woolcombe says he chooses to go on board of one of the men of war: thereupon he was discharged, and the letters found with him were delivered to him, and a permit was given to him in the words following, to wit:

Ordered, That Joseph Woolcombe be permitted to go on board either of His Majesty's ships of war, (now laying in the harbour of New-York) unmolested.

[1] *New York Provincial Congress,* I, 262.

JOHN GRAHAM TO COLONEL ALEXANDER McDOUGALL [1]

Guard-Room [New York], January 23, 1776.

Sir: I flatter myself you will pardon this intrusion, but hope my present unhappy situation will be a sufficient apology.

I was, unfortunately, cast away on the 23d of December last, on Squan-Beach, in the sloop *Polly and Nancy,* which vessel was laden by his Excellency Governour Tryon, for Boston, with sundry articles as a present to General Howe, and immediately was taken prisoner, by order of the Committee of Freehold, in Monmouth County. As I only went passenger, by permission of his Excellency, in order to get my son home to New-York, think it is cruel; my state of health, at present, is such, that if I have not my enlargement soon, I must inevitably perish.[2]

I now presume to beg you will be kind enough to procure me at least a hearing; your compliance will be gratefully acknowledged by, sir [&c.]

John Graham.

[1] Force, comp., *American Archives,* 4th, IV, 818; probably from a document burned in the fire which destroyed the Albany State Library building.

[2] Graham was discharged on February 10, 1776 with three New York citizens as surety for his good behavior. *New York Provincial Congress,* I, 290.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM NEW-YORK, DATED JAN. 23." [1]

A transport arrived at the Hook yesterday; the mate was sent on board a pilot boat with some letters; the pilot delivered him to the committee guard who have him in custody.[2]

[1] *Pennsylvania Evening Post,* January 25, 1776.

[2] Joseph Woolcombe, mate of the transport *Blue Mountain Valley.*

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *ASIA,* CAPTAIN GEORGE VANDEPUT [1]

January '776 Moor'd in the East River [New York]

Tuesday 23 sent a petty Officer & 10 Men on board the Schooner with Provisions, Swivels, Musquets & Ammunition [2]

[1] PRO, Admiralty 51/67.

[2] *Ibid.,* the schooner *James,* seized by Vandeput on January 19, 1776.

ROBERT OGDEN TO THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

Gentlm Yours of Yesterday directed to the Earl of Stirling Came Express, 5 oClock, and as My Lord was Set of[f] in the Morning with a party of Men as Supposed in order to Take the Vessel & went by the way of Perth Amboy: the Comm[ittee] imedeatly Met & Concluded to Send three Boats with a hundred men well Armed to assist in Takeing Said Vessel; this Resolution with the Letter from your Committee we sent Express at 7 oClock to My Lord, and the 100 [men] well Equipt Set of[f] in the Boats About [12] oClock, & hope on there Return will be able to give a good Account of the Vessel.

We are Gentle [&c.] by Order of the Committee.

Robert Ogden, Chairman

[Elizabethtown] Jany 23 1776

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1. Papers laid before the Provincial Congress of New York, 1775–80, vol. 25, Military Committees, 631–33, NYSL. Ogden was chairman of the Elizabethtown, N.J., Committee of Safety.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS [1]

[Philadelphia] Tuesday, January 23,1776

Resolved, That an Account of the late repulse our troops met with, and the loss we have sustained in the unsuccessful attempt on Quebec, be drawn up by the secretary, and laid before Congress.

The Committee of Claims reported, that there is due,

To Timothy Matlack, for cash paid by him to Archibald Dick, the expenses of a guard over a powder waggon, £6 2 9 – 16 4/10 dollars.[2]

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1. Ford, ed., *JCC,* IV, 79, 81.
2. As Matlack was acting as secretary of the Naval Committee, the payment was probably for powder carted to Reedy Island for the use of the Continental fleet.

"PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE OF FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE SENDING S. DE[ANE] TO FRANCE" [1]

At a meeting of the Committee of [Secret] Correspondence

[Philadelphia] Janry 23d 1776

Present

Doctor [Benjamin] Franklin, Colonel [Benjamin] Harrison, Mr [John] Dickinson

Agreed

That a Vessel be immediately charted for a Voyage to Martinico to carry a Cargo not exceeding two thousand Pounds Pennsylvania Currency to consist chiefly of Flour and Lumber and to be consigned to who engages to go Passenger in the Vessel

That application be made to Congress for a sum not exceeding £2525 Money aforesaid for procuring and fitting out the vessel with the said Cargo, and for promoting the service undertaken by Mr. That instructions for Mr be drawn

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1. Henry Laurens Papers, SCHS.

RECEIPTS RELATING TO THE MARYLAND SHIP *Defence*[1]

[Baltimore]

Jany 23d 1776 Recd of Captain James Nicholson Seven pounds ten Shillings in full for three Boatswains Calls p

£7.10 –

Christopher Hughs

Recd 23d Jany 1776 of Captain James Nicholson Sixteen pounds eight Shillings and four pence halfpenny for Nails of different sizes for the use of the Ship *Defence*

NB the money was pd 20th

£16.8.4½

John Graham

Recd 23d Jany 1776 of Captain James Nicholson Twelve Shi[llings] for Boarding George Thomson one Week

£ – .12 –

his
Terence X Grimes
mark

---

1. Account Book, Ship *Defence* Papers, MdHS.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY[1]

In the Council of Safety,
[Charleston] Tuesday, Jan. 23rd, 1776.

Mr. Isaac Rivers informed the council of a sloop in Stono-River, one Pinder, master, and John Ellis of this town passenger; said to be bound for [New] Providence, which had taken some corn on board at Mr. John Holmes's plantation, and probably was intended to be completely loaded, as she had taken a pilot on board to go to Mr. Randall's plantation. And also, of a scooner in Kayawah River, belonging to Mr. Robert Farquhar, suspected to be intended to be loaded in an illicit manner.

In consequence of which information, the following letters were immediately written:

> In the Council of Safety,
> Jan. 23rd, 1776.
>
> Gentlemen – We are informed of a sloop and a scooner strongly suspected of illicit practices – the former in Stono River, the latter up Kayawah River. We desire you will employ some proper persons to take possession of both, and to conduct them, without delay, to this harbour, and put them under the protection of the ship *Prosper*. Report to this board, and all reasonable expenses will be paid
>
> By order of the Council of Safety
>
> Henry Laurens, President.
>
> Capt. Benj. Stone, for Committee of James Island.

> In the Council of Safety,
> Jan. 23rd, 1776.
>
> Sir – We require your attendance at this board, in order to answer to an intimation of your having intended to supply a load of rice for a vessel contrary to the order of Congress and of this board.

The meeting of this council is generally from 10 o'clock in the morning to 3 in the afternoon.

By order of the Council of Safety.

Henry Laurens, President.

Mr. John Holmes.

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1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society,* III, 209–10.

James Davis to Edward Webley[1]

Jamaica ss To the Honorable Edward Webley Esquire Chief Justice of the said Island of Jamaica.

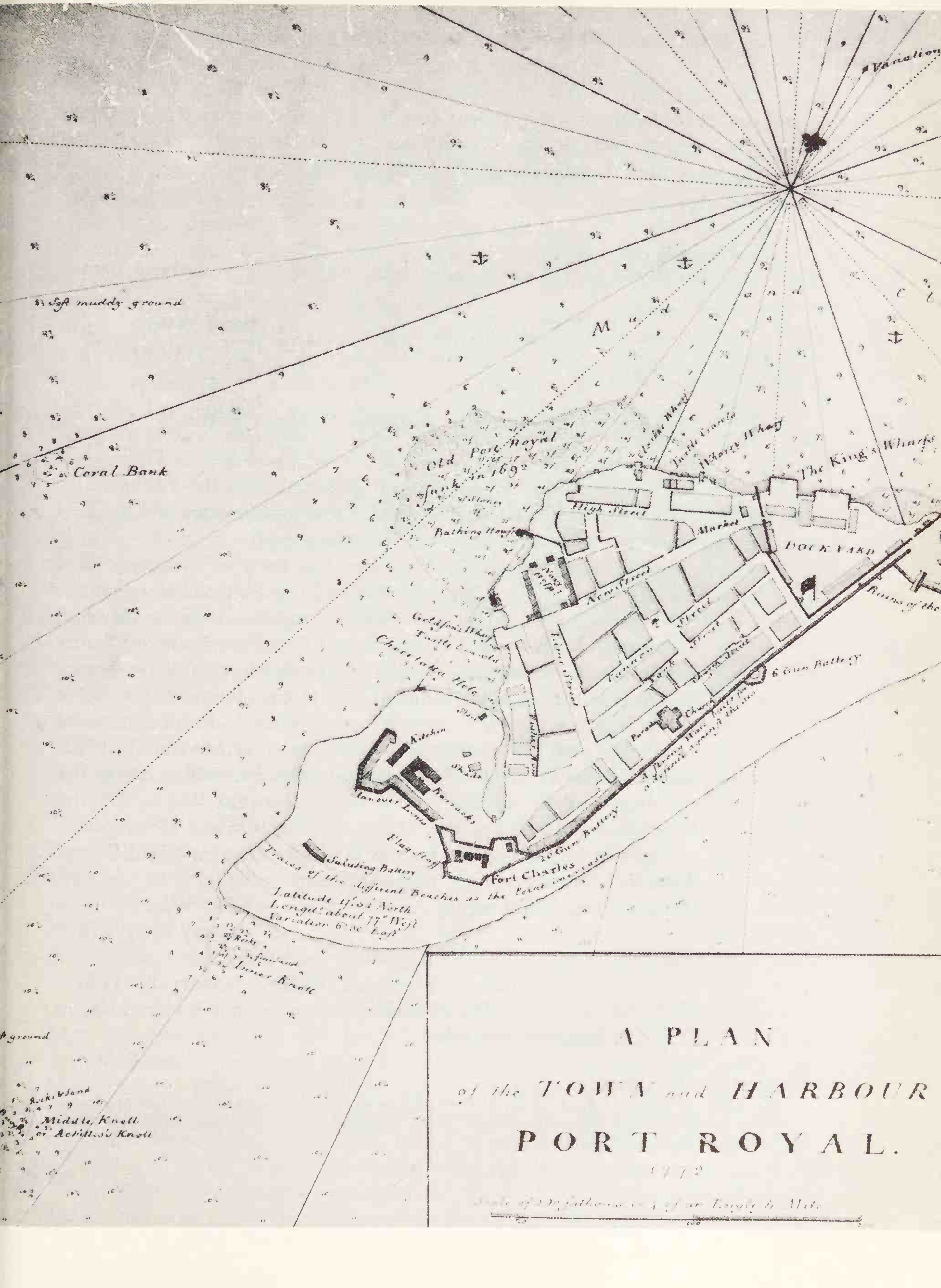
The Request of James Davis of the Parish of Kingston Merchant in behalf of Benjamin Bell, Eliphalet Smith, Daniel Dyke, Benjamin Appleton, America Rogers, Theophilus Lindsay and Daniel Towser Mariners now Prisoners in the Custody of Clark Gayton Esquire Admiral and Commander in Chief of his Majestys Fleet upon the Station of this Island of Jamaica and detained by him on Board his Majesty's Ship called the *Antelope* under his Command in the Harbour of Port Royal

Sheweth

That the said James Davis on the behalf aforesaid did between the Hours of Nine and Eleven of the Clock in the fore noon on Monday the twenty second of this Instant January go to the said Clark Gayton at the Admirals pen near Kingston and demand from him a Copy of the Warrant or Order of Commitment and Detainer of them the said Benjamin Bell, Eliphalet Smith, Daniel Dyke, Benjamin Appleton, America Rogers, Theophilus Lindsay and Daniel Towser by virtue of which he detained them Prisoners in his Custody as aforesaid and the said Admiral Clark Gayton Esquire did then declare to the said James Davis that the said Benjamin Bell, Eliphalet Smith, Daniel Dyke, Benjamin Appleton, America Rogers, Theophilus Lindsay and Daniel Towser were Prisoners in his Custody and detained by him on Board the said Ship called the *Antelope* and that he did there detain them Prisoners by Virtue of his Orders and Instructions or to that Effect but the said Admiral Clark Gayton Esquire did th[en] possitively deny to give to the said James Davis a Copy of the Order or Warrant of Commitment and Detainer of them the said Benjamin Bell, Eliphalet Smith, Daniel Dyke, Benjamin Appleton, America Rogers, Theophilus Lindsay and Daniel Towser or of any order Warrant or Authority for Committing or detaining them.

Therefore

The said James Davis on the Behalf of Benjamin Bell, Eliphalet Smith, Daniel Dyke, Benjamin Appleton, America Rogers, Theophilus Lindsay and Daniel Towser doth hereb[y] request Your Honor to Grant u[nto] him his Majesty's several Writs of Habeas Corpus upon the Statute of the Thirty first Year of the Reign of King Charles the Second returnable immediately to be directed unto the said Clark Gayton Esquire Admiral as aforesaid to


Variation
Soft muddy ground
Mud and Cl
Coral Bank
Old Port Royal sunk in 1692
Stones
Bathing House
Clarke's Wharf
Turtle Crawls
Whorry Wharf
The King's Wharfs
High Street
Market
DOCK YARD
Ruins of the
Navy Hosp.
New Street
Street
Street
Queen Street
Cannon
Lime Street
Fishers Row
Goldson's Wharf
Turtle Crawls
Chocolatta Hole
6 Gun Battery
Church
Parade
A Strong Wall Built for a Defence against the Sea
Kitchen
Sheds
Hanover Lines
Barracks
Flag-Staff
Saluting Battery
20 Gun Battery
Fort Charles
Traces of the different Beaches as the Point increases
Latitude 17°.52' North
Longit. about 77° West
Variation 6°.30' East
Rocks
Fine Sand
Inner Knoll
ground
Rocks & Sand
Middle Knoll
or Achilles's Knoll
A PLAN
of the TOWN and HARBOUR
PORT ROYAL.
1772
Scale of 200 fathoms or ¼ of an English Mile
50
100
200

have the Bodies of them the said Benjamin Bell, Eliphalet Smith, Daniel Dyke, Benjamin Appleton, America Rogers, Theophilus Lindsay and Daniel Towser before your Honor together with the Cause of their and each of their Caption and Detention to the end that your Honour may examine into the Legality of such Caption and Detention and thereupon do what unto Justice and Right doth appertain

Witness James Davis
D^n^ Pennington
Ja^s^ Martin

[Endorsed] Let Writs of Habeas Corpus issue for each of the above named returnable immediate.

Edw^d^ Webley
1776 January 23d

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240.

Edward Webley to Rear Admiral Clark Gayton [1]

Jamaica ss George the third by the Grace of God of Great Britain France and Ireland King and of Jamaica Lord Defender of the Faith and so forth To Clark Gayton Esquire Admiral and Commander in Chief of our Fleet on the station of this Island of Jamaica

Greeting We Command You that the Body of Benjamin Bell Mariner now in your Custody on Board our Ship the *Antelope,* as it is said, under safe and secure Conduct together with the Day and Cause of his Caption and Detention by whatsoever Name or Names he may be therein named or Called You have before our Chief Justice of the Island of Jamaica immediately at his House situate in the Town of Saint Jago de la Vega then and there to do submit to and receive all such things as Shall be Considered of by our said Chief Justice in this Particular And have then there this Writ hereof fail not at your Peril Witness the Honorable Edward Webley Esquire Chief Judge of our Supreme Court of Judicature and Chief Justice of our said Island at Saint Jago de la Vega the twenty third Day of January in the Sixteenth Year of Our Reign

William Singer Cl Corona Edw^d^ Webley
January 23rd 1776

Per statutum tricesimo primo Caroli Secundi Regis
Edw^d^ Webley January 23 1776

Take Security in £200. that the prisoner do not Escape and for 25/Mile Money if remanded

E W.[2]

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1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240.
2. *Ibid.,* writs of habeas corpus identically worded were issued the same day for producing the bodies of Eliphalet Smith, Daniel Dyke, Benjamin Appleton, America Rogers, Theophilus Lindsay and Daniel Towser.

24 Jan.

BRIGADIER GENERAL BENEDICT ARNOLD TO THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS [1]

Gentlemen Camp before Quebec January 24th 1776

I wrote the 14th inst [2] adviseing you of our present Scituation, & that of the Enemy, & took the Liberty of presenting you my Sentiments, on a future Plan of Operation, for which my Zeal for the Public Service I hope will Apologize; Since which I have made an Estimate (which I now Inclose) of such Artillery, Stores, Ammunition &ca which I imagine will be necessary, If it is thought proper to carry on a Seige in form. of this I can be no Judge, As I know not if Powder can be spared from below, or Shot, Shells &c sent up in Season – The Artillery except a 13 Inch Mortar (at Crown Point) is all in this Country – I have also inclos'd a List of such Ammunition Stores &c as we have on hand, a List of such Articles as can be procur'd at Montreal, St Johns & Chamblee, will be taken & Sent you by General [David] Wooster – I had Encouragement from Monsieur Pelisseire at three Rivers of being furnish'd with Shot, Shells, &c in all the Month of March –

I have this Minute received Advice from him that the want of Coal will prevent his Supplying those Articles before May, as Coal is his only Objection, I have wrote him to procure them at all Events if it can be done to Supply Shells &c by the first of April of which the Bearer Major [Matthias] Ogden will inform, This Measure I hope will meet your Approbation as the Expence of bringing Shells from below will be great and if not wanted here, the Cost will be trifling.

It is very probable the City would Surrender before half or perhaps one quarter of the Shot, Shells, &c in my Memorandum were expended But if they should make an obstinate Resistance perhaps the whole will be necessary – A Gentleman now present assures me that the Kings Magazines containing upwards of three thousand Barrels of Powder were all full And that three hundred Barrels, his private Property taken from him by Government, was obliged to be Stor'd in a private Vault. Add to this ten Thousand Stand of Arms, Seven Thousand of which are New & Arrived last Summer, also Seven Thousand Compleat Suits of new Cloathing with a large Quantity of Artillery Stores, Two Frigates with a Number of other Vessels in the Harbour &c &c The above mentioned Articles exclusive of Securing an extensive Country in our Interest & liberating three or four hundred of our Brave Men Appears an Object of the greatest Importance to us under our present Circumstances – I make no doubt every necessary Measure will be Adopted for reducing the City –

Yesterday arrived here a Reinforcement of 100 Men from Montreal sixty Men are soon expected, We are still very weak handed of Course the Duty Severe, however the Enemy have not dar'd to Come out, tho' they are double our Number – Desertions from the Garrison are frequent they are in want of Fuel, and have Attempted to Supply themselves by Cutting down the Houses in St Rogues Suburbs (under their Guns) to prevent which I have burnt most of them with several Vessells they had, broke up, Every Artifice is used by Governour Carlton to procure Provisions and induce the Canadians to take Arms against us, to no effect, tho' Seconded by the Clergy our bitter Enemies – I make no doubt of Continuing the Blockade until a proper Reinforcement Arrives to make use of more Coercive Measures –

Major Ogden the Bearer of this to Montreal who Came out with me a Volunteer proposes going down to Philadelphia – I beg leave to Recommend him as a Gentleman who has Acted with great Spirit and Activity through our fatigueing March and at the Attack in Quebec, in which he was wounded.

General Montgomery on his Arrival in this Country was pleased to Appoint Mr John Holsted Commissary he is a Gentleman who has been very Active & Zealous in our Cause is a Merchant & Capable in his Department in which I beg leave to recommend his being Continued –

Our Finances are low we have been obliged to beg, borrow & Squeeze to get money for our Subsistance, and but for Mr [James] Price who has been our greatest Resource we must have Suffered.

I have the agreeable Intelligence from General Wooster that the Paymaster is at home. I am with great Esteem [&c.]

Bened^t Arnold

1. Papers CC (Letters from General Officers), 162, I, 54–56, NA.
2. The letter Arnold mentions was written January 11, 1776, not January 14.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES [1]

[Exeter] Wednesday, Janry 24th 1776.

Voted That Dr Joshua Bracket be Judge of the Court of Admiralty for the Colony of New Hampshire, & that Samuel Penhallow Esq. be Register of said Court.

Voted That Col. Walker & Saml Sherburne Esqr be a Committee of this house to join a Committee of the Honble Board to Consult & Draw up Such Rules & Regulations for the Court of Admiralty to be governed by, as may appear to be Legal & Necessary at this time, and to make report to this house as Soon as may be.

Voted, That the Draft of a Commission for Capt Daniel Jackson as Master and Commander of the Privateer *Enterprise,* bro't by Mr [Wyseman] Clagett into this house, by order of Councill, is acceptable to the house, and that the same be Sealed up in a Letter & Sent to the Committee of Safety of Porthmouth who are to take bond of said Jackson for his faithfull Discharge of his Trust, in case the Same measure is adopted by the General Court of the Massachusetts Bay, the bond to be for one thousand Pounds.

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire,* VIII, 47, 48.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO JOHN HANCOCK [1]

[Extract] Cambridge 24th Jany 1776

I have Accounts from Boston, which I think may be relied on, that General Clinton with about four or five hundred men, hath left that place, within these four days – Whether this is part of the Detachment which was making up, as mentioned in my Letter of the 4 Inst, & then at Nantasket, or not, is not in my power to say – If It is designed for New York, or Long Island, as some think, throwing a body of Troops there, may prove a fortunate circumstance – If they goe further South agreable to the Conjectures of others, I hope there will be men to receive them – Notwithstanding the positive assertions of the four Captains from Portsmouth, Noticed in my Letter of the 14, I am now convinced from several corroborating circumstances – the Accounts of Deserters, & of a Lieut Hill, of Lord Percy's Regiment, who left Ireland the 5 of November, & was taken by a privateer from Newbury Port, that the 17 & 55th Regmts are arrived at Boston, & other Troops at Hallifax agreable to the information of Hutchinson, & others – Lieut Hill says that the Transports of two Regiments only were forced into Milford Haven.

Congress will think me a little remiss I fear, when I inform them that I have done nothing yet towards raising the Battalion of Marines,[2] but I hope to stand exculpated from blame, when they hear the reason – which was, that already having 26 Incomplete Regiments, I thought It would be adding to an expence already great in Officers, to set two entire Corps of Officers on foot, when perhaps we should not add Ten men a week by It, to our present numbers – In this opinion the General Officers here concurred, which Induced me to Suspend the matter a little longer. Our Inlistments for the two last weeks, have not amounted to 1000 men & are diminishing – the Regiment for Canada It is thought will soon be filled, as the men are to choose all but their Field Officers, which are appointed by the Court.

1. Papers CC (Letters from George Washington), 152, I, 435, NA.
2. Resolution of Congress of November 10, 1775, which was suspended on November 30, 1775, apparently without notifying Washington of the action.

BRIGADIER GENERAL HORATIO GATES TO LIEUTENANT HENRY EDWIN STANHOPE, R.N.[1]

Sir Head Quarters [Cambridge] 24th January 1776

I am directed by his Excellency General Washington, to acknowledge the receipt of your Letter of the 16th Instant, requesting leave to go into the Town of Boston to Solicit The Admiral for your Exchange The Admiral Has already declined every negotiation for Exchange of prisoners. & has not permitted any Money to be sent to those Gentlemen now in the Hands of the United Colonies, though frequently acquainted with Their Necesities, and Press'd to releive them. Certain Prisoners taken by a Frigate has been by the Admirals Order sent to England,[2] so that it is not now in his Power to give any Exchange for those in there Hands, and from The Admirals behaviour in other Matters, it very Clearly appears, you would not be permitted to come Back to your Parole; should His Excellency even Allow you to go into the Town of Boston These Reasons you must allow are sufficiently convincing to Oblidge The General at present to Decline complying with your request – I am Sir

H.G.

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1. Washington Papers, LC. Stanhope, an acting lieutenant on board H.M.S. *Glasgow,* was taken prisoner in Newport on November 29, 1775, and sent to Northampton on his parole. See Volume 2, 1205.
2. The crew of Washington's brig *Washington.*

BRIGADIER GENERAL HORATIO GATES TO LIEUTENANT JOHN KNIGHT, R.N.[1]

Sir Cambridge 24th Jany 1776

I have this moment wrote to Captain [Henry Edwin] Stanhope, & given him by his Excellencies Command, Such reasons for not imediatly granting his request as Cannot but be Satisfactory; the Same reasons you will clearly See hold good with respect to you – the General is truely Concerned it is not at present in his power to grant you Leave to go to Nova Scotia to your familly the first moment that it Can be done with propriety, you may be assured that Indulgence will be granted.

When his Excellency granted you the District of the town of Northampton & five miles round for your place of Confinement he undertsood that Northampton & Hadly were towns Like those to the Southward of moderate extent, Since upon better Information, he finds that each of those Towns Contain a District of a very Large extent of Country he directs me to acquaint you, & desires you will acquaint all the Gentlemen upon their Parole at either of those towns, that they must Keep themselves within the Legal Limits of the town they Live in – the Comittee of Safety at Northampton & Hadly have by this Conveyance received his orders upon this head – I have regularly forwarded all Letters to & from Boston that you or any of the Gentlemen have Sent to Headquarters Yrs

H G

John Knight Northampton

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[1] Washington Papers, LC. Knight commanded H.M. Schooner *Diligent*, taken at Machias in July 1775.

THOMAS CUSHING TO ROBERT TREAT PAINE [1]

Watertown Jany 24,1776

I have Received your Favor of the ninth Instant, am oblidged to you for the letter Return'd, & also for the Information you have given Relative to the Arrival of Powder & Saltpetre, I give You joy upon this Occasion & hope the Saltpetre will be immediately Converted into Powder & forwarded with all possible dispatch to our Camp at Cambridge, Where it is wanted; our Vessells have taken two prizes lately & carried them into Newburyport, one is a large Ship from London with Coal Beer & cheese; the other A Brigt from Ireland with Provisions for the Ministerial Army;[2] I have this Moment been Informed that a Salem privateer has taken another Vessel from England loadened with 130 chaldron of Coals 1400 Blankets, Ten Tons of oatmeal & 100 ps Ticklingburg [3] – I am very glad I am Releived from my Attendance at Philadelphia, as I find it is most for my Interest to be here & People would not be easy without I Returned & attended the office or another Judge was appointed in my Room In great haste I remain [&c.]

T. Cushing

Pray write me particularly how you go on at Congress – Shall write you again & more particularly

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[1] Robert Treat Paine Papers, MassHS. Cushing was a member of the Massachusetts Council.

[2] The ship *Friends* and brig *Sukey*.

[3] The ship *Jenny*, William Wood, master.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES [1]

[Watertown] Wednesday, January 24,1776.
Afternoon.

The List of Fees for the Courts of Admiralty was again considered by the House, and recommitted to Major [Dummer] Sewall, Deacon [Elnathan] Curtis, and Deacon [Daniel] Whitney, the House having previously voted that the Judges of said Court should severally be paid for the Trial of any cause, at the Rate of Twenty Shillings per Day.

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[1] Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES [1]

[Boston, January] 24.

To day News arrived that the Rebels had failed in their Attempt to take Quebec by Escalade, that General Montgomery his Aid de Camp and about 100 rank and file were killed, and 300 wounded and taken Prisoners, among the former Col. Arnold.[2]

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[1] Graves's Conduct, II, 30, BM.
[2] Arnold was wounded but not taken prisoner.

JOURNAL OF H. M. S. *Preston*, CAPTAIN JOHN ROBINSON [1]

January 1776	Remarks Boston Harbor
Wednesday 24	Modt and fair Wr ½ past 3 AM 8 Men took the New Yawl from alongside and Deserted to the Rebels Compleated the Hold with wood and water at noon a Victualer Brig was Carried up the Harbour with the ice. Sent the Longboat with a Cable and Anchor to her assistance Do Wr Arrived his Majesty's Sloop *Nautilus* Employed in setting up the rigging at 1 PM sent the Gun Boat with 3 Petty officers and 27 Men in quest of the Boat which was cut away from the Ship this Morning

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 51/720.

JOURNAL OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO BUILD TWO CONTINENTAL FRIGATES IN RHODE ISLAND [1]

[Providence] Jany 24 1776

Meeting in being according to adjournment

Voted. That the bord of the Carpenters from abroad be paid in Strong weather when they are not able to work. –

Whereas Henry Ward Esqr who was Chosen Secretary to this Committee cannot give his attendance on the said Committee Meetings from the multiplicity of Publick Business that he has to Transact, it is Voted that Jabez Bowen be Chosen Secry to this Committee. –

Reckoning 22/6 paid by Coll Nightingale
Meeting Adjourned to Fryday Evening 6 o'clock [2]

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1. Journal R.I. Frigates, RIHS.
2. The meeting on Friday, January 26, 1776 showed no business transacted, and a reckoning of sixteen shillings, six pence, paid by Joseph Nightingale.

BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM WEST TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE [1]

Honrd Sr. Head Quarters Middletown Jany 24th 1776.

Last Saturday Evening about Six oClock I arrived here, & was then informed that Capt Wallace had received his usual Supply of Beef, with the following Additions, viz, one Barrel of Apples, one Do of Sugar, two Boxes of Candles, one Do of Soap, a large Role of Tobacco, one Turky, one Goose, Onions & Other Things in a Bag & one Bunch of Fowls; And early on Sunday Morning a Committee consisting of the following Persons, was chosen by the Town of Newport to go on Board Capt Wallace, viz, Mess. John Malbone, George Gibbs, James Honyman & Wm Wanton, who accordingly went on Board immediately, & laid the late Act of the Genl Assembly before Capt Wallace relative to his Supplies, the Committee returning in the Afternoon brought a Letter from Capt Wallace to the Inhabitants of the Town of Newport, a Copy of which I now send You inclosed, also a Copy of the Proceedings of the Town thereon & the Copies of my Letters to the Town Council of Newport, & the Copy of theirs to me.

Since the Arrival of the King's Speech & the Melancholly news from Quebec, the Friend's to the Ministerial Forces, in Newport, appear more open & Bold than heretofore, by endeavouring to inflame the Minds of the Inhabitants of the Town against the Rest of the Government, in Particular, Jos Wanton, Richd Beale, Leechmore, Benja Brenton, Jas Honyman, James Clarke, Francis Malbone, Geo Gibbs & many others too tedious to enumerate; Their Conduct is not so much to be wondered at, when I consider the Polite Treatment, several of the most inveterate Enemies to the Liberty of this Country, Recd, after they were Taken & conducted to Providence, with several Hundred [blotted] the Colony, & permitted to return Home, when in my Opinion they ought to have been confined in some remote Part of the Colony until the Present Difficulties should come to an End. –

Four Hundred Pounds L:M hath been granted by the General Assembly, for the Removal of the Poor & Helpless Inhabitants of the Town of Newport, which I think would have answered a much Better Purpose had they Ordered that Sum to be expended in the Removal of those Obnoxious Inhabitants of that Town, to the Liberties of their Country; Those Persons give us more Trouble than Wallaces whole Fleet, & as much Danger is to be expected from them –

Early Yesterday Morning three Sail of Wallaces Fleet left this Harbour, bound for Boston, as we suppose, consisting of a Brig, an armed Schooner & a Sloop, I believe they had very Little Stock if any to carry there –

One Slocum a Person belonging to Newport was set on Shore by some of Wallace's Hands Night before last, he has been on Board one of the Armed Sloops for three Months past, he was conducted to Head Quarters immediately & examined, he inform'd us Capt Wallace is very sick of his Voyage to Prudence, having lost fourteen Men kill'd & a Number Wounded – They Buried Several on Hope

Island, I'm informed Nine were found buried there in one Grave. Two of the Wounded are since dead, & were buried on Rose Island – Slocum says they got no Cattle, & but very few Sheep – I am Sir [&c.]

W^{m} West

P S. I am inform'd the Town of Newport has chosen another Committee to wait uppon the Continental Congress – In my Opinion their Scheme is rather to serve Capt Wallace by observing [blotted] Hopkins, than for the real Service of the Town of Newport

Therefore think it very Necessary that the Principles as well as th[ese] Circumstances of the Town of Newport be made known to the Continental Congress, from some other Quarter I am yours at Supra

W : W

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1. Letters to the Governor, 1776, vol. 8, R.I. Arch.

BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM WEST TO THE NEWPORT TOWN COUNCIL [1]

Gentlemen Head Quarters Middletown January 24th, 1776.

Yours of Yesterday, this Day I've received, acknowledging the Receipt of my Letter of the 23d Inst., by which I perceive you have some Objections against the Restrictions contained in my Letter. First You Pretend to be at a Loss who shall provide the Beef & Beer for Capt Wallace, which I thought must be plainly understood before; but if not, I now tell You, Mr George Irish is the Person who I appoint to provide & deliver the said Supplies to Capt. Wallace & receive the pay therefor.

If you will please to attend one Moment to the first Vote of your Town Meeting on the 23d Inst, wherein You Expressly Say you "Will supply Capt Wallace with Beef, Beer &c agreeable to the act of Goverment;" You also voted "That Mess Wm Ellery & Jos Anthony be a Committee to wait on Genl West at Head Quarters, & to lay before Him the above Vote, and also to request that he will appoint a Person to provide & deliver the Provisions to Capt Wallace;" how your Idea of the Matter differs so much now I can't conceive, when the Act of Goverment expressly says, that Capt Wallace's Supplies are wholly to be under my Directions. –

You also object against the Restrictions laid upon the Boats and Vessels; I make no Doubt it will be attended with some Inconveniences, but of two Evils, let us chuse the Least.

You say Wallace's Fleet is so numerous, that they can extend all along the Western Shore of this Island; when at the same Time, he has assured you that, the Town of Newport shall be safe on their Part; Therefore it cannot be supposed that he will do any Thing against the Interest of that Town –

I am surprized you should complain of these ill Conveniences, when the Colony indulges you in feeding Capt Wallace on account of saving the Town of Newport, when in the mean Time all the other Parts of the Colony ly exposed to his Ravages & Cruelties.

I have deliberately considered the Advantages & Disadvantages we labour under, in these unhappy Circu[m]stances; and upon the Whole, cannot see it consistent with my Duty, good Reason, or sound Policy to alter my Restrictions. – I heartily wish to indulge the Town of Newport in every Thing consistent with the Good of the Whole and the Cause we are Engaged in. If I act contrary to the Instructions of my Superiors, I expect to be Censured accordingly –

You intimate in your Letter that, I have confined you in your Choice of a Committee, when I only desired of you that, the Persons Named in my Letter to you, might be the Committee to treat with me in Matters between the Town of Newport & Capt Wallace – You say, you have no Objections against the Persons nominated in my Letter; then, why need there be so much Pester about Matters of no Consequence – I am Gentlemen [&c.]

W^{m} West

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1. Letters to the Governor, 1776, vol. 8, R.I. Arch.

OWNERS' BOND OF SLOOP *Union* BOUND FOR WEST INDIES [1]

Know all Men by these Presents That we John Cooke, Thomas Corey, Isaac Corey and Pardon Gray all of Tiverton in the County of Newport in the Colony of Rhode Island &c. Merchants as principals and Cromwell Child of Warren in the County & Colony aforesaid Shipwright as Surety are held and firmly bound unto Joseph Clarke Esqr. General Treasurer of said Colony in the Sum of Twelve Hundred Pounds Lawful Money to be paid to the said Joseph Clarke in his said Capacity or to his Successors in said Office for the Use of the said Colony to which Payment well and truly to be made we bind Ourselves Our Heirs Executors and Administrators firmly by these Presents. Sealed with Our Seals. Dated the Twenty fourth Day of January in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand and Seven Hundred and Seventy Six.

Whereas Thomas Case Master of the Sloop *Union* burthened about Eighty Tons is bound by Permission of the Honble Nicholas Cooke Esqr. Governor of the said Colony on a Voyage with his said Sloop to any of the Foreign Islands in the West Indies to purchase Powder and other Military Stores. Now therefore the Condition of this Obligation is such That if the said Thomas Case shall well and truly lay out the whole Proceeds of the Cargo on board the said Sloop in Gun Powder Saltpetre Sulphur Duck or Arms and shall import the same into this or any other of the United Colonies in America the Danger of the Seas and of the Enemy only excepted, and also further excepting that in Case the said Thomas Case shall not be able to invest the whole Proceeds of the Sperma Ceti Candles in the Articles abovesaid that then he shall be permitted to lay out and bring back the remainder in Ozenbriggs Ticklinburgh, Lead Salt petre, Flints, Linnen or Woolen Cloths Jesuits Bark or Rhubarb then this Obligation shall be void or else in full Force.

Sealed and delivered
in the Presence of
Henry Ward William Mumford.

Thomas Cory Cromell Child

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1. Maritime Papers, Bonds, Masters of Vessels, R.I. Arch.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO JOHN HANCOCK [1]

Copy

[Albany] January 24th 1776.

I have just now received a Letter from the Committee of Safety at New York inclosing Copies of the Resolutions of Congress of the 8 of January. They observe "That several Things are left indeterminate" in that Resolve which orders a large Quantity of provisions and Stores to be sent to Fort George: In answer I have wrote them that "I cannot believe Congress intended any Thing more by sending the Resolution to them than that they should supply me with what I might want: the almost Impossibility of sending a large Quantity from New York to Fort George at this Season would countenance this Construction."

They have also wrote to me on the Subject of the Shipwrights. I have given them an Extract of what I have above said to Congress on the Occasion and requested that they would not send any until I applyed for them.

They also seem to think that they were to procure Batteau-Men, and ask what Wages are to be allowed them – I have promised to write to Congress on that Head. I believe they would be best got in the Vicinity of this place. If Congress thinks so I wish to know what pay to allow to the Officers and Men.

Congress will please to attend to the Naval Department in this Quarter – Perhaps Commodore Douglas [William Douglass] will remain – I could wish a Capt [Jacobus] Wynkoop to be employed under him. He is active and brave. I am [&c.]

Ph: Schuyler

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[1] Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, I, 410, 411, NA. Continuation of Schuyler's letter of January 22, 1776.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

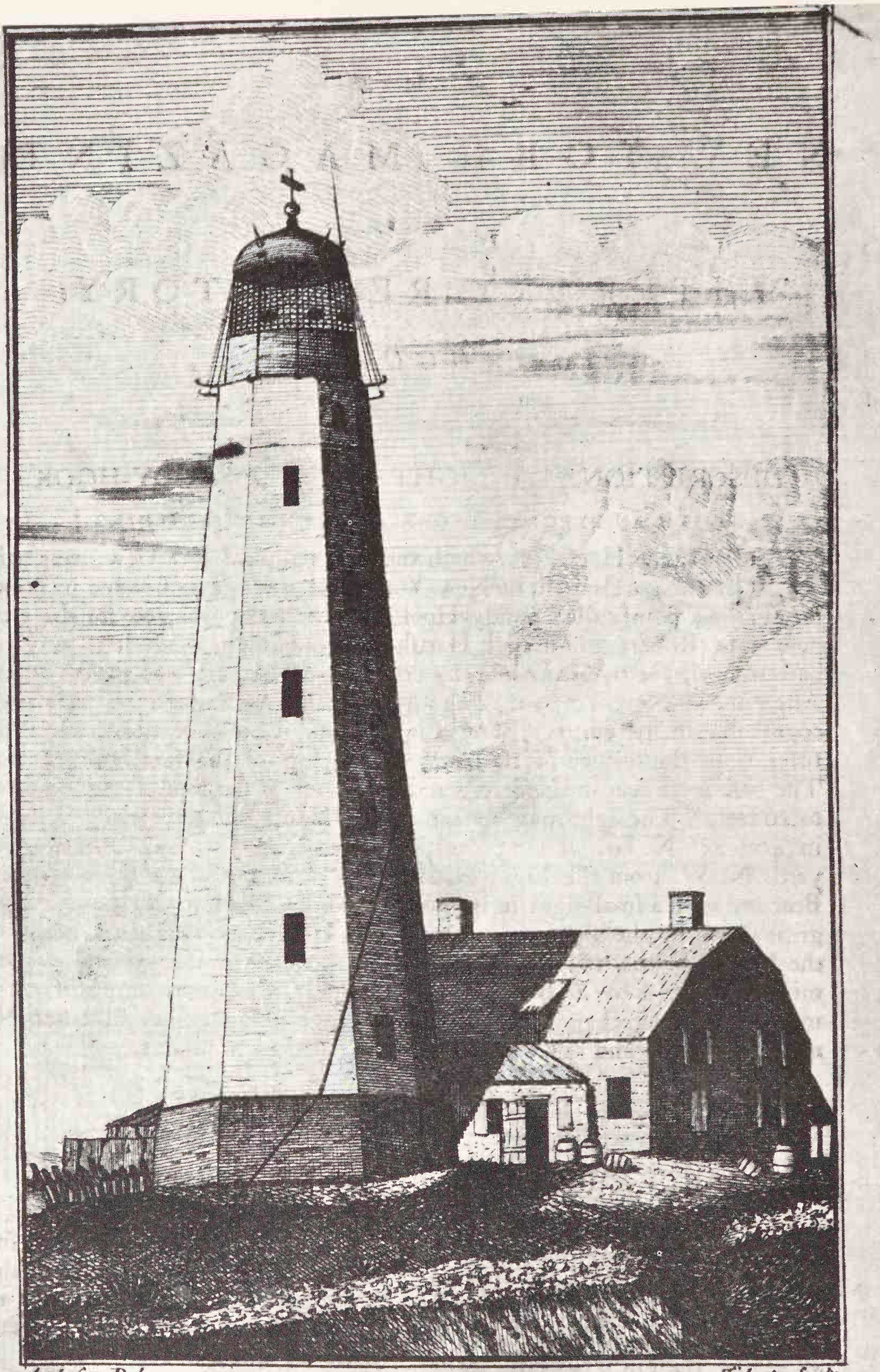
[New York] Die Mercurii, 10 HO. A.M. Jany 24th 1776.

Mr. Donald McLane, of the city of New-York, druggist, attended with a letter from Capt. [George] Vandeput, of the ship *Asia*, requesting him to receive the body of the late purser of the said ship, and have him buried in Trinity church yard.

Thereupon a permit was given to him, in the words following, to wit:

> Mr. Donald McLene, of this city, druggist, is hereby permitted to go on board of the *Asia* ship of war, and also to have the body of Mr. George Claypen,[2] late purser of the said ship, brought on shore and buried.
>
> By order of the Committee.

The said sub-committee mentioned that a great inconvenience arises from vessels loading in this port, by order of the Continental and Provincial Congress, and of this Committee of Safety, by their not having certificates for that purpose. That many of the inhabitants, not knowing why any such vessels are lading, apply to the laders and to the city committee with complaints; that it is also in the power of the laders of such vessels to lade other produce or greater quantities than they are permitted, and that therefore that it is the request of the city committee that



Anderson Del. *Tiebout Sculp.*

VIEW *of the* LIGHT HOUSE *at* SANDY HOOK.

some proper person be appointed to inspect and superintend the loading of all such vessels, and to report thereon to the Privincial Congress or Committee of Safety.

The sub-committee withdrew, and the Committee of Safety requested the Chairman to speak to Capt. William Mercier, to know whether he will undertake to manage and inspect the lading of vessels laded at this port; . . .

Die Mercurii 3 ho. P.M. Jany. 24, 1776.

The Committee took into consideration the subject of the second matter mentioned to them this morning by the sub-committee of this city, and after consideration thereof, this Committee to hereby appoint Capt. William Mercier to superintend and inspect the lading of all such vessels as shall lade in this port. And

Ordered, That Capt. Mercier be empowered, and he is hereby empowered to inspect all permits to vessels to lade in this port, and see that all such vessels lade only agreeable to the resolves of the Continental Congress, and with such matters or produce only as may be agreeable to the said resolves and their permits from the Provincial Congress and Committee of Safety of this Colony, and from time to time to report to this Committee or the Provincial Congress of this colony what vessels are lading or shall have laded, and with what particular commodities and by what authority. And

Ordered and agreed, That Capt. Mercier be allowed 20 dollars per month as pay, while continued in this, and the service of inspecting the lading of vessels in this port.

1. *New York Provincial Congress,* I, 264–65.

Lord Stirling to John Hancock [1]

Sir [Off Amboy, New Jersey] Jany. 24th 1776

On Monday last [January 22] I received Intelligence that a Transport laden with Stores for the Ministerial Army at Boston was hovering off Sandy Hook in distress & waiting for Assistance from the Men of War at N York I thought it a Matter of so much Importance that I immediately set out for Amboy, and there Seized a pilot Boat and with forty Men was Just pushing out about two yesterday Morning when I was Joined by three other Boats from Elizabeth Town with about forty Men Each, many of them Gent from Elizabeth Town who Voluntarily Came on this Service under the Command of Col [Elias] Dayton & Col [Edward] Thomas, we found her about Six leagues S.E. of Sandy Hook we Boarded & took her without opposition she proves to be the *Blue Mountain Valley* Commanded by Capt. James Hamilton Dempster [2] laden with Coal Porter & Sour-Crout &c (I wish it been with Arms & Ammunition as I expected) we are Now off Amboy, and Intend to push in this Evening into the Sound between Staten Island & the Main I write Now in the Hurry & Noise incident to these Occasions, I will write the particulars as soon as possible and Am your [&c.]

Stirling.

she is a Ship of about 100 feet from Stem to Stern above, Capable of making a Ship of War of 20 Six pounders & 10 three pounders. I shall impatiently expect the orders of Congress. –

1. Papers CC (Letters from General Officers), 162, II, 384–85.
2. Extract of a letter from Captain John Hamilton Dempster:

> The moment I came off New York, I sent my chief mate on shore by a pilot boat, in order to get on board the ships of war lying there, to demand assistance in carrying the ship into New York, where we might refit, in order to proceed to Boston, our intended port. But unluckily for me, . . . my mate was taken prisoner, and was obliged by threats to discover what the ship was, where bound, and of no force. Upon this intelligence, they fitted out four armed vessels, with about 60 men each, in all upwards of 200 men, an overmatch (as you may easily believe) for a ship with four small guns, and sixteen hands in all, after being 13 weeks at sea, and hardly able to keep the ship from sinking. When the vessels made their appearance, I took them for vessels from the men of war, the officer who commanded the party being drest in the uniform of a Lieutenant of the Navy, and I did not then know my mate was taken prisoner. They boarded the ship in every part, and carried her about ten or twelve miles up a river where two of the King's ships lay, to a place called Elizabeth-Town, making a prize of the ship and cargo and myself a prisoner upon parole.

Almon, ed., *Remembrancer* [1776], III, Part II, 80–81.

Journal of the Continental Congress [1]

[Philadelphia] Wednesday, January 24, 1776

The secretary brought in an account of the repulse our troops met with in their attempt on Quebec, the 31st of December; which was read:

An account of the repulse our troops met with in their attempt on Quebec, the 31st December, 1775, published by Congress.

The letters from Canada bring an Account of an unsuccessful attempt made to gain possession of Quebec by storm, on the 31 of December last, between the hours of two and seven in the morning.

The General finding his cannon too light to effect a breach, and that the enemy would not hearken to terms of capitulation, formed a design for carrying the town by escalade. In this he was encouraged by the extensiveness of the works and the weakness of the garrison. When every thing was prepared while he was waiting the opportunity of a snow storm to carry the design into execution, several men deserted to the enemy. His plan at first was to have attacked the upper and lower town at the same time, depending principally for success against the upper town. But discovering from the motions of the enemy, that they were apprized of his design, he altered his plan; and having divided his little army into four detachments, ordered two feints to be made against the upper town, one by Col.[James] Livingston, at the head of the Canadians against St.John's gate; the other by Captain [John] Brown, at the head of a small detachment against cape Diamond; reserving to himself and Colonel Arnold the two principal attacks against the lower town.

At five o'clock the hour appointed for the attack, the general, at the head of the New York troops, advanced against the lower town at Aunce de Mere. Being obliged to take a circuit, the signal for the attack was given and the garrison alarmed before he reached the place. However pressing on he passed the first barrier, and was just opening to attempt the second, when by the first fire from the enemy he was unfortunately killed, together with his Aid de camp, Captain John Macpherson, Captain [Jacob] Cheeseman and two or three more. This so dispirited the men that Colonel [Donald] Campbell, on whom the command devolved found himself under the disagreeable necessity of drawing them off.

In the mean while Colonel Arnold, at the head of about 350 of those brave troops, who with unparalleled fatigue had penetrated Canada under his command, and Capt [John] Lamb's company of Artillery, had passed through St. Roques, and approached near a two gun battery without being discovered. This he attacked and though it was well defended for about an hour, carried it with the loss of a number of men. In this attack Colonel Arnold had the misfortune to have his leg splintered by a shot, and was obliged to be carried to the hospital. After gaining the battery his detachment passed on to a second barrier, which they took possession of. By this time the enemy, relieved from the other attacks by our troops being drawn off, directed their whole force against this detachment, and a party sallying from Palace gate attacked them in the rear.

These brave men sustained the force of the whole garrison for three hours, but finding themselves hemmed in, and no hopes of relief, they were obliged to yield to numbers and the advantageous situation the garrison had over them.

No regular return is yet come to hand but by the advices received, we learn, that our loss in killed and wounded amounts to about 60, and 300 taken prisoners, who are treated very humanely. Among the slain are Capt. Kendricks [William Hendricks] and Lieutenant [William] Humphreys, of the rifflemen, and lieutenant [Samuel] Cooper.

After this unfortunate repulse the remainder of the army retired about three miles from the city, where they have posted themselves advantageously and are continuing the blockade, waiting for reinforcements which are now on their march to join them:

Every possible mark of distinction was shewn to the corpse of General Montgomery, who was interred in Quebec on the 2 January.

Published by Order of the Congress.[2]

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1. Ford, ed., *JCC,* IV, 82–87.
2. Printed in the *Pennsylvania Gazette,* January 31, 1776.

CONTINENTAL NAVAL COMMITTEE IN ACCOUNT WITH JAMES READ [1]

1775 Dr The Honoble the Naval Committee in Accot with James Read Paymaster to the Fleet

Decr	To Cash paid Capt Nicholls's [Samuel Nicholas'] Compy on Months Advance					£182. 5. 0
“	ditto paid Capt [Joseph] Shoemakers	do	do			178. 5. 0
“	ditto paid Capt. [John] Welshs	do	do			148.10. 0
“	ditto paid [Lieutenant Isaac] Craigs	do	do			110. 5. 0
“	ditto paid the *Alfreds*	Crew	Officers &	Men	85	302. 0. 0
“	ditto paid the *Columbus*'s	do	do	do	115	394.15. 0
“	ditto paid the *Cabots*	do	do	do	75	264. 0. 0
“	ditto paid the *A.Doria*'s	do	do	do	72	268. 2. 6
“	ditto paid the *Providence*'s	do	do	do	37	148.10. 0
“	paid Wm Adams as Surgeon to the Sloop *Hornet*					8. 0. 0

	“ paid Jno Winters & Jas Ogg for 3 Rifle Guns a 4.10 Ea	13.10. 0
	“ paid Nicholas Biddle Esqr for 2 ditto @ do	9. 0. 0
	“ paid Henry Dayton Lieutt Marines in the Sloop [*Providence*] 1 Mos Advance	6.15. 0
	“ paid Jas Dickenson do do in the *Columbus* do	6.15. 0
	“ paid Thos Kerr, Surgeon 4 weeks Subsistence @ 15/	3. 0. 0
	“ paid W Jennings his Mate 4 weeks do @ 11/3	2. 5. 0
	“ paid Wm Gough Expences for 4 Seamen	12. 6
	“ paid Jno Winning Wages & Subsistence as Mas[te]r of the *Columbus* p Accot	11.15. 0
	“ paid Mathw Parke Lieutt Marines [of the *Alfred*] 1 Months Additional pay	6.15. 0
	“ paid Catherine Barr 1 Mo half Pay of her Husband Jas Barr	1. 5. 0
	“ paid Gideon Whitfield, Wm Connell & Jno Hardy 1 Mos Advance Each	9. 0. 0
	“ paid Chas Mason Cash he Advanced for the Board of J.Pubidy & R.Worley	19. 6
	“ paid Jno Hamilton & Simeon Ashcraft 1 Mos Advance Each	6. 0. 0
	“ paid Jno Bridges A Mos Advance as Landsman	2.10. 0
	“ paid Robt Sisson A Mos Advance as Able Seaman	3. 0. –
		£2087.14. 6
	“ paid Subsistence for Gideon Whitfield Wm Connell & Jno Harvey p Acct	2. 4. 3
	“ paid Neil Muckelgrew one of Capt Nicholls's Marines	1.17. 6
	“ paid Tho V.Turner Sergt of Craiges Marines 1 Mos pay Advance	3. 0. 0
	“ paid Jas Molesworth Marine do do	2.10. –
		£2097. 6. 3
	Ball £20.11.3	
1775	Cr	
Decr	22d By Cash Rece'd of Silas Deane Esqr 1062 Dollars in Pennsya Curry	£398. 5. 0
	25. By ditto Rece'd of Ditto 1180 do is do	442.10. 0
	27. By ditto Rece'd of Ditto 1180 do is do	442.10. 0
	29 By ditto Rece'd of Ditto 708 do is do	265.10. 0
1776		
Jany	2d By ditto Rece'd of Ditto 936 do is do	351. 0. 0
	6 By ditto Rece'd of Ditto 472 do is do	177. 0. 0
		£2076.15. 0
	Ballance due James Read	20.11. 3
		£2097. 6. 3

Philadelphia 24 January 1776 Copy –

1. Misc. Mss., CL.

Pennsylvania Gazette, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, 1776

For Barbados. The Snow *Philadelphia,* Michael Power, Master; A New vessel, and a prime sailer, has good accomodations for passengers, and will sail the beginning of February, wind and weather permitting.

For passage, apply to the master on board, at Mr. Thomas Clifford's wharff, or to Samuel and Charles Massey.

JOURNAL OF H. M. SLOOP *Otter,* CAPTAIN MATTHEW SQUIRE [1]

January 1776	Elizabeth River [Virginia]
Wednesday 24	Variable Weather. Received Wood & Water on board. Got down Top Gallt Masts in order to fit new ones. Impressed two Men from a Sloop from St Eustatia for Norfolk.

[1] PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

JOURNAL OF H. M. SLOOP *Falcon,* CAPTAIN JOHN LINZEE[1]

January 1776	Cape Hatteras S81°W 181 Leagues
Tuesdy 23	at 1 P M Spoke a Brigg from Hispaniola to Halifax
Wednesy 24	at ½ past 11 am hove too Mn T Sail to the mast Hoisted the long Boat out Sent the master 4 men & 2 Midshipmen on Board her. First part modt and Cloudy Middle Squally latter fresh Breezes & Hazey at 1 P M the Master Returnd with the Longboat Hoisted her in & made Sail.[2]

[1] PRO, Admiralty 51/336.

[2] The brig *Hibernia,* Samuel Avery, master, Thomas & James Cochran, owners, carried into Cape Fear by the *Falcon* with a cargo of molasses, sugar and coffee. Although her clearance from Hispaniola had been for Halifax, Linzee apparently surmised a different destination was intended. Shuldham's Prize List, May 23, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

In the Council of Safety,
[Charleston] Wednesday, Jan. 24th, 1776.

The President laid before the board the following letters, written by him in consequence of their orders.

> Charles-Town, Jan. 24th, 1776.
>
> Sir – You are hereby permitted to load the Brigantine *Rebecca* with rice, at George-Town, under the inspection of the committee at that place – to whom when the vessel is loaden, you will present a manifest of the cargo, in order to be certified by the committee; and that you may be reimbursed the amount by the public on whose account and risk the exportation will be made on the following terms and conditions, viz:
>
> The cargo to be sold at such market in a foreign island in the West Indies, as your master or super-cargo under your direction shall judge best, the net proceed to be laid out in the best gunpowder to be procured,

or part in salt-petre and good muskets, with bayonets fixed. It is necessary to observe here, that your last importation of guns for the public was of no benefit; those guns are not fit to put into the hands of soldiers, and such again will not be received from you.

If it shall be impossible to procure good gunpowder, salt-petre, and good muskets with bayonets fixed – the net proceeds of the cargo is to be invested in the following articles, as such may be obtained, on the best terms, viz:

Steel, wool and cotton, cords, foreign coarse cloths and blankets, tin plates, coarse linens, sail cloths, Russia canvas, paper for writing and printing, nails of all sorts, spades, good musket locks, pins and needles, whip-saw and hand-saw, . . . The public will take the risk of the cargo and insure at moderate value the vessel, the voyage round, provided you purchase for the net proceed gunpowder, salt-petre, and good guns with bayonets, and allow you fifty per cent profit, upon the amount of the purchase, after safe importation and delivery. If the net proceed are invested in any other articles, you will be allowed sixty per cent on the cost, after safe delivery; but the public will not insure the vessel on her return. These allowances are to be in lieu of freight, commission and shipping charges, so that no other claim, but those of 50 or 60 per cent as the case may happen, shall be made, on the net proceed of the outward cargo, on which no commission or freight is to be charged; but the whole, except unavoidable duties and landing charges, to be accounted net proceed and invested in goods as above mentioned. Fair and well attested accounts of the sale and purchase of goods are to be delivered to the Council of Safety for the time being immediately after the vessels arrival at any one of the inlets on this coast, where the master shall think he may with safety enter, and it is expected, that you will sign a counterpart of this letter, and such further obligation as may be required, for the true and faithful performance of your part of the present engagement.

By order of the Council of Safety.

Henry Laurens, President.

P.S. With the invoice for the cargo outward, you will also produce to us a bill of lading.

Capt. James Darrel.

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1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society,* III, 210–15.

THOMAS CORBETT TO HENRY LAURENS [1]

Addressed: Henry Laurens Esqr Ansonburgh

Sir – I have reced your favour of this day – If I recollect the Tenour of the Agreement with Mr Somersal right, it is this, that, he was to return Ammunition or Arms for the Rice shipt by him, for which he was to be allow'd 100 per Cent. profit on the first purchase, taking all charges & Risques on himself – Captn

Caton, Captn Buckle & Mr Dorcius agreed to return Gunpowder at 18/.P. lb, – I never understood that Mr Somersal was in the least concern'd in any of the Bargains with those Gentlemen.

None of these Contracts were Complied with during the Continuance of the secret Committee that I know of. I am Sir [&c.]

Tho. Corbett

[Charleston] 24th Jany 1776.

[Endorsed by Laurens] "please to look on the Inclosed papers & return them with this – "

[Reply in a different hand] "I did not remember that Mr Somersal had more than one Adventure – Neither of the Contracts have been complied with during the Continuance of the Secret Committee, that I know of – Mr [William Henry] Drayton made the first agreemt to whom I refer for any intelligence more than this – "

[1] *South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine,* IV, 9, 10.

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25 Jan.

JOURNAL OF ROBERT BARWICK WHILE A PRISONER IN QUEBEC [1]

[College of the Recollets, January 1776]

– 24 –

wednesday night about 12 o'clock they [the Americans] sat 2 of their shipping on fire and burnt them up

– 25 –

thursday night they burnt one vessel and sat another on fire but it went out again

[1] Robert Barwick's Journal, August 2, 1775 to September 25, 1776, DARL. See Volume 2, Appendix F for 1775 portion of Journal. In *March to Quebec* (New York, revised 1953), Kenneth Roberts compiled and annotated journals of other members of Arnold's expedition.

SAMUEL RUSSELL GERRY'S CLAIM FOR LOSS OF SCHOONER *Charlotte* [1]

In Compliance with the Request of the Honorable Committee appointed by the Honorable Assembly of this Colony, directing those who have sustained Losses by the Ministerial Army & Navy forthwith to render proper Accounts of the same to the Honr Joseph Palmer Esq one of the Committee appointed for that Purpose – I the Subscriber do hereby render an Account of the Schooner *Charlotte* loaded with Wood from Damiscotta bound for Newbury taken about the last of September by a Cruizer and carryed to Boston – [2]

Schooner *Charlotte* and Appurtenances of which Capt Joseph Nathey was Master when taken	309 . . 18 . . 11	£359 . . 19 . . 11
Wood & Cash on board when taken	50 . .	

Marblehead January 25th 1776

Samuel Russell Gerry

[Endorsed] We the Subscribers beleive the Above to be a true Estimate of the Loss sustained by Mr Saml Russell Gerry as Witness our Hands
Mhead Feby 5: 1776

Joshua Orne John Reed
Joseph Homan Edw^{d} Fettyplace
Stephen Phillips W^{m} Doliber
William Knight
Committee of Correspondence

[Second endorsement] Colony of the Masstts Bay.
Essex ss. March 29. 1776. Then Samuel Russell Gerry above named did swear that the estimate above made, of the loss he sustained by the navy of Great Britain, amounting to three hundred & fifty nine pounds nineteen shillings & eleven pence, is just and true.

Before Timothy Pickering junr Justice of the Peace.

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1. Mass. Arch., vol. 138, 412.
2. The *Charlotte* was taken by H.M. *Brig Hope,* and was condemned and sold in Boston, Graves's Prize List, II, 36–38, BM.

Stephen Moylan to William Watson, Plymouth [1]

Cambridge 25th Jany 1776

your Letter to his Excellency of the 23d instant is Come to hand, by Lieut. Wiggleworth [John Wigglesworth], his Conduct respecting Mr Dote, in giving up the first Lieutenancy to him will be taken due notice of on a future occasion

he Carrys the Commissions, & Cartridge paper – the General doubts not your endeavoring to get the *Harrison* out as soon as possible –

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1. Washington Papers, LC.

New England Chronicle, Thursday, January 18 to Thursday, January 25, 1776

Cambridge, January 25.

Last Saturday [January 20] a vessel, filled with our distressed brethren of Boston, put off from that place, and landed her passengers at Chelsea, among whom were Capt. Andrew S[y]mmes, and Capt. John Dean. It is said a considerable number more were soon to follow.

Last Thursday [January 18] one of our cruisers,[1] commanded by Captain [Stephen] Mascoll, carried into Cape Ann a ship of 250 tons.[2] She was from Lynn Haven in England, bound to Boston, and had on board, besides other valuable articles, 1500 blankets, 100 bolts of oznabrigs, 100 casks of oatmeal, a large number of shoes, and a quantity of coal.

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1. The schooner *Boston Revenge,* commissioned December 7, 1775, receiving the first privateer bond issued in Massachusetts during the American Revolution.
2. Prize was the ship *Jenny,* 200 tons.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES [1]

[Watertown] Thursday, January 25, 1776.

The House again considered the Resolve for establishing Fees for the Courts of Admiralty.

It was moved, that the Vote of Yesterday for allowing the Judges *Twenty Shillings* per Day for sitting on Trial, be reconsidered.

After Debate thereon the Question was put, and it passed in the Negative.

Then the House passed the following Resolves, viz.

Resolved, That the Fees to be hereafter demanded and received in the Courts of (A.) *"Admiralty,"* within this Colony, shall be as follows, viz.

To the Constables, for warning a Town-Meeting, and drawing Jury-Men, *Two Shillings.*

For summoning each Juror or Witness, *Six Pence.*

To the Sheriff or Constable, for every Mile's Travel from the Place of Abode to the Place of Trial in making a Return of Warrant or Summons, *Two Pence.*

To each Juror or Witness for every Mile's Travel from the Place of his Abode to the Place of Trial, *Two Pence.*

To every Witness for Attendance per Day, *Two Shillings* and *Eight Pence.*

For the Attendance of the Forman of the Jury in each Cause per Day, *Four Shillings* and *Six Pence.*

For the Attendance of each of the other Jurors per Day, *Four Shillings.*

For the Clerk's Attendance each Day, *Five Shillings.*

For the Sheriff or Constable's Attendance each, per Day, *Four Shillings.*

To the Clerk for recording the Proceedings of the Court, for every Page containing Twenty-four Lines, of Eight Words in a Line, *Six Pence.*

For taxing the Bill, *Five Shillings.*

For all attested Copies *Six Pence* per Page as above.

To the Sheriff for selling a Vessel and Cargo, &c. paying out the Proceeds to the Captors, and the Fees to the Colony Treasurer, *Three Pence* on the *Pound,* or One and a Quarter per Cent.

To the Judge for receiving Information, *Six Shillings.*

For every Warrant, *Five Shillings.*

For his Travel from Home to the Place of Trial for every Ten Miles, *Five Shillings.*

For every Day's sitting on Trial, *One Pound.*

For notifying, or advertising, exclusive of the Expence to the Printers, *Eight Shillings.*

For every Summons for One or more Witnesses, *Six Pence.*

Afternoon.

John Whitcomb, Esq; brought down a Petition of Robert Robbins, praying that the Court would Order a Quantity of Provisions taken with his Schooner and carried into Beverly, on the 8th of November last, to be delivered to him, for Reasons therein set forth, with the following Vote of Council thereon, viz.

In Council, January 25, 1776.

Read and committed to Benjamin Lincoln, Esq; with such as the Hon. House shall join.

Read and non-concurr'd, and *Ordered* That the Petition be dismissed.[2]

Charles Chauncy Esq; brought down the Resolve for establishing Fees for the Courts of Admiralty, with the following Vote of Council thereon, viz.

In Council, January 25, 1776.

Read and concurr'd with the Amendment at A. *viz.* at A dele *"Admiralty"* and insert ["]*Courts of Justice for the Trial of the Captures of Vessels."*

Read and concurr'd.

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1. Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch.
2. The schooner *Two Sisters,* claimed jointly by John Manley, of Washington's schooner *Lee,* and certain citizens of Beverly.

JASON SWAN TO CAPTAIN JOHN HOWLAND [1]

As Mr Rapale has alter'd the property of the Schooner & Cleard her out as he did, you'l Endeav[o]r to Get in to Cape Ann harbour, Newbury Port or Salem— provided She is not unloaded & Stored. Say into Dartmouth: but the risque is little More by her going Round – if any thing Should you Get into Boston you Can Sell and Get the Money at a Great price, or Bills at 17½ discount – but I had Rather you Should Not – if you Should, they wou'd use you Well, as the Deception of Clearing for Bermudas wou'd take with them: thinking you design'd Getting in for Rapayle – but not a word of me in the Matter – and I Say again I'd rather you Should not Get in I am Yrs &C

Watertown 25th Janry 1776 J Swan

I woud by all means you Should Get Round the Cape or into Dartmouth – and if you Come without Insurance I'l Make you a handsome Present –

Copy –

[Endorsed] The above Letter was Directed Capt Jno Howland of the Schooner *James* To the Care of Major Rogers Norwich –

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1. Jedediah Huntington Letters, ConnHS.

PERMIT FOR SLOOP TO SAIL FROM DARTMOUTH TO CONNECTICUT [1]

Colony of the Massachusetts Bay In Council Janry 25th 1776

Ordered that John Stone of York in the County of York be permitted to proceed in the Sloop [blank] from the Port of Dartmouth on a Voyage to the Colony of Connecticut to procure a load of provisions He giving Bond to the Comttee of Correspondence for sd Town of York that He will bring the same into some port in this Colony, Boston & Nantuckett excepted – and that it be & it hereby is recommended to the good people of the Colony of Connecticut that the sd Stone be supplyed with such provisions &c as he may want to purchase being a Friend to the common Cause of the United Colonies

Perez Morton Dpy Secy

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1. Mass. Arch., vol. 164, 244.

FRANCIS HUTCHESON TO MAJOR GENERAL FREDERICK HALDIMAND [1]

[Extract]

Boston January 25th 1776

Dear Sir I had the pleasure of writing you two letters dated the 14th and 16th Instt by the Ship *Julius Caeser* in which Mrs [Peter] Oliver & Mrs [John] Wentworth went passengers –

This I hope will be handed to you by Captain [James] Urquhart our late Town Major, who is appointed to Command the additional Company of the 14th Regt

I am much disapointed in not having the pleasure of a line from you by the *Centurian* Man of War, or any of the Ships that have arrived from England –

By a letter Majr [Stephen] Kemble this day Recd from Mrs [Thomas] Gage, I have the pleasure to hear you were well the Eighth of October last; the latest Accot we have from England is the 26 Novr The Kings Speech and the addresses of both Houses of Parliament, does not make any good impression on the Minds of the deluded people of this Continant. they interprete it into a desire of Conse[n]trating Matters on their own terms, which I think is lucky for England. No terms will Satisfy them, and there is nothing now left but a good triming to Convince them of their unworthyness. unhappy will it be for Britain, shou'd matters be made up on any other terms, – Three Store Ships arrived Yesterday, its uncommon the long Passages they have had – The Transport with 3 Companys of the 46 Regt mentioned in the English News papers to be missing, was spoke with 10 days ago all well, & its thought they have got into Halifax there is one transport with 4 Companys of the 55 Regt not yet arrived, its thought they have bore away for the Wt Indias.

The gloomy prospect we had some weeks ago, begins to clear up, by the Supplys from England, that have arrived, & we find that we are not forgot.

We have Plays, Assemblys, and Balls. and live as if we were in a place of plenty –

General [James] Robertson is quite the Young Man, gives Balls and Routs, which he may do, Excha will pay for all, he has Six thousand Pounds Sterling Cash arrived in the *Centurian* for bills he sent home last Augt at 15 PCt and has now sent it back again in bills at 10 PCt – the Money for which he may have out again by the last of April, which will Clear him fifteen hundred Sterling. these bills are originaly got from the Paymaster General, for Warrants he had on him, for his Barrack Department – he talked a good deal some time ago of his not geting a Regt but he seems pritty silent now he thinks its near, as he wou'd be develishly disapointed, shou'd they give him one, and take the Barrack Office from him; he knows what he's about as well as any Man –

Mrs. Gage Mentions in her letter to her Brother, that you told her he is appointed Major in the Royal Americans, which is the only account we have of any promotion in the Corps, Except Lt Col [James Mark] Prevosts geting a Battn – Shou'd [John] Brown & [Beamsley] Glaser keep their intention of Quiting, I will than [be] the Eldest, And as feild Officers now go, it is not great presumption to aspire at being one; I have your Justice, and inclination to serve me, and when its my turn you'll not forget me –

I will not trouble you again, on the Subject of my two Last Letters – grievances is not a pleasing repetition.

General [James] Grant has moved into Handcocks house, which General Clinton occupied till his departure a few days ago. Grant is still the same Man you saw him, he is in high Expectation of geting the 38th Regt – both he & Robertson say they wou'd not accept of one of the American Battns – the former its Sour Grapes, the Latter, Barrack Office. [Valentine] Jones Splutters away and is as fit for a General as ever. [Francis] Smith is very Consequencial and the King has made a good Cure of his Wounds.

We had last Night the Blockade of Boston represented without being interruptd by the Yankies, The Audience Expected something better from the Abelities of the Authors. its but a poor performance, Last Night a Deserter came in, and repeats the report I mention'd to you in my last of [Allan] McClean having given a triming to [Benedict] Arnold, who comands the Detachment of the Rebell Army that went last October to Quebec by the Kenebeck River. he further says, that they have an Accot at Cambridge, that General [Richard] Montgomery went with his detachment from Montreal to Quebec, to Support Arnold, and that He attacked the lower town and Carried it; but that General [Guy] Carleton attacked them from the upper town, and beat them. in which action, the Rebells had four hundred killed, and one hundred taken prisoners. he also says that Montgomery and his Aid de Camp are amoung the Killed. this News he says was industrasley kept from their People, but that we may depend upon it.

Captn Wallace has again Landed at Rhode Island, and attacked another party of Rebles, killed fifteen, and burnt Several Houses. he is a fine fellow.[2]

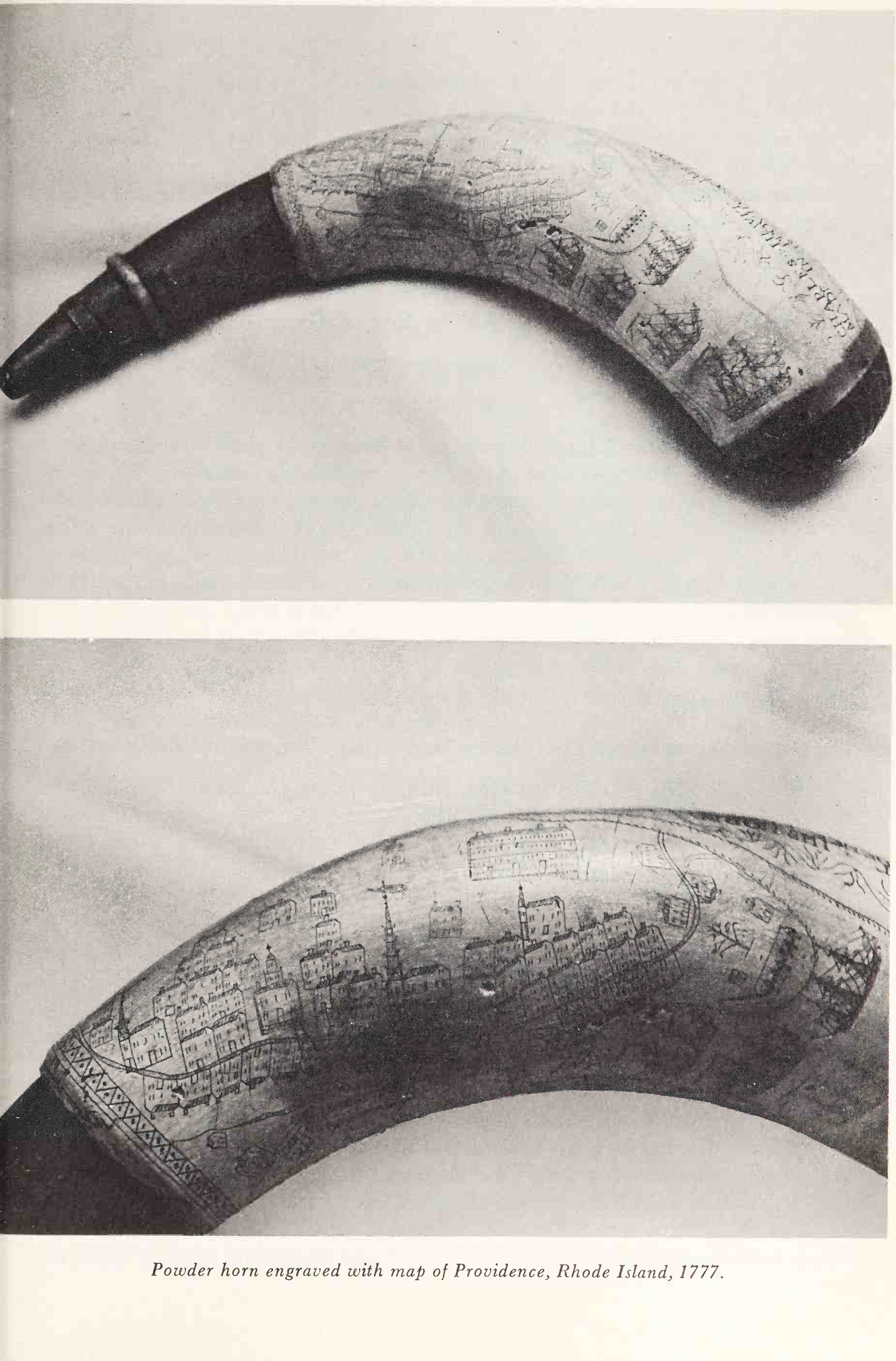
Last Night Six Rebell Prisoners Confined on board the Admirals Ship the *Preston* found means to get at liberty, Carried off a boat, and landed at Dorchester Neck.[3]

The 15 Instt a Vessell from Cork with Supplys for this Garrison was taken and carried into Plymouth[4] – Governor [Francis] Leg[ge] is raizing a Corps of Provencials in Nove Scotia, Captn [John] Stanton of the 14th Regiment is to be Major, and Lt Barry of the 52 last Winter our Poet, and now his Secretary; is to be Eldest Captain. we have dayly Feild Officers and Captains selling out, and many purchaseing on, Majr [Thomas] Smelt of the 65 has sold to Captn [David] Dundass of the 63 Regt A Return has been asked from Each Corps, of the Subalterns that will purchase; I desired Mr Haldimand to put down his Name for a Company when it comes to his turn, but I do not Expect he will be Elowed to Purchase being so Young an Officer; he lives with his Corps, and they seem to like him, and he them; and he has all the attention and Assistance in my power.

Robertson does all he can to get back to New York, where he wishes to Command and he will not rest untill he carrys that point. It is reported that Sir Jeffery [Amherst] is certainly to come out, which seems to please him much.

---

1. Haldimand Papers, BM.
2. Captain James Wallace, H.M.S. *Rose*.
3. According to the journal of H.M.S. *Preston*, there were eight who deserted, not six prisoners who escaped.
4. No record of this capture found.



Powder horn engraved with map of Providence, Rhode Island, 1777.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES [1]

[Boston] 1776 Janry. 25

The Admiral ordered the *Preston*s Marines to be landed and join the Battalion on Shore, and ten Men to be discharged from the *Canceaux* to the *Tryal* Schooner, now compleatly fitted for an Advice Boat and well manned. . . . And Captain [Francis] Banks the senior Officer in Nantasket,[2] received Orders upon his observing an Attack in the Offing to order any Ship in the Road to slip and run out, and if alone to go himself.

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[1] Graves's Conduct, II, 30, BM.

[2] Commander of H.M.S. *Renown*.

BENJAMIN TALLMAN TO THE RHODE ISLAND GENERAL COMMITTEE [1]

To the Hon'ble the General Committee appointed to act during the Recess of the General Assembly.

May it please your Honors

Having been urged in the most pressing Manner by the Naval Committee to undertake the Building of One of the Frigates ordered to be built in this Town, and having given my Consent thereto from Motives of the publick Interest without any Desire to quit the Service of my Country in that Department in which I at present am Engaged I desire leave to resign my Commission as Major of a Regiment in the Rhode Island Troops and to be discharged: I am Your Honor's [&c.]

Benj^{a} Tallman

Providence Jany 25th 1776

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[1] Council of War Papers, RIHS.

OWNERS' BOND OF SLOOP *Polly* BOUND FROM RHODE ISLAND TO PHILADELPHIA [1]

Know all Men by these Presents That we James Cahoone of Newport in the County of Newport and Colony of Rhode Island &c. Merchant as Principal and Nicholas Power of Providence in the County of Providence and Colony of Rhode Island &c Merchant as Surety are held and firmly bound unto Joseph Clarke Esqr. General Treasurer of said Colony in the Sum of Twelve Hundred Pounds Lawful Money to be paid to the said Joseph Clarke in his said Capacity or to his Successors in said Office for the Use of the said Colony to which Payment well and truly to be made, we bind Ourselves our Heirs Executors and Administrators firmly by these Presents. Sealed with Our Seals Dated the Twenty fifth Day of January in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Six.

Whereas Isaac Carr Master of the Sloop *Polly* burthened about Sixty Tons and owned by the above named James Cahoone is bound by Permission of the Honble Nicholas Cooke Esqr. Governor of the said Colony on a Voyage with his said Sloop to Philadelphia with Two Thousand Bushells of Barley One Hundred barrels Train Oyl and Forty Boxes SpermaCeti Candles. Now the Condition of this Obligation is such That if the said Isaac Carr shall proceed with his said Sloop to Philadelphia and there discharge his said Cargo and take on board the

Produce of the Country or other Articles under the Direction of the Committee of Inspection of the City Town or County where he shall lade and take in his said Cargo and also bring back proper Certificates both of Exports and Imports from them and lodge the same in the Office of the Secretary of the said Colony within three Days after the return of said Sloop and further shall not Proceed to any Port or Place not being within the United Colonies (the Danger of the Sea and Seizure by an Enemy always excepted) then this Obligation to be void or else in full Force

Sealed and Delivered }
in the Presence of } James Cahoone Nich° Power
William Mumford, Elizabeth Ward

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1. Maritime Papers, Bonds, Masters of Vessels, R.I. Arch.

OWNERS' BOND FOR THE SLOOP *Phoenix* BOUND FROM RHODE ISLAND FOR GEORGIA [1]

Know all Men by these Presents That I John Dennis of Swanzey in the Country of Bristol in the Province of the Massachussetts Bay Merchant am held and firmly bound unto Joseph Clarke Esqr. General Treasurer of the Colony of Rhode Island in the Sum of Six Hundred Pounds Lawful Money to be paid to the said Joseph Clarke in his said Capacity or to his Successors in said Office for the Use of the said Colony To which Payment well and truly to be made I bind myself my Heirs Executors and Administrators firmly by these Presents. Sealed with my Seal. Dated the Twenty fifth Day of January in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Six

Whereas Norton Cole Master of the Sloop *Phoenix* burthened about Sixty five Tons and owned by the abovenamed John Dennis is bound by Permission of the Honble Nicholas Cooke Esqr. Governor of the said Colony on a Voyage with his said Sloop to the Province of Georgia with One Thousand Bunches of Onyons Twenty Bushells Beets Three dozen Felt Hats Six Boxes Hard Soap Twenty barrels Apples Four Hundred Bushells Potatoes Two Hundred and Eighty Barrels Cyder and Three Thousand Pounds weight of Cheese. Now the Condition of the above Obligation is such That if the said Norton Cole shall proceed with his said Sloop to the Province of Georgia and there Discharge his said Cargo and take on board the Produce of the Country or other Articles under the Direction of the Committee of Inspection of the City Town or County where he shall lade and take in his said Cargo and also bring back proper Certificates both of Exports and Imports from them and lodge the same in the Office of the Secretary of the said Colony within three Days after the Return of said Sloop, and further shall not Proceed to any Port or Place not being within the United Colonies (the Danger of the Sea and Seizure of an Enemy always excepted) then this Obligation to be void or else in full Force.

Sealed and delivered }
in the Presence of } John Dennis
Theodore Foster – William Mumford.

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1. Maritime Papers, Bonds, Masters of Vessels, R.I. Arch.

William Coddington to Governor Nicholas Cooke [1]

May it please your Honor, Newport, January 25. 1776.

I am directed by the Freemen of this Town, in Town-Meeting assembled on the 24th, Instant to request the Favor that your Honor wou'd transmit me by Mr William Anthony who is dispatched with this Letter for that Purpose the Memorial that was proferred by them to the Honorable Continental Congress together with the Papers that accompanied it – If your Honor desires that those Papers shou'd be returned to you, I am ordered by the Town to assure you that it shall be done – I am, Your Honors [&c.]

W^{m} Coddington Town Clerk

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[1] Letters to the Governor, 1776, vol. 8, R.I. Arch.

"A Muster Roll and Pay Roll for the Brigantine *Minerva* fitted out on the Acct of the Colony of Connecticut By Order of his Honr the Govr and Comtee of Safety for the Defence of said Colony –" [1]

[Extract]

Names of Officers and Men	Quality	When Inlisted [1775]	When Discharged or Disirted 1776
Giles Hall	Captain	Augt 2	Jany 26
			1775
James Hopkins	1st Lt	Augt 14	Decr 19
Thompson Phillips	2d Lt	Sept 14	Decr 19
William Pluymort	Master	Augt 22	Decr 17
William Warner	1st Mate	Augt 24	Decr 26
John Cotton	2d Mate	Augt 12	Decr 26
			1776
Thos Lamb	Clark	Sept 4	Jany 26
			1776
Andrew Johonnot	Stewart	Sept 11	Jany 20
			[1775]
Gregory Powers	Boaswain	Augt 14	Decr 26
Benjn Cranston	Gunner	Augt 31	Decr 19
William Miles	Gunners Mate	Augt 15	Decr 19
George Lewis	Carpender	Sept 10	Novr 5
Richd Dickerson	Pilote	Sept 16	Decr 25
John Harris	Carpenders Mate	Augt 15	Decr 26
Jacob Gibson	Mariner	Augt 14	Novr 25
Willm Thomas	Marine	Augt 15	Novr 9
Thos Dande	Mariner	Augt 15	Novr 20
William Warner	Cook	Augt 16	Decr 16
Jesse Higgins	Mariner	Augt 17	Octr 17
Jonathan Tinker	do	Augt 17	Novr 18
Jeremiah Branard	do	Augt 22	Decr 25
Giles Cone	do	Augt 22	Decr 16
John Russell	do	Augt 24	Decr 16
John Chipman	do	Augt 22	Decr 23
Aaron White	do	Augt 27	Decr 19

Jerediah Norton	do	Augt 28	Decr 25
George Pelton	do	Sept 4	Octr 24
Joseph Burr	do	Sept 12	Decr 19
George Lucas	do	Sept 15	Decr 19
Saml Johnson	do	Sept 21	Decr 18
Stephen Lee	do	Sept 21	Decr 23
James Griffin	do	Sept 22	Novr 17
Edward Tryon	do	Octr 3	Decr 19
Peter Granger	do	Octr 3	Decr 19
Dave Whittlecey	do	Octr 7	Decr 19
Giles Gill	do	Octr 9	Decr 26
Walter Spooner	do	Octr 12	Decr 19
Derney Butler	do	Augt 26	Sept 26
Zebediah Mix	Marine	Augt 22	Decr 25
Elisha Ward	do	Augt 24	Decr 19
Peter a Negro Man	do	Augt 25	Decr 23
Gist a Negro Man	do	Augt 25	Decr 19
John Sheaf	do	Augt 25	Octr 17
William Casheen	do	Augt 25	Novr 18
Richard Hunt	do	Augt 25	Novr 10
Philip Mahan	do	Augt 26	Octr 15
Ebenzr Savage	Marine	Augt 27	Decr 19
Phillip Aspell	do	Augt 27	Decr 16
James McDavid	do	Augt 30	Decr 18
Edward Griswold	do	Augt 31	Novr 19
James Johnston	do	Augt 31	Octr 25
George Stow	do	Sept 5	Decr 19
Stephen Jordan	do	Sept 5	Decr 23
Joseph Graum	do	Sept 5	Decr 23
Saml Torry	do	Sept 6	Decr 19
John Wright	do	Sept 11	Novr 18
John Coult	do	Sept 18	Decr 23
Jacob Hail	do	Sept 12	Novr 5
John [Eld]erkin	do	Octr 3	Dec 19
John Allen	do	Octr 3	Decr 19
James Fisher	do	Octr 11	Novr 11
John Lucas	Boaswain's Mate	Augt 24	Surspended Novr 8
David Hall	Mariner	Sept 12	Surspended Novr 8
James Johnson	do	Augt 21	Ran away Octr 14
Reuben Bailey	do	Augt 26	Ran away Decr 5
Timothy Bailey	do	Augt 26	Ran away Decr 5
Peter Gantley	Marine	Augt 26	Ran away Sept [10]
George Spencer	do	Augt 29	Ran away Decr 5
Nathl Witmore	do	Augt 30	Ran away Octr 15
Philimon Roberts	do	Augt 30	Ran away Octr 15
John Nickolas	do	Sept 5	Ran away Decr 6
Moses Pelton	do	Sept 12	Ran away Decr 6

[Total Whole Wages]	£514–18–8¼
To Commission for Paying of[]f at ½ p Ct	7–14–6
Sundries P bill	2–16–6
	529– 9–8¼

Recd at Sundry times Comtee order on Treasurer for	430– 0–0
	£ 95– 9–8¼
Hartford, 25th Jany 1776 Recd an order on Treasurer	£ 92–13–2½
Dr indorsd on the Bill therefor	2–16–6
Errors Excepted Pr Giles Hall	

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1. Conn. Arch., Revolutionary War, 1st series, IX, 6, ConnSL. Columns listing individual monthly wage, length of time in service, and total wage are omitted from the foregoing table.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO JOHN HANCOCK [1]

Sir. Albany January 25th 1776

I have this Moment received a Letter from General Wooster,[2] Copy of which, with Copys of Sundries inclosed I now do myself the Honor to transmit to you.

I shall order him to send every person from Canada, that may be dangerous to our Cause, if left in that Country.

From General Wooster's Letter one would be led to imagine, that I had sent back vast numbers of dangerous persons, he has before wrote to me on the Occasion with an unbecoming Subacity, I therefore trouble you with the Detail.

Seers, whom he mentions, was sent to me from Connecticut with a Recommendation from the Committee of [blank] to permit him to return to Canada, which I did, ordering him to wait on the commanding officer. Captain Godwin and Lieutenant Schalk I permitted to remain at Ticonderoga at the Request of General Montgomery until they could be informed if their Wives & Children, whom they had left at Quebec where [*sic*] gone to England or had come to Chamblee If to the latter then he wished they might be permitted to return and convey them into these Colonies. They, their Wives and Children are now at Chamblee. Mr McCullough a Commissary was another, a Widower, who had left four small Children in Canada, and whom I likewise permitted to Return on the same Account, these together with the Canadian Peasants taken at St John's are all that I recollect to have sent back, and not even the last without the Approbation of General Montgomery first had – The peasantry were too insignificant to have any Influence, and there seemed at that Time little Danger from the others, and yet I took the precaution of their Word of Honor, not to say any Thing on the Subject of the Controversy; If they have abused my Confidence they are Scoundrels, and I will treat them accordingly, without repenting that I gave them the Indulgence; for that was an Act of Humanity – If they are not culpable they are injured, and I shall sift the Matter to the Bottom, and my Resentment without any Kind of Exception, shall be experienced by those that deserve it.

I have just received a letter from Colo: [Seth] Warner of which the following is a Copy.

> Bennington Jany 22d 1776
>
> Sir
>
> My prospect in raising Men seems very encouraging one hundred and upwards I have sent forward, A Number more is ready to march soon – I have twelve Companies a raising tho' the Men shall be sent

forward as fast as possible. More Money is necessary as I have paid the chief out that I received, two companies more I expect to raise, as they have sent me they wish to engage – Major [Samuel] Safford will be the receiver of what Money will be disbursed for said purpose from [&c.]

Seth Warner

In Answer to this I sent the following which I shewed to Mr [Philip] Livingston our Brother Delegate and of which he approved.

Albany Jany 25th 1776

Sir

Major Safford has delivered me your Letter of the 22d Inst I was in Hopes that by that Time a much larger Number of Men had marched than what you mention; the Bounty I promised was in Consideration of their immediately marching, when therefore as many Men are actually marched (which I expect will be without Delay) as I gave you the Bounty for, I shall furnish you with a farther Sum to send as many more as will amount to a Regiment on the present Continental Establishment which is 720 Men, Officers included, but I do expect that the whole march by the first Day of February, such as are not marched by that Time will not be entitled to any part of the Bounty.

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1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, I, 450–52, NA.
2. See Wooster's letter of January 14, 1776.

Minutes of the New York Committee of Safety[1]

[New York] Die Jovis, 10 HO.A.M.
Jany. 25th, 1776.

Francis Lewis, Esqr. came into the Committee of Safety and informed them that the schooner *Success,* Jonathan Bowne, master, was laded by his order on Continental account, and requested a permit for her to sail:

Thereupon, a certificate [was] given to Col. Alexander McDougall in the words following, to wit:

> The schooner *Success,* whereof Jonathan Bowne is master, being laded on Continental account, by order and under the direction of some of the Continental Delegates, is hereby permitted to sail to sea.

Die Jovis, 4 ho.P.M. Jany. 25th, 1776.

The Committee being of opinion that prudence and care of this Colony and of the capital and inhabitants thereof requires that a proper person be kept at the Hook, to keep a look out if any fleet, or any transports or ships of war should be approaching this Colony; and having, on considering that matter yesterday, thought it best, to prevent jealousy among the pilots, and to give different persons among them a chance of earning a subsistence in the present times of difficulty, agreed to employ Samuel Isleton, (who was recommended for that purpose,) in the place of Wm. Dobbs. Samuel Isleton attending, by request, received his instructions. He is directed to take the pilot boat and oars lately purchased by this Committee, and 4 men to row her, and proceed to the Hook, and stay there and diligently look out for one week, if no fleet or transports or ships of war appear sooner; if any appear he is to give the most immediate notice to this Committee. Samuel Isleton is to have 10s. per day; and James Burns, Robert Bennet, John Besly and William Mullinger, his oarsmen, are to have 8s. per day, each, and they are to find themselves all necessaries and bear their own expenses.

1. *New York Provincial Congress,* I, 268.

New-York Journal, Thursday, January 25, 1776

New-York, January 25.

We hear from New-Jersey, that on Monday last [January 22], the people in the sea port towns, having note that a store ship [1] with coals, porter, cheese, &c. for the murdering army in Boston, was arrived at the Hook, a number of men in a small vessel at night boarded, took and brought her into port, where they have unloaded her.

1. The *Blue Mountain Valley.*

John McKesson to Richard Sharp [1]

[New York, January 25, 1776] [2]

Sir:

The Ship *Asia* has been supplied with provisions in the following manner, Vizt.

Abraham Lott Esqr Treasurer of this Colony (in whom you know the Inhabitants universally place great Confidence) has for several years been one of the Agent Victuallers for his Majesty's ships at this port – having recd orders for Provisions he laid them before the provincial Congress – he was directed to obtain the number of men belonging to the Ship and make return thereof to Congress & lest Mr. Lott might be imposed on [as] they had ample means of Information.

The Congress have given him permits to supply the Ship *Asia* with necessary provisions *for her own use and consumption only,* Mr. Lott from time to time making report to Congress of the Species & Quantities supplied. The Ship takes her supply once a week if necessary – The Ship's Boats or any person belonging to her are not permitted to come to the Shore, when the Ship lay off in Hudsons River or toward the Bay the provisions when sent in market Hours in the morning were Sent by such person & Boat as Mr. Lott employed & Landed on Nutten Island; & the Ships Boats were Sent there for it – Since her removal from thence, the Craft and persons employed by Treasurer Lott deliver the provisions in Market hours into the Ship's Boat near the Ship – every other Inhabitant is prohibited any intercourse with the *Asia* nor is she supplied with anything but thro' Mr. Lott or his order.

1. *Calendar of Historical Manuscripts Relating to the War of the Revolution, in the Office of the Secretary of State, Albany, N.Y.* (Albany, 1868), I, 154.
2. McKesson was secretary of the New York Provincial Congress. The date of the letter is adduced in part by McKesson's remarks as to the various locations of the *Asia.* She lay in the North river off the Battery from June 15, 1775, until September 6, when she

moored "toward the bay" between the Battery and Oyster Island. On December 20, according to the *Asia*'s journal she moved into the East River and moored with "the Old English Church W N W the Battery WSW½W Long Island ferry S E." On January 24, 1776, the ship's purser, who dealt with Abraham Lott, died, and probably was succeeded by Richard Sharp, whose request regarding the method of supplying provisions was answered by McKesson.

COLONEL THOMAS LOWREY TO JOHN HANCOCK [1]

Sir

Perth Amboy Jany 25. 1776

Give me leave to Congratulate you and your Honble House on the Success of Lord Stirling, by the Capture of the Transport ship *blue Mountain Valley,* Captain [James Hamilton] Dempster the particulars of which Lord Stirling writes you by this Conveyance, I was on board the ship last evening in Amboy Bay, some of the Sailors informed one of our men that there was a Quantity of Arms & Amunition in the hold – the Ship is now gone up to Elizabeth Town point to wait your Orders – The Bearer Mr [Peter] Barbarie is owner of a Sloop which was taken off Sandy Hook by some of the Men of Warrs Tenders, and retaken on her passage to Boston by Capt Manly or some other New England Captain [2] Mr Barbarie is looked upon as friendly to our cause, and now goes down for Instructions from Congress, how to proceed to regain his Sloop and Cargoe. I am with due respect. Sir [&c.]

Thomas Lowrey

P.S. a Number of our Militia with three Companies of Lord Stirlings Regiment are on Long Island, and are disarming the Tories without Opposition – We expect them back in a few days

The Honble John Hancock Esqr
President of Congress Philadelphia

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1. Papers CC (Letters addressed to Congress), 78, XIV, 59, NA.
2. The sloop *Sally,* retaken by Captain Winborn Adams, in Washington's schooner *Warren,* on Christmas Day, 1775.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS [1]

[Philadelphia] Thursday, January 25, 1776

Resolved, That the direction of the fleet fitted out by the order of Congress, be left to the marine/naval/committee.[2]

Resolved, That the fortification at Crown Point be not repaired; and that the fortress at Ticonderoga be repaired and made defensible; and that General Schuyler be desired to make return to the Congress, as soon as may be, of the size and number of cannon, that will be necessary to fortify that place.

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1. Ford, ed., *JCC,* IV, 87–92.
2. *Ibid.*, the manuscript text of the Journals reads "marine," but was afterwards corrected to "naval." Secretary Thomson, in a memorandum summarizing the resolution of Congress on naval matters, describes the selection of a committee of thirteen, and adds that this committee "was afterwards denominated the *Marine Comee* to distinguish it from the Naval Comee above mentioned, which was still in existence." He continues with the statement, "The Naval Comee having executed the business for which they were appointed had only to render their accounts, but on the 25 January the direction of the fleet fitted out by order of Congress was left to them."

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH [1]

[Philadelphia] Thursday 25 Jany. A Petition was read from Matthias Aspden for Permission to load a French Vessel with Produce, it was referred to a Comee . . .10,000 Dollars voted on Account, to the Troops in North Carolina – 2 or 3 Ships of War are fitting out there for our Service accordg to report.[2]

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[1] Richard Smith's Diary, LC.

[2] The three vessels were arming for defense of the North Carolina coast and not for Continental service.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a, 25th Jan'y, 1776.

The Committee of Safety having resolved to increase the Number of Men in the pay of, and for the defence of this Province, Captain [Thomas] Proctor is hereby directed to enlist seventy Voluntiers, who are to be instructed principally in the use and management of Artillery, but to be embodied in such manner, and employed occasionally upon such service as may be hereafter determined by the said Committee.

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[1] *Pennsylvania Colonial Records,* X, 467.

GOVERNOR ROBERT EDEN TO LORD DARTMOUTH [1]

My Lord, Annapolis, 25th. January 1776.

The Delegates (of Maryland) in provincial Convention, as they state themselves, having entered into some Resolves, of which I have procured Copies, I think it incumbent upon me to transmit them to your Lordship as spedily as possible, and therefore send this Packet by Express to New York, in hopes that it will arrive safely there, and be forwarded thence, there being no opportunity of a conveyance by any Vessel from this Province at present, tho I have some expectation of being able to send a duplicate of this by a Brig for London, in the course of the ensuing Month.

The enclosed Declaration (No. 3) I am informed is to be immediately published – so I have since heard are the Instructions (No. 2), but I know not if here, or at Philadelphia.[2]

I am convinced of the sincerity of the Councils Assurances contained in their Address to me the 29th day of August – a Copy of which I have had the Honour of transmitting to your Lordship, and again refer thereto among the inclosed (No 4) and, I must, my Lord, do the Members of the last Convention as they call it, and the People of this Province the Justice to say, I am satisfied they are so far from desiring an Independency that if the Establishment of it were left to their Choice, they would reject it with Abhorrance, so incompatible would such a State be with their real undissembled Attachment to, and Affection for His Majesty, His Family, and the Mother Country; And I am confident they would esteem the full Restoration of Peace and their former Intercourse with the Parent State, to be a most happy Event; an Event which, I doubt not, might be effectually produced, if they were replaced in the same State with respect to the Acts of Parliament that they possessed at the Conclusion of the last War.

My Station and Residence here affording me opportunities of Information, in Justice to the people of this province, as well as by the Duty & Regard I owe to my King and native Country. I think myself obliged to make this candid and faithfull Representation of their Principles and Sentiments, and shall be supremely happy in any pleasing prospect of Success attending every Exertion in my power to bring about an happy Reconciliation between Great Britain, & her Colonies, to the joint Honour and Welfare of both.

I am sorry to have occasion to Apologize for the passage of His Majesty's Post through this Province having been stopped by order of the Convention – I can only say on that Head, My Lord, that I have reason to think those concerned therein, are since sorry for it. Their real Excuse is that it happened early in the Meeting of the Convention, before several of the most moderate Men were come up, and was resolved upon when the Minds of the People were extremely agitated by Lord Dunmore's Proclamation, giving Freedom to the Slaves in Virginia, our Proximity to which Colony, and our similar Circumstances with respect to Negroes augmenting the general Alarm, induced them to prohibit all Correspondence with Virginia by Land or Water. A Fortnight before that, the Post had been stopped in another Province, and Letters taken out, and opened; mine amongst others, and I have not had the Honour of receiving any Letters from your Lordships Office since your circular one of the 22nd & Mr [John] Pownall's of May the 27th

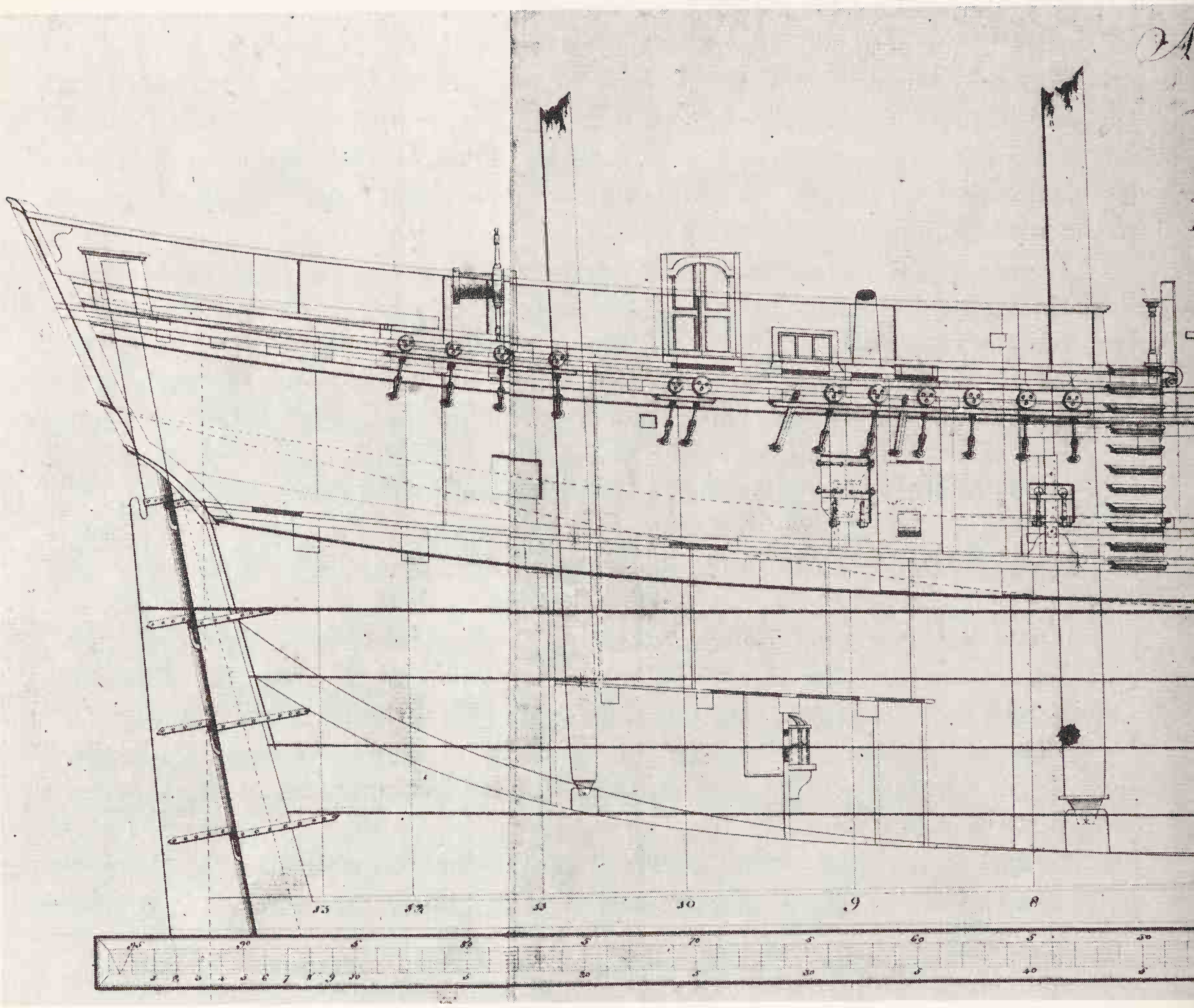
You will observe, my Lord, by the enclosed Paper (No 5) that the Corporation of this City are willing to cooperate with me in preserving its Peace, should any of His Majesty's Ships of War arrive here I hope they will continue in that Disposition, and it shall be my Endeavour to strengthen it throughout the Province, as earnestly as it is to persevere in my Duty to my Sovereign, and promote that Tranquility which abler heads than mine will, I hope, before Midsummer, point out the path leading to the Recovery of restoring Happiness to Millions – which soon to see is the sincere Wish of, My Lord [&c.]

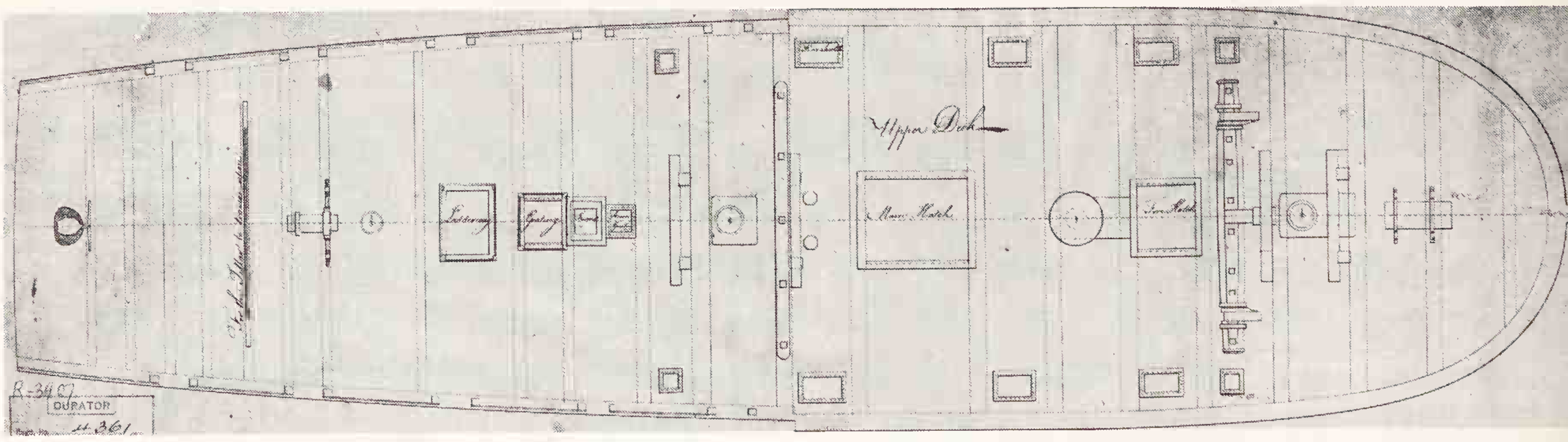
Rob^t^ Eden.

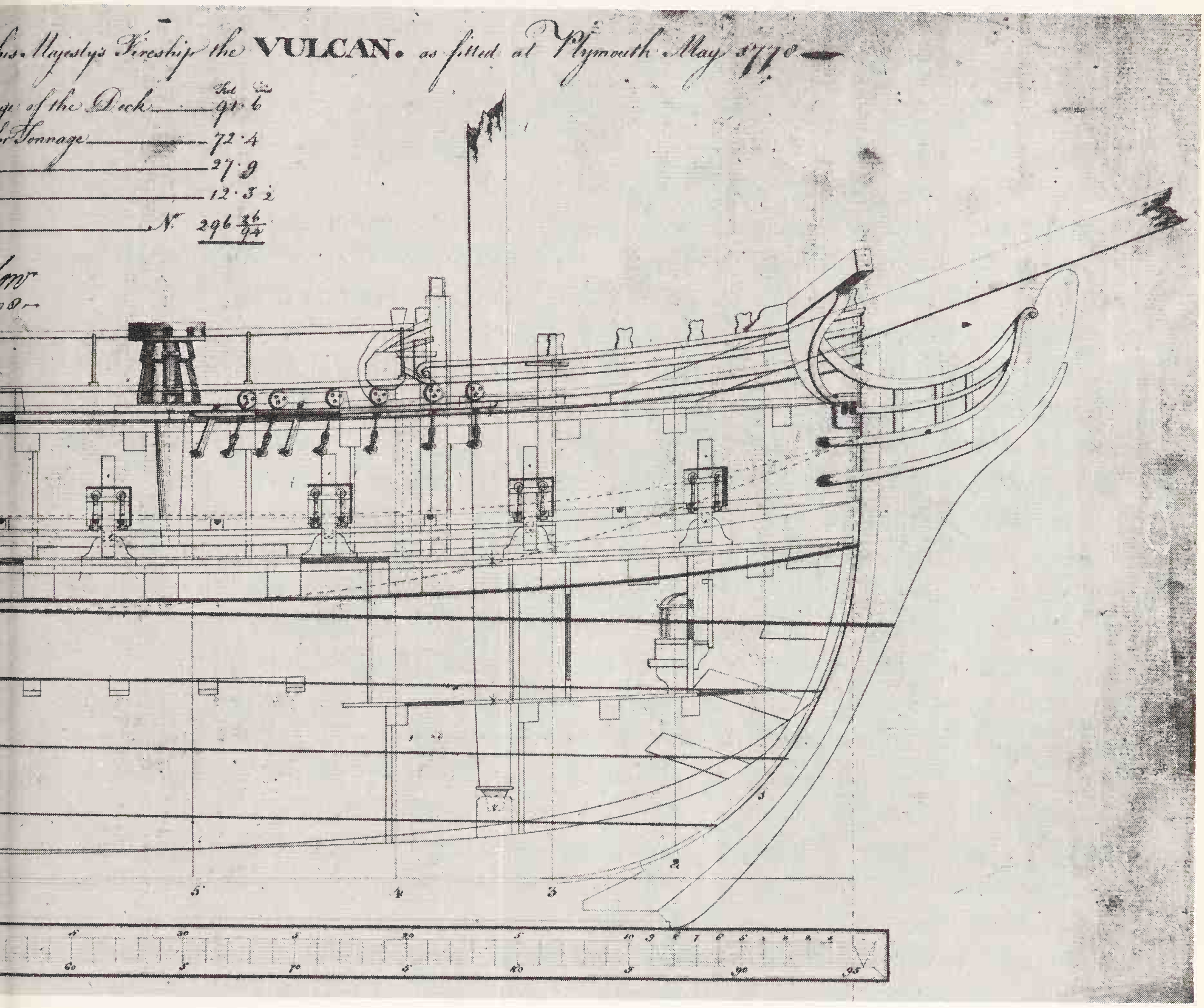
1. Eden Transcripts, MdHS.
2. The Declaration of the Maryland Convention, January 18, 1776, protesting that they had taken up arms in defense of the liberties they were being deprived of by the British Ministry; and the resolution of January 15, 1776, continuing the powers of the Maryland delegates to the Continental Congress.

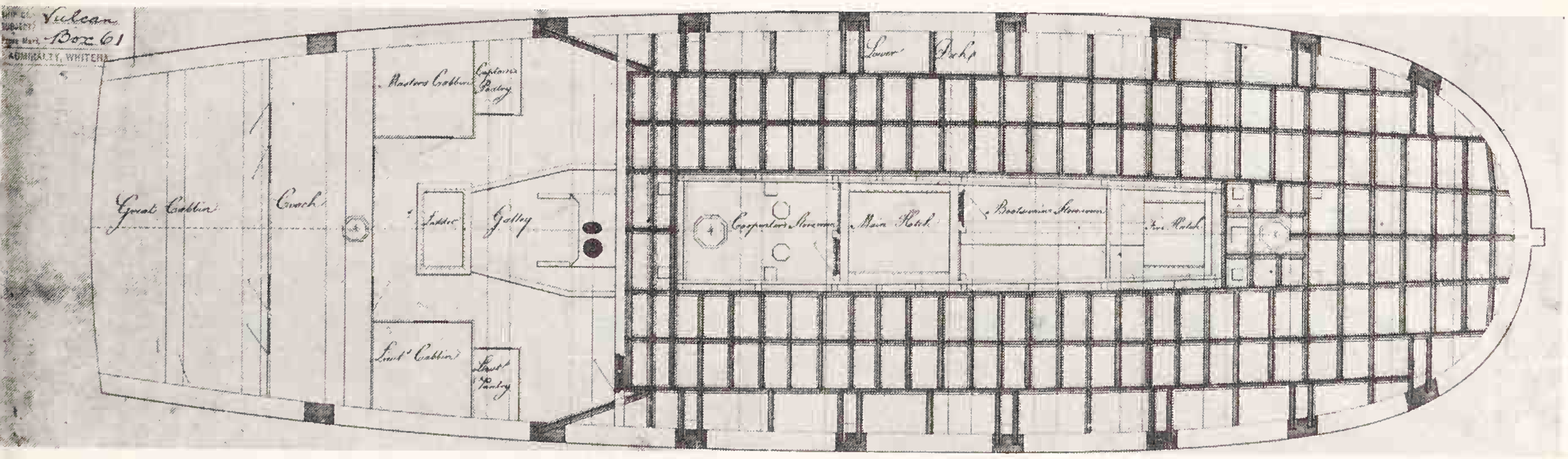
MASTER'S BOND FOR NON-ENUMERATED GOODS SHIPPED FROM EDENTON [1]

Know all Men by these Presents, That We [Daniel Cartwright Master of the Sloop *Polly* and George Gray of Edenton Innholder] *are held and firmly bound to our Sovereign Lord* George, *the Third, by the Grace of God of* Great-Britain, France *and* Ireland, *King Defender of the Faith, and so forth, in the Sum of* [One thousand] *Pounds of good and lawful Money of* Great-Britain, *to be paid to our said Lord the King, His Heirs, or Executors: To which Payment well and truly to be made, we bind ourselves, and each of us by himself, for and in the Whole, our Heirs, Executors, and Administrators and each and every of them*




Upper Deck
Ladderway
Grating
Main Hatch
Fore Hatch
R-34 C
DUPATOR
4361


his Majesty's Fireship the VULCAN. as fitted at Plymouth May 1778
ge of the Deck — Feet 91 6
r Tonnage — 72 4
27 9
12 3 ½
No 296 26/94


Vulcan
Box 61
ADMIRALTY, WHITEH
Lower Deck
Masters Cabbin
Captains Pantry
Great Cabbin
Coach
Ladder
Galley
Carpenters Storeroom
Main Hatch
Boatswains Storeroom
Fore Hatch
Lieut Cabbin
Lieut Pantry

firmly by these Presents. Sealed with our Seals. Dated this [Twenty fifth] *Day of* [January] *in the* [Sixteenth] *Year of the Reign of His said Majesty, and in the Year of our Lord, One thousand seven hundred and seventy* [Six]

WHEREAS by an Act made in the Twelfth Year of the Reign of King Charles the Second, intituled, "An Act for encourageing and increasing of Shipping and Navigation," and several subsequent Acts of Parliament, which are now in Force, it is (amongst other Things) enacted, That for every Ship or Vessel, which shall load any Commodities in those Acts particularly enumerated at any British Plantation, being the Growth, Product or Manufacture thereof, Bond shall be given, with one Surety, to the Value of One Thousand Pounds if the Ship be of less Burthen than One Hundred Tons, and of the Sum of Two Thousand Pounds if the Ship be of greater Burthen, that the same Commodities shall be brought by such Ship or Vessel to some other British Plantation, or to some Port in Great-Britain. And whereas by an Act made in the Sixth Year of the Reign of His present Majesty intituled, "An Act for repealing certain Duties in the British Colonies and Plantations granted by several Acts of Parliament; and also the Duties imposed by an Act made in the last Session of Parliament upon certain East-India Goods exported from Great-Britain; and for granting other Duties instead thereof; and for further encourageing, regulating, and securing several Branches of the Trade to the Kingdom and the British Dominions in America;" in order more effectually to prevent such Goods being privately carried from any British Colony or Plantation in America into Foreign Parts of Europe in Vessels that clear out with *non-enumerated* Goods, as well as to prevent the clandestine Importation of Foreign European Goods into the said British Colonies, it is (amongst other Things) enacted, that from and after the First Day of January, One thousand seven hundred and sixty-seven, Bond and Security, in the like Penalty, shall also be given to the Collector or other principal Officer of the Customs at any Port or Place in any of the British American Colonies or Plantations, with one Surety besides the Master of every Ship or Vessel that shall lade or take on Board there any Goods not particularly enumerated in the said Acts, with Condition that such Goods shall not be landed at any Part of Europe to the Northward of Cape Finisterre, except in Great Britain. And whereas by an Act made in the Seventh Year of the Reign of His present Majesty, intituled, "An Act to amend so much of an Act made in the last Session of Parliament, intituled An Act for repealing certain Duties in the British Colonies and Plantations, granted by several Acts of Parliament; and also the Duties imposed by an Act made in the last Session of Parliament upon certain East-India Goods exported from Great Britain; and for granting other Duties instead thereof; and for further encourageing, regulating, and securing several Branches of the Trade of this Kingdom, and the British Dominions in America as relates to the Exportation of non-enumerated Goods from the British Colonies in America," any *non-enumerated* Goods laden as aforesaid, in any British-American Colony or Plantation, may be landed in *Ireland*; and the said recited Act of the Sixth of His present Majesty, and all the regulations therein contained, so far as the same relate to the Bond and Security of Landing such *non-enumerated* Goods in Great-Britain, shall extend, and be construed to extend to Ireland also, as fully and effectually, to all Intents and

Purposes, as if Ireland had been excepted and named in the said Act. And whereas by an Act made in the Ninth Year of the Reign of his present Majesty, any non-Enumerated Goods, except Rum, laden as aforesaid, in any British Colony or Plantation may be landed in the islands of *Jersey* or *Guernsey,* under the Regulations in the recited Act of the 6th of *George* 3d.

AND whereas the above-bound [Daniel Cartwright] intends to lade on Board the Ship [Sloop *Polly*] whereof he the said [Danl Cartwright] is Master, sundry Goods, Wares and Merchandizes, not particularly enumerated in the said recited Acts, as specified on the Back hereof:

NOW the Condition of the above-written Obligation is such, That if the said Goods, or any Part thereof shall not be landed at any Part of Europe to the Northward of Cape Finisterre, except in Great-Britain or Ireland, or the Islands of *Jersey* or *Guernsey*; and if for such of the said Goods as shall be entered for or landed in Great-Britain or Ireland, a Certificate shall be produced, within Eighteen Months from the Date hereof under the Hands and Seals of the Collector and Comptroller, or other principal Officer of the Customs residing at the Port or Place where such Goods shall be landed, testifying the Landing thereof; and if for such of the said Goods as shall be entered for, or landed in the Islands of *Jersey* or *Guernsey,* a Certificate shall be produced within eighteen Months from the Date hereof, under the Hands and Seals of any three of the Magistrates of the Royal Courts of the said Islands respectively, testifying the landing thereof; and if for such of the said Goods as shall be entered for or landed in any of the British Colonies or Plantations in America, a Certificate shall be produced within Six Months, under the Hands and Seals of such Officers as aforesaid, residing at the Port or Place where such Goods shall be landed, testifying the Landing thereof; and if, for such of the said Goods as shall be entered for, or landed at, any other Place where the same may be legally landed, a Certificate shall be produced within Twelve Months, under the Common Seal of the Chief Magistrate, or under the Hands and Seals of Two known British merchants residing there, testifying the Landing of such Goods; or if due Proof, upon Oath, by credible Persons shall be made, that such Goods were taken by Enemies, or perished in the Seas; then the above written Obligation to be void, otherwise to be and remain in full Force and Virtue.[2]

Daniel Cartwright Ls
Geo: Gray Ls

Sealed and Delivered in the Presence of
Will^{m} Knight Compt

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1. Treasurer and Comptroller Papers, Port Papers, NCDAH. This is a printed form, the written words being in brackets.

2. Eight such bonds, all for the port of Edenton, are in the Port Papers. One only is printed here, as an example of the severe restrictions imposed by the various acts of King and Parliament upon the exportation of American goods. The other seven bonds were for the sloop *Betsey,* George Rankin, master; schooner *Martha,* Abraham Eve, master; brigantine *Hunter,* Samuel Butler, master, all of January 25, 1776; schooner *Mary,* Benjamin Butts, master, February 23, 1776; sloop *Sally,* John Riggen, master, March 18, 1776; schooner *Polly,* Silas Henry, master, March 28, 1776, and sloop *Friendship,* Abraham Adderley, master, April 8, 1776. In the case of the sloop *Sally,* an additional bond in the sum of two hundred pounds was demanded to cover the landing of her cargo of lumber at Barbados. The text of this latter bond varied only slightly from the *Polly*'s.

Minutes of the South Carolina Council of Safety[1]

In The Council of Safety,
[Charleston] Thursday, Jan. 25th, 1776.

Mr. President laid before the board the following letters which he had written by their order.

Charles-Town, Jan. 25th, 1776.

Sir – Late last night your two letters, both of the 23rd, came to hand . . . .

We have now the most pressing call upon us from the Council of Safety at Savannah, for the assistance of two hundred men. We desire therefore that you will immediately march that number, a few more if possible, under proper command to the banks of Savannah. Purrysburg we suppose will be the most proper spot, and give orders to cross over with safety and expedition, to land at such place as shall be judged most proper, and to put the whole under the command of the Council of Safety, whose orders probably will meet with the detachment at Purrysburg. They have applied also in terms equally pressing for gunpowder. We shall send a quantity to-day to the committee at Beaufort, and desire them to forward it from thence by the most secure passage by water or land . . . .

By order of the Council of Safety.
Henry Laurens, President.

P.S. Sent in a canow under the care of Mr. Thomson, &c.
Col. [Stephen] Bull.

Charles-Town, South-Carolina,
Jan. 24th, 1776.

Gentlemen – Your messenger arrived late this evening with your dispatch of the 21st. We were immediately summoned, and having taken the contents of your letter under consideration, resolved, to send as much gunpowder as we can with safety to the common cause and our own particular circumstances possibly part with. We shall also give positive orders to Col. Bull, to march two hundred good men to the banks of Savannah under proper officers, to cross the river and land at the most convenient place, and to wait your commands; you will therefore be prepared to meet the commanding officer with orders, if time permits, at Purrysburg.

The excessive bad roads, high rivers and drowned swamps appear to us to be sufficient reasons for sending you the gunpowder by water, at least part of the way. We shall order it to be packed in tight casks conducted in a canow, first to Beaufort and thence towards Savannah, as the committee at that place shall direct, perhaps to New River, within eight miles of Purrysburg. Were we to send it by land, besides the imminent danger of damage from continual moisture and wet, we apprehend it could not reach you in less than seven days. Some parts of the road we are assured are impassable.

We are extremely sorry that we cannot spare you the full quantity which you have claimed; it is not in our power. We sent 5000 lb. of the powder which we received from you to Philadelphia for continental service and we expect every hour a further demand on us, strongly recommended by our representatives in general Congress, 2000 lb. more for North Carolina. We cannot, for these reasons, spare more than 2000 lb., for which, from the situation of your town, and the consideration that the ships-of-war have no men for adventuring hazardous enterprizes on land, we hope and trust will be an ample provision for your defence. We consider also the threatened attack upon Savannah, may be calculated as an amusement to us – and make no doubt, but that every one of those ships-of-war now lying at Cockspur, will, after they have obtained a proper stock of provision, embrace the first favourable weather and steer for Charles-Town bar. We have about one hundred pieces of heavy cannon mounted, and are adding to the number with all possible dispatch: it is incumbent on us to be provided for serving them well with ammunition. Nevertheless our cause is one, and if you shall find it absolutely necessary to make a further demand, we will comply as far as we possibly can or dare do. We should guard against a stratagem for weakening this post, which appears but too manifest in the present instance.

Securing the person of your Governor and his suite was certainly a wise measure; the brothers of his Excellency are doing our cause much mischief in St. Mary's river, where they load vessels with lumber, and from there they supply East-Florida with provision – and we have a complaint to lodge against Mr. Panton of this place, now at Savannah. This gentleman lately exported from Mr. Gordan's plantation within this colony a quantity of flour to East-Florida, of which we have satisfactory proof: we therefore desire, that his person may be secured and sent to Charles-Town. He is one of those Men, whose "going at large endangers the public safety."

Nothing on our part shall be wanting for your further assistance. We pray God to grant you success.

By order of the Council of Safety.

Henry Laurens, President.

The Provincial Congress at Savannah.

P. S. Your messenger, Mr. Richardson, having complained that Georgia money will not pass currently on our road, we have supplied him with seven pounds currency. Upon questioning him, he assures us, that the bridges between this and Savannah River are in several places carried away, and that passage for a cart or waggon is at present impracticable.

The several favours of your Council of Safety of the 13th, and of Mr. President the 11th and 18th instant came duly to hand, for which we return our thanks.

Information being given to the Council that a Brigantine had come in over the bar, which might be an enemy.

Ordered, That a boat be sent down to reconnoitre: and that Capt. [William Henry] Drayton, in the *Prosper,* do immediately make sail to cover the said boat, and bring up the Brigantine if practicable.

[Read] a letter from Capt [Simon] Tufts, Otter Island, Jan. 23rd, 1776.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society,* III, 216–21.

REAR ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON'S REPLY TO WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS [1]

I the within Named Clark Gayton do Certify and return that the within named Benjamin Bell before the Obtaining and issuing of the within Writ was taken by one of his Majestys Ships of War under my Command as he the said Benjamin Bell was coming out of the Port of Cape Nicholas Mole in the Island of Hispaniola in a Sloop or Vessell belonging to the Colony of New York in North America of which Sloop or Vessell he was Master and which said Benjamin Bell had at the said Port of Cape Nicholas Mole discharged the Cargo which he had Laden at the Colony of North Carolina in North America aforesaid and cleared out for one of the British Islands in the West Indies and was then on his Voyage in the said Sloop or Vessell with a Cargo of Sugar and Salt which he had laden and taken on Board the said Sloop or Vessell at Cape Nicholas Mole aforesaid to and for the said Colony of North Carolina And that I have taken and detained the said Benjamin Bell by Vertue and in pursuance of his Majesty's late Proclamation dated the Twenty third day of August last past and his Majesty's Orders and Instructions signified to me the Commissioners for executing the Office of Lord High Admiral of Great Britain &c. and by their secretary acting under their Authority and this is the Cause of the Captain and Detention of the said Benjamin Bell whose Body at this Day and place in the within Writ mentioned I have ready as by the within Writ I am required –

Clark Gayton –

Filed 25th January 1776 [2]

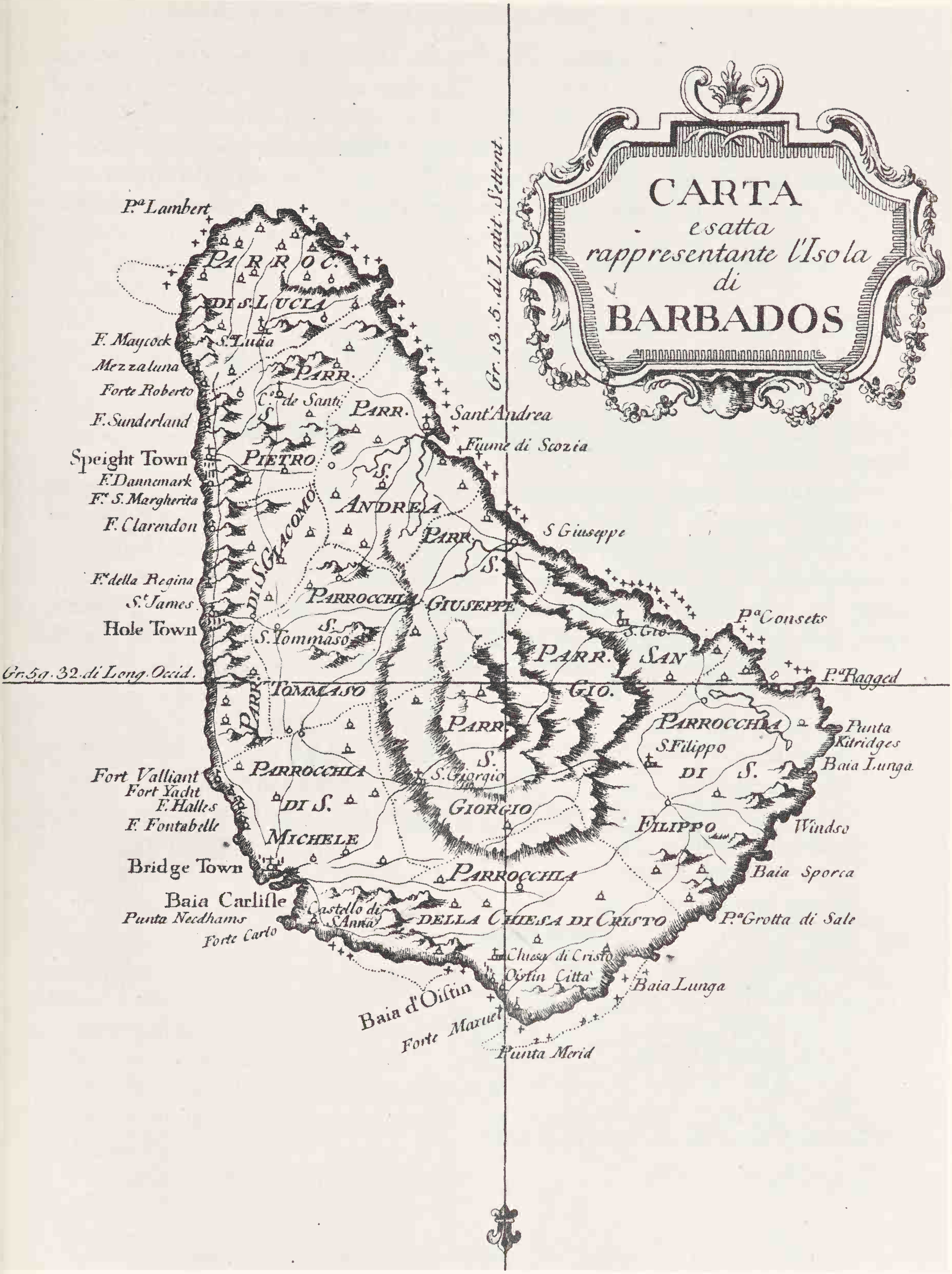
1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240.
2. *Ibid.,* Gayton made the same reply this date to writs for Eliphalet Smith, Daniel Dyke, Benjamin Appleton, America Rogers, Theophilus Lindsay and Daniel Towser, all taken in vessels belonging to New York, Massachusetts, and North Carolina.

DECISION OF EDWARD WEBLEY [1]

January 25th 1776 The within Named Benjamin Bell being this day brought before me in virtue of the within Writ of Habeas Corpus which with the return thereof and also the Instructions therein mentioned being read Upon Motion of Henry Browne Esquire of Counsel with the said Benjamin Bell and on hearing what could be alledged as well by him as by Thomas Harrison Esquire Attorney and Advocate General I do discharge the said Benjamin Bell out of Custody And he is Discharged Accordingly

Edw^{d} Webley [2]
January 25th 1776

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240.
2. *Ibid.,* decisions, identically worded, discharging from custody Eliphalet Smith, Daniel Dyke, Benjamin Appleton, America Rogers, Theophilus Lindsay and Daniel Towser, were rendered the same day.


CARTA
esatta
rappresentante l'Isola
di
BARBADOS
Gr. 13. 5. di Latit. Settent.
Gr. 59. 32. di Long. Occid.
Pª Lambert
PARROC.
DI S. LUCIA
S. Lucia
F. Maycock
Mezzaluna
Forte Roberto
F. Sunderland
Speight Town
F. Dannemark
Fᵉ S. Margherita
F. Clarendon
Fᵉ della Regina
Sᵗ James
Hole Town
PARR.
C. de Santi
S. PIETRO
PARR.
S. ANDREA
Sant'Andrea
Fiume di Scozia
PARR. DI S. GIACOMO
PARR. S. GIUSEPPE
S Giuseppe
PARROCCHIA S. TOMMASO
S. Tommaso
PARR. TOMMASO
Pª Consets
S. Gio
PARR. SAN GIO.
Pª Ragged
PARR. S. GIORGIO
S. Giorgio
PARROCCHIA DI S. FILIPPO
S. Filippo
Punta Kitridges
Baia Lunga
Windso
Baia Sporca
Pª Grotta di Sale
Fort Valliant
Fort Yacht
F. Halles
F. Fontabelle
PARROCCHIA DI S. MICHELE
Bridge Town
Baia Carlisle
Punta Needhams
Forte Carlo
Castello di S. Anna
PARROCCHIA DELLA CHIESA DI CRISTO
Chiesa di Cristo
Oistin Città
Baia Lunga
Baia d'Oistin
Forte Maruel
Punta Merid

"Extract of a Letter from Barbadoes, Jan. 25." [1]

The men of war are seizing all the vessels belonging to the Rebel Colonies. They are carried into English harbour. The men are put on board the ships of war as prisoners. The *Viper* sloop, blown off her station in America, accidentally met with, and carried into Antigua, a ship from Philadelphia bound, by leave of the Congress, to Cadiz, with 2200 barrels of flour.[2] The Captain of the ship jumped overboard at Dominique, where they first put in, and drowned himself.

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1. *London Chronicle,* March 26 to March 28, 1776.
2. The ship *Peggy,* taken December 9, 1775.

26 Jan.

Recommendation for John Lambert for a Massachusetts Navy Commission [1]

To The Honble The Council of the Colony of Massachusetts Bay –
Honble Gentn –

It being generally reported that a Number of Warlike Vessells are to be fitted for Sea, for the Protection of our Trade. likewise to take Seize & Destroy all Enemys to the Liberties of America, As tis not doubted but that a Number of Gentlemen will make applications to your Honours, We beg leave to recommend Mr John Lambert a Gentleman, who has followed the Seas for Fourteen years past, whose Charracter in private Life has been unexceptionable, & his Publick Conduct merrits the Esteem of all the Friends to America,

We are your Honours [&c.]

Reading Jany 26th 1776
Nat Barber –
Abiel Ruddork
Caleb Prentice Clerk 1st Par[h] Reading
John Goodwin: Capt
Joseph Bryant Jnr
Benj^{a} [Paxto]n
Jacob Emerson
John Hatton
Jonas Parker
Eben^{r} Francis Capt
Benj^{a} Kimball Capt
Enoch Putnam Capt
Select Men and Committee of Correspondence for the Town of Reading
Nathanael Oliver Surgn Mate 27th Regt

David Green Co[nll]
Benj^{n} Holden Lt Colo
Israel Hutchinson Colo
Jeremiah Obrien Capt of the Mechias Priv[a]teers
John Brooks Major of 19th Regt

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1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 232.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO WILLIAM BARTLETT, BEVERLY [1]

By His Excellency George Washington
Esqr General & Comander in Chief of
the Army of the United Colonies –

Permit William Foster, James Lowrie, Robert Hunter,[2] to proceed to Great Brittain in the best manner they Can, provided they do not go by way of Boston, they have given their paroles, not to act inimical to the United Colonies.

Cambridge the 26th January 1776
By his Excellencys Comand
Stephen Moylan P.T.S.

[Added notation] Sir his Excellency permits any of the Crews belonging to Captains, Foster, Lowrie & Hunter to proceed with them, I am Sir [&c.]

Stephen Moylan P.T.S.

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1. Bartlett Papers, No. 5724, BHS.
2. Captains respectively of the ship *Jenny,* ship *Concord,* and brig *Nancy.*

MEMORANDUM OF A LETTER FROM STEPHEN MOYLAN TO WILLIAM BARTLETT, BEVERLY [1]

Cambridge 26 Jany 1776.

wrote him that Captain [John] Ayres woud have the Comand of a Schooner to be fitted out, in order to supply the place of Such whose Cruizes may be out, and to give Captain Ayres every assistance he Can

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1. Washington Papers, LC.

MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL TO THE GLOUCESTER COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

Council Chamber [Watertown] Jany 26th 1776

To the Comee of Safety of the Town of Gloucester or Comte of
Correspondence of sd Town –
Greeting

You are hereby requested to take into your Custody & safekeeping William Wood, Master, & Robert Ayles, Mate, lately taken Prisoners in the ship *Jenny,* & brought into your Port [2] – You are desired to see that they do not pass out of the Limits of the Town of Gloucester on any pretext whatever, and if they or either of them shall attempt it, or for any other reason you may think it most conducive to the public safety to confine them, You are hereby authorised and impowered in either of such cases to cause the said Wood & Ayles, or either of them, to be apprehended & put under close confinement till the further Order of the major part of the Council –

In the Name & by Ordr of the Council

W Severs

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1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 230.
2. Master and mate of the ship *Jenny,* of 200 tons, taken by Captain Stephen Mascoll in the Massachusetts privateer schooner *Boston Revenge.* See *New England Chronicle,* January 25, 1776. Committee was also requested to take into custody, "William Erwin, Henry Willkinson mariners, John Gopety Rope maker, John Willson tailer – Joseph Lunhley mariner, James Kendel Weaver, John McMaine Carpenter & Robert Flute Cook–" from *Jenny.* Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 231.

✓

Journal of the Massachusetts House of Representatives[1]

[Watertown] Friday, January 26, 1776.
Afternoon.

Ordered, That Mr. Speaker, Col. [Azor] Orne, and Mr. [William] Story, with such as the Hon. Board may join, be a Committee to examine the late Act of this Court for encouraging the fitting out armed Vessels, and the Resolves of the Hon. Continental Congress, relative to the Capture of Vessels; and report what is proper to be done thereon.

1. Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch.

Perez Morton to George Washington[1]

[Watertown] In Council Jany 26 1776

It having been represented to the Council that some time last Fall his Honour General [Artemas] Ward directed that one Haswell an officer of the British Navy and now on half pay be removed from Hull (or Nantaskett) to the Town of Hingham there to be supported at the Public expence, that he was removed accordingly, and there remains with his Family –

And it having also been represented that it is unfit for him to remain there, considering the situation of said Town, that it borders on Boston Harbour that it is but a few miles from whence now and generally the Ships of War ride that the said Haswell may with ease Correspond with their Officers, that he has evidenced himself to be unfriendly to the Interest of the united Colonies by frequently making such false representations among the Inhabitants as tend to cause divisions, to strengthen our Enemies to intimidate and weaken our friends –

It is therefore Resolved that Benjamin Lincoln Esqr wait on his Excellency General Washington and lay before him this state of the matter, and request that he would direct the said Haswell with his Family be removed to some inland Town, or other ways dispose of, as his Excellency shall think proper.

Perez Morton Dpy Secy

1. Washington Papers, LC.

Vice Admiral Samuel Graves to Philip Stephens[1]

Sir *Preston* at Boston 26 January 1776

His Majesty's Army at Boston being in great Want of Rice, and no Vessel with the Article of provisions on board having been met with by the Kings Ships, General [William] Howe proposed and it was determined to send a Detachment from the Army in two Transports, under the protection of one of the Men of War, to Georgia, where it was hoped Sir James Wright supported by such a Force would contrive to load the Transports with Rice and other Provisions. General Howe accordingly embarked 175 Marines and Soldiers on board the *Symmetry* and *Whitby* Transports under the Command of Major [James] Grant of the 40th Regiment; and I appointed the *Scarborough* to go with them, and gave Captain [Andrew] Barkley his Orders on the 26th of last Month "to proceed with the Transports to Savannah in Georgia and there give every Aid and Countenance in his power towards procuring provisions for his Majs Army at Boston, for payment of which Major Grant carried Cash and Bills of Exchange; The Transports being laden to return with them to Boston, and if possible early in March." With the *Scarborough* I sent the *Hinchinbrook* Schooner, which I had ordered to be sheathed for a Southern Station, and directed Captain Barkley on his Arrival at Savannah to send Lieut. [Alexander] Ellis, with the Secretary of States Dispatches for the Governors of East and West Florida, to St Augustine and Pensacola, and to order him to return again to St Augustine and releive the *St. Lawrence* Schooner, whom Captain Barkley is to take under his Command and employ as he finds best for the Kings Service. I have further instructed Captain Barkley that as the Principal Object of his attention is to procure a speedy Supply of Provisions for the Garrison at Boston every precaution must be observed to secure what may be obtained, and therefore, if found necessary, he may order the *Tamer* and *Cruizer* Sloops to proceed in Company with him and the Transports to Boston. With these Orders and Instructions, in addition to those in consequence of their Lordships Orders, Captain Barkley sailed the Beginning of January.

It being found necessary, in Order to comply with his Majesty's Instructions to Major General [William] Howe, to send a General Officer to take the Command of the Troops expected to arrive on the Coast of North Carolina from Ireland, General Howe applied to me for one of his Majesty's Ships to receive Major General [Henry] Clinton on board and proceed with him to the Southward. At that time the *Lively* and *Mercury* were the only small Ships I had at Boston: The *Lively* foul, the Iron work on her Rudder and Stern Post in great Want of Repair, her Guns, Cables, Anchors and other heavy Stores out, waiting when the Frost would allow of the Smiths working and the Ship to be hawled onshore and Graved; the *Mercury* also in great Want of cleaning, but in other respects wanted only compleating with Stores and provisions to be fit for Service. I therefore ordered Captain [Alexander] Graeme to receive Major General Clinton, his Officers and Servants, and to accomodate them in the best manner the Ship would allow, while the Kings Service required their being on board: To proceed with him to New York, afterwds to Virginia, or to any other Port where it shall be found expedient for his Majs Service to go. I have also instructed Captain Graeme that as the Success of the Expedition will in great measure depend upon the punctual and ready Assistance given by his Majesty's Ships, he is to grant every Aid in his Power of Men, Boats and Stores, without regard to any distinction of Service, to Major General Clinton and to all other his Majs Land Officers in their intended Operations against the Rebels. The *Glasgow Packet, Three Sisters* and *Kitty* Transport being appointed to carry military Stores with General Clinton, I ordered Captain Graeme to take them under his Convoy.

Upon further Consultations of Generals Howe and Clinton, it was agreed to send a Sloop of War with a Land Officer on board immediately to North Carolina. I appointed the *Falcon,* General Howe named Captain Evelyn of the King's own Regiment; and on the 12th inst I gave Captain Linzee his Orders to proceed forthwith to Cape Fear and land Captain Evelyn, who is directed to gain all possible Intelligence of the Situation of Affairs in that Province and return again on board the *Falcon*. This done, and Captain Linzee having also obtained of Governor [Josiah] Martin every necessary information relative to the entering of Ships into Cape Fear River, he is directed to cruize in the most likely Tract to fall in with the Fleet of Transports expected on that coast; upon their Arrival to convoy them into Cape Fear River or to Virginia, which shall be thought best upon consulting with Governor Martin, in case Major General Clinton shall not have previously determined their destination.

I have ordered the Captains of his Maj's Ships *Scarborough* and *Mercury*, and *Falcon* Sloop, and indeed most of the other Cruizers to get as many skilful Pilots as possible for any part of the Coast of America from Cape Florida to Nova Scotia to be distributed as the Kings Ships may require.

The *Mercury* and *Falcon* were ready for sailing early in January, but a severe Frost prevented the Transports being so alert, as they had many things to bring from the Shore. In the mean time, as I could not so soon quit the Station, I gave Rear Admiral Shuldham an Order dated the 15th instant to take all his Majestys Ships and Vessels to the Southward of Boston under his Command and to give their Captains such Orders as he might think proper for his Majs Service. At the same time I furnished him with attested Copies of the general and particular Orders each Ship and Vessel was then under: And that his Majesty's Service might not be delayed, by the intended Change of the Chief Commander, I included the *Mercury* and *Falcon* then in Boston Harbour in the Number of those stationed to the Southward; that Admiral Shuldham might avail himself of the opportunity they afforded to send his Orders to that Part of the Squadron put under his Command.

The *Falcon* sailed the 19th instant and the *Mercury* the next day.

I have ordered the provisions remaining in the *Trident* to be delivered to the *Richmond* and *Friendship* Victuallers: The unserviceable Stores of the Squadron to be put on board the *Trident*; that Ship to return forthwith to Deptford, and to sail from Boston in Company with the *Preston*.

I inclose a Copy of a Letter from Lieut. [William] Hunter brought to me the 23d instant from the Lines. As Lieut. Hunter represents himself and Officers to be Prisoners, I conclude the *Gaspee* Brig is in the Rebels Possession.

It being impossible to provide Rum for the Squadron agreeable to Mr [Robert] Grants Contract with the Commissioners of the Victualing, his Agent at Boston requested a Transport might be allowed to go to some Port of the West Indies for Rum; I therefore ordered Lieut. Parry to send the *Union* to Antigua, where the Agent informs me, Messrs Reid and King, Correspondents to the Contractors, will immediately load her for the Fleet. The *Union* accordingly sailed the beginning of this Month, and I hope will return again in the Middle or latter end of March.

The *Hope* Brig is perhaps one of the best fitted and appointed Vessels of her Size in the Kings Service. She mounts eight 4 Pounders, and six 3 Pounders besides Swivels; I have given her a Corporal and nine Marines to compleat her 50 Men. Lieut. [George] Dawson sailed this day by my Orders to cruize against the Rebels within the Bay of Boston *. And as soon as the Brig goes exceeding well, I hope she will soon do Execution with the Enemies Privateers

The *Lively* has been graved and refitted, and only waits for the Iron work of her Rudder being done to take in her provisions and proceed to Sea. I am &c

Sam¹ Graves

Note *That is from Cape Anne to Cape Cod.

1. Graves's Conduct, II, 30–33, BM.

FRANCIS HUTCHESON TO MAJOR GENERAL FREDERICK HALDIMAND [1]

[Boston]

January 26 – Yesterday two Vessells were taken by a Rebell Privatier off the Light House, & carried into Cowhasack Harbour, they were spoke with last week, and said they were from Whitehaven & Cork, with Pork and Coal for this Place; [2] O the Glory of the British Navy. two flags flying with all the Pomp of War, and Yankies can spit in their face – The News from Canada of Montgomerys defeat and being Killed is Confermed, we have great hopes this Will give a Change to affairs in that Country.

By two deserters come in this day we hear that [Charles] Lee is gone with a Detachment of 1500 Men to New York, to oblige the Torys there & on Long Island, to take the Oath he imposed on the People of Rhode Island, which you'll see in the News papers . . . .

Admiral Graves Sails on Sunday and no man ever left a place less regretted

1. Haldimand Papers, BM. Continuation of January 25, 1776 letter.
2. The ships *Happy Return* and *Norfolk,* taken by John Manley in Washington's schooner *Hancock,* and carried into Plymouth, not Cohasset. Another British officer, Lieutenant Colonel Stephen Kemble, noted in his diary on January 25: "I am not certain if positively this day a Ship and Brig were taken by the Rebels very near the Light House, no Man of War being in the Road to Succour them." "The Kemble Papers," *Collections of the New-York Historical Society for the Year 1883* (New York, 1884), I, 65.

WILLIAM WATSON TO GEORGE WASHINGTON [1]

Sir

Plymouth 26 Jany 1776

This, pr express, comes to inform your Excellency that Com[mo]dore Manly, took yesterday off Cohassett rocks after and hours engagement (haveing one man wounded in the breast, not dangerous) Two Ships from white Haven bound for Boston leaden with sea coal, potatoes &c [2] Inc[lo]sd are bills of Loading – your Excellency will please to direct in what manner I shall conduct with these vessells –

The prisoners will be treated with kindness & will be sent forward to morrow – I am getting the Ships to the wharf & shall secure the small articles from pilferers who frequently infest vessels in these circumstances – I congratulate your Excellency on this reiterated instance of Com[mo]dore Manlys succes[s,] and wish sincerely, that all the servants of the american Republic were equally industr[ious] with Manly – I am [&c.]

William Watson

N.B. the express brings all the papers taken in the ships

P.S. I would acquaint your Excellency that the engagement referred to in my letter, was with a tender of eight guns, and full of men, which had these ships under convoy, which circumstance I forgot to mention through hurry.[3] Yours as before,

William Watson.

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1. Washington Papers, LC, except postscript which is printed in Force, comp., *American Archives,* 4th, IV, 863.
2. Extract of a letter from Whitehaven, June 18, 1776:

> On the 25th of January, at 8 o'clock, A.M. the *Happy Return,* of Whitehaven, James Hall, commander, was taken by the *Hancock* privateer, Capt. John Manly, and at the time of being taken was within two miles of the *Renown,* man of war, then in Nantasket road, who did not offer the least assistance, though the wind was off shore, being N.N.W. The same day as the above, at 9 o'clock, A.M. the *Norfolk* of Whitehaven, was taken in the same manner by the same privateer. At half past nine o'clock, A.M. the privateer and the prizes fell in with two King's tenders, one of which immediately ran in for Boston; but the other engaged the privateer for half an hour, and then left her. The tender and privateer appeared to be a very equal match, and when the tender left the privateer, Captain Manley had but six cartridges left; and he said if both the tenders had attacked him, he should not have fired a gun. At six o'clock they were carried into Plymouth.

Almon, ed., *Remembrancer* [1776], III, Part II, 139–40.

3. Watson had his account badly garbled. Manley's encounter was with the British tender *General Gage,* from Halifax for Boston. There was no second tender involved, as related in the letter from Whitehaven, quoted in note 2.

Deposition of Simon Newcomb [1]

I, Simon Newcomb, of lawful age, do testify and say, that, as I was going from Wellfleet to Salem in a small schooner, burden about twenty-five tons, loaded with oysters, on the twenty-fifth day of July last, off Race-Point, we were boarded and taken by a boat from a man of war, (the *Falkland* [*sic Falcon*], commanded by Captain Lindsey [John Linzee],) and was carried into Boston, and there sold; [2] and I myself detained on board a man of war for some time, and finally dismissed. And do further testify and say, that, according to the best of my judgment, said schooner, with her appurtenances, was worth at that time (including her cargo,) fifty six pounds, thirteen shillings and four pence, lawful money, and belonged to Mr. Zoheth Smith and others; and since I was taken, the man that was my partner is deceased. And further saith not.

Simon Newcomb.

Eastham [Massachusetts], January 26, 1776.
Barnstable, ss.

The above-mentioned Simon Newcomb personally appeared before me, one of his Majesty's Justices of Peace, and, after being duly cautioned, made oath to the above-written Deposition.

John Atwood, Justice of Peace.

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1. Force, comp., *American Archives,* 4th, V, 164–65.
2. The schooner *Hawke,* condemned and sold in Boston, Graves's Prize List, December 31, 1775, Graves's Conduct, II, 36–38, BM.

HEZEKIAH DOANE & CO. TO JOHN ADAMS [1]

Sir: Wellfleet, January 26, 1776.

Being informed that you are one of the Committee appointed by the honourable the Continental Congress to receive an estimate of all losses, seizures, &c., by the King's Troops or Navy, &c., we take this opportunity of informing you of our misfortune, and have enclosed you a well authenticated account thereof; and are, with the greatest respect, sir [&c.]

Hezekiah Doane & Co.

[Enclosures]

I, Elisha Doane, Jun., Master of the Schooner *Hannah,* burden about ninety-five tons, belonging to Hezekiah Doane, Esq., & Co., do testify and say, that, returning from a whaling voyage in said schooner off the back of Cape-Cod, on the seventh day of September last, was boarded and taken by the man of war the *Savage,* commanded by Captain Bromage [Hugh Bromedge], and carried into Boston, contrary to my inclination, and there detained until I had an opportunity of making my escape, and left my vessel there in the hands of the enemy, and have not seen or heard from her since; [2] which schooner, with her appurtenances, (exclusive of whaling craft,) was worth at that time, according to the best of my judgment, four hundred pounds, lawful money.

Elisha Doane, Jun.

Eastham, January 26, 1776: The above-named Elisha Doane, Jun, personally appeared before me, one of his Majesty's Justices of Peace in the County of Barnstable, and made oath to the above-written Deposition.

John Atwood, Justice of Peace.

I, Elisha Mays, of lawful age, do testify and say, that, on the seventh day of September last, returning from a whaling voyage in Schooner *Hannah,* owned by Hezekiah Doane, Esq., and commanded by Elisha Doane, Jun., off Cape-Cod, discovering a man-of-war, myself, with several others, took the boat, and went on shore. After that, I saw the man-of-war's boat board said schooner, and saw said schooner stand away for Boston. And further saith not.

Elisha Mays.

Eastham, January 26, 1776:

The above-named Elisha Mays personally appeared before me, one of his Majesty's Justices of Peace for the County of Barnstable, and, after being duly cautioned, made oath to the above-written Deposition.

John Atwood, Justice of Peace.

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[1] Force, comp., *American Archives,* 4th, V, 164.

[2] According to Graves's prize list, the *Hannah's* cargo consisted of empty oil casks which were returned to their owners, and the vessel, as of December 31, 1775, remained uncondemned in Boston. Graves's Conduct, II, 36–38, BM.

Major General Philip Schuyler to John Hancock [1]

[Albany] January 26th

I was last Night informed that the better part of the Troops to be raised in the County of Berkshire were already marched. I have sent Governor Trumbull a Return of the Arms that were delivered into Store by the Men raised in the Colony of Connecticut, he cannot furnish the Regiment raising there, and I propose to return those Arms or a like Number that they may not be a Colonial Charge against the Continent. I am Sir [&c.]

Ph: Schuyler

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[1] Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, I, 453, NA. Continuation of Schuyler's letter of January 25, 1776.

Minutes of the New York Committee of Safety [1]

[New York] Die Veneris, 3 ho. P.M. Jany. 26th, 1776.

Mr. Sands, who is managing the lading of the sloop *Sally,* requested a permit. Thereupon a permit was given to him in the words following, to wit:

"Mr. Comfort Sands is permitted to load the sloop *Sally,* Wilkie Dodge master, for the West Indies, with flour, pork, hams and bread."

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[1] *New York Provincial Congress,* I, 269–70.

Journal of the Continental Congress [1]

[Philadelphia] Friday, January 26, 1776

A letter from General [Charles] Lee, dated 22 January, enclosing a letter from the committee of safety of New York, being received was read.

A petition from sundry persons respecting the inlisting of apprentices, was presented and read.

The Congress taking into consideration the letter from General Lee, with the enclosure:

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to repair to New York, to consult and advise with the council of safety of New York and General Lee respecting the immediate defence of the said city; and that General Lee be directed to follow the determination of the said committee thereupon:

That it be an instruction to said committee, in case the city cannot be defended, that they earnestly recommend it to the inhabitants immediately to remove their most valuable effects to a place of safety:

That the said committee be instructed to consult with General Lee and the committee of safety of New York, about the fortifications on Hudson's river, and about fortifying the pass at Hell gate:

The members appointed Mr. [Benjamin] Harrison, Mr. [Thomas] Lynch, and Mr. [Andrew] Allen.

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[1] Ford, ed., *JCC,* IV, 92–94.

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH [1]

[Philadelphia] Friday 26 Jany A Petition from some Citizens of Philada – praying that no Apprentices may be inlisted without Consent of the Masters was neglected – A Letter was read from Gen. Lee Dated from Connect setting forth that he is on his Way for the Defence of N York and has gathered a large Body of Connecticut Militia and inclosing a Letter to him from the Comee of Safety at N York disapproving of his Proceedgs [2] – this occasioned a Motion from E. Rutledge & Duane that a Comee may be appointed to repair for New York forthwith and agree with the Comee of Safety there and with Gen. Lee upon the proper Measures of Defence

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1. Richard Smith's Diary, LC.
2. Lee's letter of January 22, 1776.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

In the Committee of Safety.

Philad'a, 26th Jan'y, 1776.

The following is the form of an Enlistment to be signed by the Voluntiers to be enlisted by Capt. Procter [Thomas Proctor], Viz't.:

> We whose names are hereunto subscribed, do voluntarily agree to enter into the Service of the Province of Pennsylvania, to be instructed in the use and management of Artillery, Commanded by such officers as now are or may be hereafter appointed by the Assembly of this Province, or Committee of Safety, and to be occasionally employed in such Military Duty and Service in this or the Adjacent Provinces, or the River Delaware, as the defence of this Province may hereafter require, and for which they shall receive the orders of either of the above Boards.

Upon application of Robert Morris, Esq'r., for permission to export the produce of these Colonies to the amount of a quantity of powder imported by him, the following certificate was granted, vizt.:

> These may Certifie that Robert Morris, Esq'r., has permission to export in the produce of these Colonies, to the amount of £2065 16 7, which sum is the amount of Gunpowder imported by him, and sold to this Committee.
>
> By order of the Committee.
>
> Sign'd, Jno. Nixon, Char'n.

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1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records,* X, 468, 469.

JOHN JONES TO WILLING, MORRIS & CO.[1]

Gentn I am directed by the Council of safety of this County, to request your Interest with the Council of Safety of your Province for a Supply of Powder, Lead, and Arms; as this County from its situation is likely to receive the first Attack from the Enemies of America. – should we be so fortunate as to succeed in this application the Cash shall be immediately remitted

But if from the great demand of those Articles they are not to be had in your City: I am to request that you will be kind enough to inform us where they are most likely to be had; what Cargo would best Suit for the purchase of them; and further to request that you would permit them to make use of your name in shiping the Cargo. – We are induced Gentn to ask this favour as well from your great zeal in the cause of America[n] freedom, as from your universal Correspondence

If you should inclene to favour this request; pray be kind enough to let us have your Answer by the bearer hereof: and such orders as you usually give to your Masters upon these occasions; together with your Letters of Address &c

The Vessel that is to be employ'd upon this Occasion is a schooner call'd the *Farmer* of about forty Tons belonging to Nehemiah Field of Lewes. I am [&c.]

John Jones Presid[en]t

Lewes – January 26th 1776

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1. Correspondence of Robert Morris, LC. Jones was president of Sussex County, Delaware, Council of Safety.

GEORGE WOOLSEY TO GEORGE SALMON, DUBLIN [1]

Dr Sr [Baltimore] Janry 26 1776

annexed you have Coppy of what I wrote you the 3rd Inst which I hope will get safe to hand all matters of private business much the Same as then I am doing a little. I expect as much as will maintain me, but how long it may Continue so God knows as Lord Dunmore has already burnt norfolk and we have all the Reason in the world to think he intends for this in the spring, which is making me look out for a Retreat for [the] family in the Country and Mrs philpott has offred me a place which I Believe I will Except of & get the family removd in about a month. tho I will not Quit the town whilst theres any probability of Staying my Selfe. to Contract [*sic* Contest] Dunmore the Convention of this province & virginia are Raising Men & doing every thing the[y] think Necessary to oppose him & I think the[y] will be Successful Norfolk make the third town they have burned since this Unnatural war has begun, and I am of opinion that New York & Newport in Road Island will Share the same fate, besides York in virginia annapolis & this town stands a bad Chance, these methods of war that they tools of ministry make use of only hurts them as it almost Unites all the Sufferers against them, and be assured when a man has lost all (that has been affluent) he Cares not how soon he Looses his Life, which is the Case of many at present and no doubt will be of more. so far for Politicks & no further. I have little to add about our business, only that thers no Collecting the Servant Debts of which you better let Lisle know. however I must now be in his Debt 50[£.] Sterl which I wish you Could pay & I ow Sherrid about 30£ and I hope Early in the Spring to sell the Remainder of his goods for Cash. as I write to no person but your Selfe, it is very Necessary for you to write to all our friends whom you Receive any accounts from me, & let them know how matters stand, & I must request you will write my father and let him know I and my family are well and also that my brother Wm is here & well durst I venture I would give you a general acct of every matter here but I am fearful that my letters would be Stopped my best wishes to all friends in the strand, and also to all others & tell them that if i Should happen to fall in Defence of my property, that I fell in a noble Cause I am Dr Sr your sincere friend; your son is one of my family Wm Woolsey is a first Lieutenant in our train of artillery & has Quit going to Sea, for that office.

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1. Woolsey & Salmon Letter Book, LC.

ACCOUNT OF POWDER AND ARMS SUPPLIED THE *Hornet* AND *Wasp* AT BALTIMORE [1]

1776	Sloop *Hornet* (Congress)	Dr
Jany 26	To 8 double fortified 4 pounders 98 C 12 lb	furnished by Messrs Purviance and Lux.
	35 Muskets	
	5 pr pistols	
	434 lb Musket Balls	
	1200 lb Powder	

1776	Schooner *Wasp*	Dr
Jany 26	To 8 Carriage Guns 2 pounders 19C 3qr 4 lb	furnished by Messrs Purviance & Lux
	6 Swivels 2 feet 4 Inches long	
	16 Muskets	
	3 pr Pistols	
	475 lb Gunpowder	
	63 lb Musket Ball	
	To Canvas to the Amount of --	

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1. Naval and Maritime Papers, Md. Arch.

JOURNAL OF H. M. S. *Liverpool,* CAPTAIN HENRY BELLEW [1]

Janury 1776 Off Norfolk in Virginia

Friday 26 modr with rain arvd here our Tender from a Cruize with a Brig from Glasgow out of which we seiz'd 200 Guineas.[2]

PM our Tender sailed on a Cruise.

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1. PRO, Admiralty 51/548.
2. The brig *Betsy and Molly,* James Calvert, master, Cornelius Calvert, owner, from Glasgow to Norfolk, in ballast, Shuldham's Prize List, April 24, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484. The tender, *Edward,* had sailed on January 23, on her second cruize, the day after she had brought in the prize sloop *Susannah,* PRO, Admiralty 51/548.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

In the Council of Safety.
[Charleston] Friday, 26th, Jan., 1776.

Mr. President laid before the Board the following letters which he had written by their order:

Charles-Town, 25th Jan., 1776.

Sir – Your dispatches under the 31st ult., by the hands of E. Hadley, were laid before us on the 12th instant, the very day on which we received the first intelligence of a fleet of men-of-war on the coast. Yesterday we learned they were the *Syren* of 28 guns, the *Raven* of 16, and probably a transport ship dismasted in a gale of wind after they had left our Bar; and that they had joined the *Tamar* and *Cherokee* at Cockspur. We detained your messenger from day to day, in order to have written by him, if needful, and not otherwise, to call for the assistance of a few riflemen from your district.

We are informed that the commanding officer of that little fleet has denounced the destruction of Savannah, unless the inhabitants will supply him with provisions and lay down their arms. Our friends, on the contrary, have forbid all intercourse with him or his fleet, and are preparing for defence. We apprehend the Commodore's threats against Georgia may be calculated to amuse us, and accordingly we are proceeding in our endeavours to be prepared for making a successful resistance here, from an assurance of being attacked by those vessels immediately after they are victualled and refitted . . . .

By order of the Council of Safety.

Henry Laurens, President.

Maj. [Andrew] Williamson.

The Council issued orders upon the treasury, for the payment of the following sums:

To Hon. Capt. [William Henry] Drayton, for pay to the seamen, and other uses, on board the ship *Prosper,* to be accounted for by him,	1000 00 0

On motion,

Resolved, That Mr. Alexander Elsinore, pilot, be taken into the pay of this colony, as pilot on board the ship *Prosper,* and that he be entered on the said ship's books accordingly, at the same rate as allowed to pilots on board King's [ships] that is thirty-five shillings currency per day.

Read a memorial, dated yesterday, signed by Peter LeVien & Co., in behalf of themselves, and others, shippers on board the Brigantine *William,* John Mercier, master, from Georgia bound for London, which was removed to and is detained at Beaufort – accompanied by the following papers, viz:

1. Copy of their petition to the Council of Safety in Georgia, dated Jan. 6th, 1776.
2. Certificate, signed by the chairman of the Parochial Committee at Savannah, Jan. 8th, 1776.
3. Certified copy of a resolve of the Council of Safety in Georgia, Jan. 8th, 1776.

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1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society,* III, 221–25.

South Carolina and American General Gazette, Friday, January 19 to Friday, January 26, 1776

Charlestown, January 26.

Last Friday two small Schooners appeared cruizing in the Offing, which occasioned the Provincial armed Schooner *Defence,* Capt. [Simon] Tufts, going out. The Brigantine *Amphitrite*, Capt. McNeil, bound from this Port for Jamaica, in

Ballast, was then at an Anchor off the Bar, from whom we learn, that one of the *Tamer*'s Tender (formerly one of our Pilot-boats) which sailed about 3 Months ago, and was generally thought to be lost; and the other the *Comet* Packet-boat, Capt. McDonough, from Pensacola. Capt. Tufts, we hear, is at Beaufort.

Yesterday Afternoon, a Brigantine came into the Road, and the Weather being very hazy, fired several Guns. She went out to sea again this Morning. It is said to be the *Diligence* Packet-boat, Capt. Clarke, from Pensacola.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SCHOONER *St. Lawrence,* LIEUTENANT JOHN GRAVES [1]

Jany 1776 [Off Charleston]

Friday 26 at 5 am saw Charleston Light house W N B 4 Leags saw a sail to the westwd fired two Guns and spoke the *Dilligence Pacquett* Lieut Cleark who Inform'd us as he had been in the harbour and oblig'd to leave it Early in the morning that there was no men of war there and the Rebbels was in Possession of Sullivans Island, bore away for augustine in compy the Pacquett

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 51/4330. The *St. Lawrence,* in company with the packet *Diligence* and the tender *James,* had sailed from St. Augustine January 16, 1776, and separated the next day.

PAUL ALLEN TO NICHOLAS BROWN [1]

Sir Sant Pears [St. Pierre], Martinico Jany 26 1776

I arrived here after a Tedious Passage of 19 days (I say Tedious) because we had Two or Three hard Gails of Wind a fue days after we came out, and our Vessell proved so Leeky that She made upwards of a Hundred Tons of Water for every 24 Hours after the 3 first, untill we came in here, you may well Judge how fortigueng it must have been where there was but 6 men in all, and my mates Leg Scaulded So as to render him incapable of doing much

I was many times fearful Wheather we Should be able to hold out untill we Could arrive to our Desired Port, but Going from the Pump to the He[lm] my Self and incourageing my People, that we Should soon Arrive at our Desired Heaven, Keep their Spirits up so that they never faulter'd –

But had we arrived at a Good market we should in some measure forgot this But sr I can't think that markets ever were worse for such articles as I have Got

I have sold the Tobacco a 55/pCt French Weight 45 Barrels Pork at £4.10 – p Bl All the Flour at 8 pe 8 pr Bl – have not been offer'd more than 2/6 Pce for the Candles and 12 four for y[torn]& 10 four for the Tallow – there is Two English masters whose Vessells are at Sant Leussia who are obliged to Get their Cargo Freighted from thence to this poor market – and their is no encouragement for my Going their I have Laid out about 1000 Dollars here in Twine Rhubabe Nutmegs Jesuits Bark Cinamon Handkerchiefs &C – altho' I find every thing to be very Dear & scarce here, they take Grate advantage of the times, here is in Powders for sale abt. 25.C which is bought up at 4/6 pe for One Capt Parker at St Lesscia, belonging to Portsmouth – no Guns here, nor Lead, nor Duck, nor Scarc[e] any thing else which we are in want off – I Shall sale this Night for Corisoe, as I have from Good Intelligences that there is 8 Ships of Warr which Crewse for English

Vessells, between Granarda and St Estacia have taken Several, and some from the French –

I Would Willingly Stear as clear of them as Possible which is the cause of my Going there, which I think must be some what out of their Channiel & from thenc[e] I Expect to go to Hispineloa, Am affread shall make you a bad Voyage, but you may depend I will do every thing in my Power for your Interest – our mainsale proved very bad, & Rotten am in hopes to mend it so as to make it Last Home – at what time that will be I can't say – Have Stopted our Leik in Part. when I get to Corisoea intend to Compleat it –

this I send by Capt Smith of Conniticut River who intends to run into either Philadelphia or Egg-Harbour, and then Immediately by Land to his Home – In hast I am [&c.]

Paul Allen

PS. I am not very Well Imputed it to my Hard Service hope as soon as I Get to sea to be Better

[Endorsed] Letter from Paul Allen Came to hand in Apl 1776

1. Brown Papers, JCBL.

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27 Jan.

BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID WOOSTER TO JOHN HANCOCK [1]

Sir, Montreal Jany 27th 1776 –

Your favour of the 30th of Novr I have just received – To a man who engages in this glorious struggle from the pure principle of love to his Country, if he meets with the applause of his countrymen for any services, it must certainly give him very sensible pleasure – My breth[ren] in America were not only entitled to any little services I may have rendered them, but ever will be, to my most strenuous efforts to serve them, and I shall always think myself exceeding happy and most amply rewarded if they prove successful –

Long before this reaches you, you will have received the news of the unhappy attack upon Quebec – I most sincerely condole with you for the loss of the Brave and most amiable General [Richard] Montgomery & the rest of the Brave Officers and Soldiers who fell gloriously with him.

Col. [Benedict] Arnold still keeps up the Blockade. I have sent him all the Troops that could possibly be spared from this Garrison I should have immediately gone there myself, but it was thought unadvisable for me, at that time, to leave this place, which it was necessary to secure as a retreat – Troops now begin to come in, from the Colonies and as I have got matters nearly settled here, I intend in a little time to proceed on to Quebec – We shall want every thing – Men, Money, heavy Cannon Mortars Shott & Shells and a large supply of powder as we have not more than four Tons in the province I have wrote Genl Scuyler [Philip Schuyler] my sentiments fully upon what may be necessary in carrying on the Seige, also of the state of the province & what measures have been taken in it, which suppose he has communicated – to remedy The evil of sinking so much hard Cash in this Country, I have advised that every Article wanted in this

Country from the Colonies especially all kinds of West India Goods and Liquors and N. England Rum be brought over the Lakes which I am convinced may be done & sold lower than what we are now obliged to give These articles may be then paid for, in Continental Money and that in my opinion will go a great way towards giving it a currency I am [&c.]

Dav ^{d} Wooster

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1. Papers CC (Letters from General Officers), 161, II, 261, NA.

Captain Hugh Bromedge, R.N., to Vice Admiral Molyneux Shuldham [1]

Sir, *Savage* Sloop, Halifax 27th Janury 1776.

I Embrace this Opportunity of transmitting to you, Copies of my last Orders from Vice Admiral Graves by Captain [Edward] Le Cras, And pursuant to those Orders the 16th Instant I boarded the Ship *Nicholas* of Boston burthen 120 Tons (by her Register) John White Master, (but pretends to be no other than Super Cargo:) from Petersburgh and Cowes, laden with Naval Stores, Iron, Hemp, Sail Duck, and light Canvas, all which was cleared out at Cowes for Halifax, as at Cowes I am informed, the Master could not clear out for Salem, or Boston, where the Ships and Owners belong to, the 19th I boarded the Ship *Boston Packet* of Boston, burthen 140 Tons, James Shepherd Master, from Petersburgh and Cowes, laden with the same kind of Cargo as the Ship *Nicholas,* but different Owners, as you will observe by the report herewith transmitted; I beg leave, Sir, to Observe to you, that there are no Rope Walks, nor any Consumption for those Two Cargoes in this place, nor in the Province, but a very easy, and even daily conveyance by small Coasting Vessels, from this place to New Liverpool and Cape Sable, from which places it is but a short way across the Bay of Fundy to the Continent of Massachusetts Bay &ca &ca, and those Two Cargoes are Consigned to the Masters: Those two Ships sailed from Salem in December 1774, for Charles Town South Carolina, there loaded Rice for Cowes, and from thence proceeded for the Baltic; the Crews of both Ships entered for my Ship, and I am informed by the Crew of the *Boston Packet,* that the Master declared repeatedly on the Passage, that, could he make Cape Codd, he would go in there and land his Cargo, or could he make Cape Ann, he did not fear meeting with some of his Friends, to carry him into Beverly or Salem, but the Wind hanging to the Southward, he with difficulty made this Harbour: I am firmly of Opinion, that if I have the delivering and Searching those Two Ships, I shall find more than is in their Clearance from Cowes; I shall be extremely happy to know your pleasure respecting those Vessels, likewise Vessels from the French West India Islands with Melasses, and with Salt from Spain and Portugal &ca, as this place is now made the Magazine and Repository which is easily transported to the Continent. I am, Sir, &ca

Hugh Bromedge

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1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL [1]

In Council [Watertown], January 27th, 1776.

Whereas it has been practiced heretofore, to bring before the Council, the Crews belonging to those Vessels, which have been taken by the Captains, commissioned, or acting under this Colony; by Means whereof the Public Charge has been needlessly increased:

Therefore, Ordered, That no Men belonging to Vessels, taken as aforesaid, excepting the Masters and Passengers, if any there be, be hereafter brought before the Council, unless there shall be a special Order of Council therefor.

Perez Morton, Dep Sec'y.

[1] *Boston Gazette,* January 29, 1776.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES [1]

[Boston, January] 27 [1776]

The *Halifax* came in from Cat Island and brought a Letter from Captain [George] Montagu of the *Fowey,* acquainting the Admiral that he cannot put A stop to the Insolence of the Privateers without more force, referring the Admiral to Lieutt Quarme for information respecting the Situation of Cat Island, the *Fowey* &c, and also acquainting the Admiral he had moved from Cat Island to Bakers Island for Water, which fell short at the former place, and that he was sent away from Halifax, and fitted there in such a Hurry that the *Fowey* was not in a Condition for any immediate Service.

An Account now came from Captain [William C.] Burnaby,[2] in a Letter dated the 17th of January, that by Advices received from the Rebels it was said they have an absolute Intention of attacking Boston early in the Spring. Letters from Commissioner [Marriot] Arbuthnot acknowledged the Receipt of the Admirals Orders and Dispatches by the *Cerberus* and *General Gage,* and informed that the *Cerberus* was alongside the Wharfe dismantled, and the *Roebuck* sailed for Virginia. From Captain [William] Duddingstone of the *Senegal* there was Advice that he had arrived at Liverpool the 26th of December, but could get no Voluntiers, and that since the *Senegals* Arrival in that Harbour they had prayed for the King, a Custom which had for a long time before been omitted. All which Intelligence the Vice Admiral transmitted forthwith to Mr Shuldham for his better Guidance.

[1] Graves's Conduct, II, 33–35, BM.

[2] Commanding H.M.S. *Merlin.*

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM [1]

By Sam^{l} Graves Esqr Vice
Admiral of the White and
Commander in Chief &c

You are hereby required and directed to take upon you the direction of the Port Duty, and the Command of his Majestys Ships and Vessels named in the

Margin now in this Harbour, togather with those whose Names are mentioned on the other Side; Giving such Orders and Directions to their several Commanders as you shall judge best for his Majesty's Service.

Given under my Hand on board
his Majs Ship *Preston* at
Boston 27th January 1776.
Sam^{l} Graves

(Ships and Vessels mentioned in the Margin Vizt)

Chatham	Captn Raynor
Lively	Bishop
Halifax Schr	Lieutt Quarme
Diligent	Dod
Dispatch	Goodridge
Tryal	Brown
Adventure Storeship	Hallum
Spinkes Sloop,	formerly Tender to the *Canceaux*, lately used to carry Provisions and Stores to the Ships in the Harbour —

(Ships and Vessels mentioned on the other Side Vizt)

Ships Names	Commanders	Where stationed
Renown	Captn Banks	In Nantasket
Centurion	Brathwaite	
Niger	Talbot	Cape Cod
Fowey	Geo. Montagu	Off Cat Island
Halifax	Lieutt Quarme	
Cerberus	Captn Symons	At Halifax.
Lizard	Hamilton	Quebec
Merlin	Burnaby	Annapolis Royal
Senegal	Duddingston	Liverpool.
Savage	Bromedge	Halifax.
Hunter	Mackenzie	Quebec.
Gaspee Brig	Lieutt Hunter	The Officer and People taken Prisoners.
Nautilus	Mason	In Boston Bay.
Hope Brig	Dawson	

1. Graves's Conduct, II, 34, BM.

"DISPOSITION OF THE FLEET UPON THE ADMIRALS [GRAVES] QUITTING THE COMMAND OF IT ON 27 JANRY 1776"[1]

Name	Guns	Commanders	Complement	Station	
Preston	50	Vice Adml Graves Capt. John Robinson	350	Before the Town	In Boston
Chatham	50	Rear Adml Shuldham Capt John Raynor	350		
Renown	50	Banks	350	In Nantasket	
Centurion	50	Brathwaite	350	Do	
Lively	20	Bishop	150	Before the Town	
Nautilus	16	Lieutt. Mason	110	Cruizing in the Bay	
Adventure Storeship	8	Hallum	40	Off Longwharf Boston	
Canceaux A Ship	6	Mowat	45	Do ordered to England	
Halifax Schr	6	Quarme	30	Cruizing in the Bay	
Diligent Schr	6	Dodd	30	New Vessels fitting out	Boston
Tryal Adv.Boat	2	Browne	20		
Dispatch Schr	6	Goodridge	30		
Niger	32	Talbot	180	In Cape Cod Harbour	
Rose	20	Wallace	150	At New York [*sic* Rhode Island]	
Glasgow	20	Howe	150		
Swan	16	Ayscough	110		
Bolton Brig	6	Sneyd	30		
Hope Brig	8	Dawson	30	Cruizing in the Bay	
Phoenix	44	Parker	250	At New York	
Asia	64	Vandeput	500		
Viper	10	Saml Graves	80	On her Passage to New York	
Liverpool	20	Bellew	130	Supposed to be at Virginia	
Otter	16	Squire	100	At Virginia	
Kingsfisher	16	Jas Montagu	100		
Roebuck	44	Hammond	250	On her passage to Virginia	
Raven	14	Stanhope	110	Do to Georgia	
Cruizer	8	Parry	60	At No Carolina, ordered to Boston	
Scorpion	14	Tollemache	100	On her passage to No Carolina	
Tamer	16	Thornborough	100	At So Carolina, ordered to Boston	
Mercury	20	Graeme	150	With Major Genl Clinton to the Southward	
Falcon	14	Linzee	110	On her Passage to Cape Fear	
Scarborough	20	Barkley	150	On their passage to Savannah in Georgia	
Hinchinbrook Schr	6	Lt Ellis	30		
St Lawrence Schr	6	Jno Graves	30	At St Augustine	
St John Schr	6	Wm Grant	36	Bahama Islands	
Cerberus	28	C. Symons	150	At Halifax	
Savage	8	Bromedge	60		
Senegal	14	Duddingstone	110	At Liverpool	
Merlin	16	Burnaby	110	At Annapolis [Royal]	
Lizard	20	Hamilton	150	At Quebec	
Hunter	10	Mackenzie	80		
Fowey	20	Geo. Montagu	150	Off Bakers Island near Salem	

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1. Graves's Conduct, II, 35–36, BM.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M. BRIG *Hope*[1]

Remark's on bd the *Hope* Saturdy 27th Janry 1776

5 [A.M.] Weigh'd and Came to Sail [from Boston harbor]

7 Past His Majesty's Ships *Renown, Centurion* and *Nawtillus* [*Nautilus*] in Nantasket Road

8 Boston Light Hous W S W 4 Lgs

9 Spoek the *General Gawge* Sloop from Halifax bound to Boston,[2]

10 Bor away for Plimouth

12 at Noon Gurnet Head So 2 Miles

2 [P.M.] Fresh Gales and Squaly Turning in to Plimouth

3 Saw one of the Rebel Schooners in Side of the Beach Point

4 Bor away for Cap Cod Gurnet Head Wt 5 Leagues

9 Anchored here in Cape Cod harbr with the Smal Bour in 5 fms and Vrd to a 1/3 of a Cable Sandy Point S B E Watring Place N N W

12 [M.] of[f] Shore 2 Miles found Riding here his Majesty's Ship *Niger* and a Transport

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 52/1823.

[2] The *General Gage* had just had an encounter with Washington's schooner *Hancock* off Plymouth.

AFFIDAVIT OF THOMAS HOLBROOK[1]

An estimate of the loss I the Subcriber sufferd by Reason of the Capture of Two small Vessells by a Man of War of[f] Plymouth Harbour on Novr 25 1775 Viz

Cash paid for retakeing one of sd Vessels damage done to Her &c	£ 155. 14. 8
Cash paid for getting of[f] the other Vessel damage done &c	35. 6. 8
700 Bushels Oysters all lost by reason of sd Vessels being taken	46. 13. 4
	237. 14. 8

Thos Holbrook

Janry 27, 1776 Barnstable ss

The above named Thomas Holbrook personally apeared before me and made Oath to the above estimate by him subcrib'd

Jno Atwood Justes Peace

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[1] Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 285.

Providence Gazette, SATURDAY, JANUARY 27, 1776

Providence, January 27.

Capt. Joseph Manchester, of this Place, who in August last was taken by two Tenders in the River, and sent to Boston,[1] arrived here from thence on Wednesday last. – He got to Chelsea in a Vessel which had been ordered from Boston, with a Number of the Poor of that Town. – He informs that General [Henry] Clinton sailed from thence on Thursday Se'nnight, with several Transports, having on board 500 Troops, under Convoy of a Man of War, supposed to be bound to the Southward – He likewise informs, that when the Houses at Charlestown were burnt by a Party of Continental Troops, most of the Officers belonging to the ministerial Army were attending the Representation of a Comedy, called *The Blockade of Boston.* The Play was immediately suspended, the Town thrown into the utmost Confusion and Consternation, and it is thought might have been safely carried at that Time. – Captain Manchester also advises, that Provisions and Fuel continue to be very scarce and dear in Boston, and that a Vessel from that Place, with Invalids bound to England, lately foundered on the Banks of Newfoundland, and every Soul on board perished.

A Ship from London, and a Brig from Cork, bound for Boston, were last Week taken at the Eastward by our Privateers – The following is given as the List of their Cargoes, viz

Ship *Friend*'s Cargo, from London, out 11 Weeks.

52 Chaldrons of Coal, 20 Hogsheads of Vinegar, 86 Butts of Porter, 30 Hogsheads of Ditto, 16 Hogsheads of Sour-Grout (pickled Cabbage) 60 Hogs, 23 alive, Cordage and sundry other Articles.

Brig *Sukey's* Cargo from Cork, out 10 Weeks.

58 Tierces of [best] Beef, 10 Barrels of Ditto, 31 Half Barrels of Ditto, 1 Tierce of best Pork, 11 Barrels of Ditto, 9 Half Barrels Ditto, 150 Firkins of Butter, 72 Crocks Ditto, 3 Puncheons of Oats, 2 Firkins of Lard, 64 Firkins of Tongues, 1 Barrel of Ditto, 10 Half Barrels of Ditto, 91 Kegs of Tripe, 1 Keg Cheeks, 1 Keg of Tallow, 10 Puncheons of Claret, 2 Casks of Peas, 1 Box (Contents unknown) 109 Hampers of Potatoes, 2 large Canisters of Tea.[2]

We learn that a Ship from Whitehaven, bound to Boston, was likewise taken a few Days since at the Eastward, laden principally with Coal and Provisions: She had also on board, it is said, 1500 Blankets for the ministerial Troops.

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1. The brig *Sea Flower,* from Hispaniola for Providence, taken by tenders from H.M.S. *Rose* and *Swan,* Graves's Prize List, December 31, 1775, Graves's Conduct, II, 36–38, BM.
2. These are more complete inventories of the *Friends* and *Sukey* than those given in the *Essex Journal,* January 19, 1776.

MINUTES OF THE CONNECTICUT COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

Lebanon Jany 27th 1776

In Committee of Safety.

Voted That Capt Seth Harding be appointed and Directed forthwith to Report to Say Brook and advise and assist Capt [Uriah] Hayden and others In Draughting and Building the Colony Ship to be built at that Place in the best Manner and with the Greatest Expedition possible for the Service designed; said Harding to attend on said Service untill further Orders from this Committee or the General Assembly

A true Copy from the Minutes [2] Test W^m^ Williams Clerk

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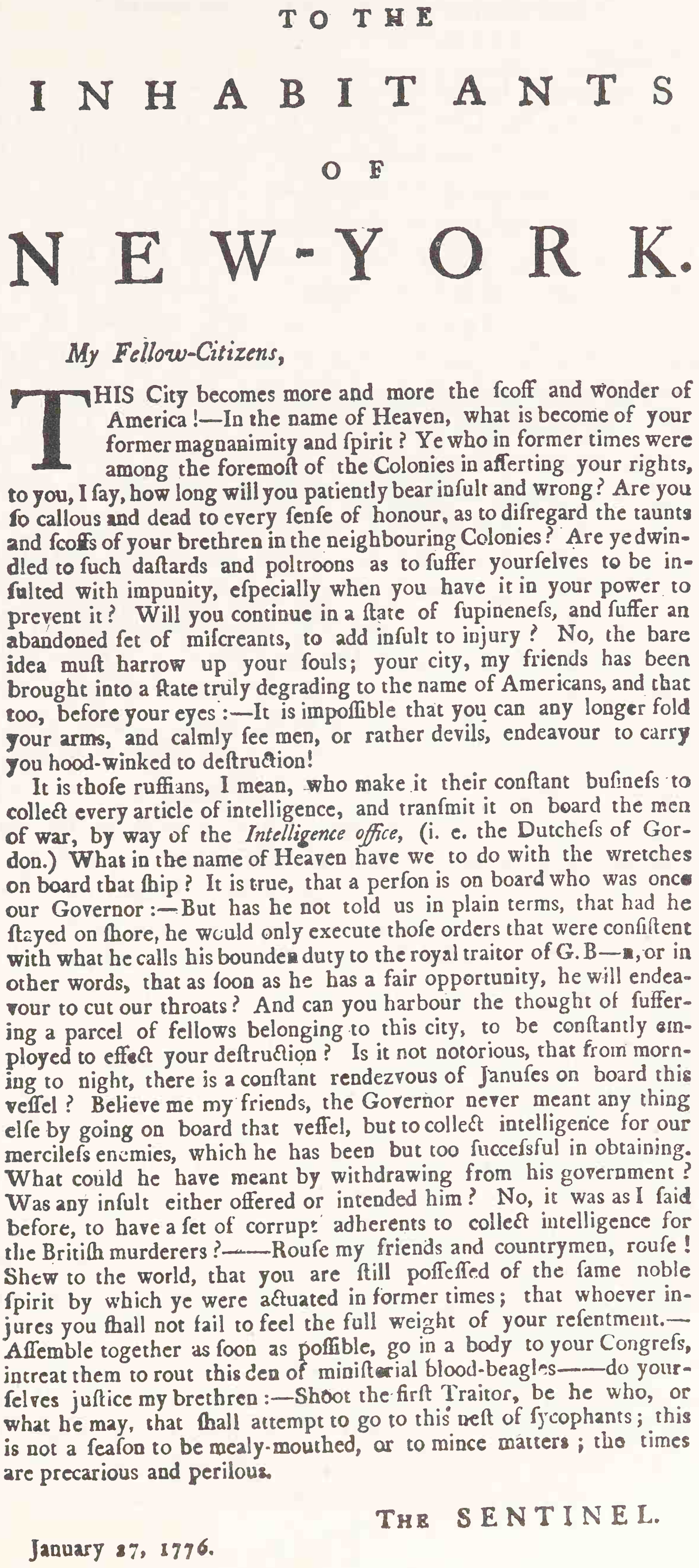
1. NA, Record Group 45.
2. This order is summarized in the printed minutes, to read: "Saturday 27th January. Pass'd an Order for Cap. Harding to go to Saybrook and assist in forming the plan of the ship &c., as on paper itself, and copy sent by B. H. [Benjamin Huntington] Esqr." Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut Records,* XV, 226.



TO THE

INHABITANTS

OF

NEW-YORK.

My Fellow-Citizens,

THIS City becomes more and more the ſcoff and wonder of America!—In the name of Heaven, what is become of your former magnanimity and ſpirit? Ye who in former times were among the foremoſt of the Colonies in aſſerting your rights, to you, I ſay, how long will you patiently bear inſult and wrong? Are you ſo callous and dead to every ſenſe of honour, as to diſregard the taunts and ſcoffs of your brethren in the neighbouring Colonies? Are ye dwindled to ſuch daſtards and poltroons as to ſuffer yourſelves to be inſulted with impunity, eſpecially when you have it in your power to prevent it? Will you continue in a ſtate of ſupineneſs, and ſuffer an abandoned ſet of miſcreants, to add inſult to injury? No, the bare idea muſt harrow up your ſouls; your city, my friends has been brought into a ſtate truly degrading to the name of Americans, and that too, before your eyes:—It is impoſſible that you can any longer fold your arms, and calmly ſee men, or rather devils, endeavour to carry you hood-winked to deſtruction!

It is thoſe ruffians, I mean, who make it their conſtant buſineſs to collect every article of intelligence, and tranſmit it on board the men of war, by way of the *Intelligence office*, (i. e. the Dutcheſs of Gordon.) What in the name of Heaven have we to do with the wretches on board that ſhip? It is true, that a perſon is on board who was once our Governor:—But has he not told us in plain terms, that had he ſtayed on ſhore, he would only execute thoſe orders that were conſiſtent with what he calls his bounden duty to the royal traitor of G. B—n, or in other words, that as ſoon as he has a fair opportunity, he will endeavour to cut our throats? And can you harbour the thought of ſuffering a parcel of fellows belonging to this city, to be conſtantly employed to effect your deſtruction? Is it not notorious, that from morning to night, there is a conſtant rendezvous of Januſes on board this veſſel? Believe me my friends, the Governor never meant any thing elſe by going on board that veſſel, but to collect intelligence for our mercileſs enemies, which he has been but too ſucceſsful in obtaining. What could he have meant by withdrawing from his government? Was any inſult either offered or intended him? No, it was as I ſaid before, to have a ſet of corrupt adherents to collect intelligence for the Britiſh murderers?——Rouſe my friends and countrymen, rouſe! Shew to the world, that you are ſtill poſſeſſed of the ſame noble ſpirit by which ye were actuated in former times; that whoever injures you ſhall not fail to feel the full weight of your reſentment.—Aſſemble together as ſoon as poſſible, go in a body to your Congreſs, intreat them to rout this den of miniſterial blood-beagles——do yourſelves juſtice my brethren:—Shoot the firſt Traitor, be he who, or what he may, that ſhall attempt to go to this neſt of ſycophants; this is not a ſeaſon to be mealy-mouthed, or to mince matters; the times are precarious and perilous.

The SENTINEL.

January 27, 1776.

Deposition of Joseph Woolcombe[1]

City of New York ss:

Personally appeared before me David Mathews Esqr one of his Majesties Justices of the Peace for the City & County of New York Joseph Woolcombe late of Topsham in that part of Great Britain called England of full age and being duly sworn on the holy Evangelists of Almighty God deposeth & saith, That some time in the month of October last past he was Shipped as Chief Mate of the Ship called the *Blue Mountain Valley* under the Command of John Hamilton Dempster. That the said Ship was at that time engaged to proceed to Boston with a Cargo for the Use of the King's Troops, That the Cargo consisted of one hundred & twenty chaldron of Sea Coal, one hundred Butts of Porter, ten pipes of Sour Crout, between two and three hundred Sacks of Potatoes, Eighty live hogs, with a number of Sacks of Horse beans to feed the said Hogs, all which said Cargo was Ship'd by order of Government and at their risque for the Use of the King's Troops at Boston or any other Port in America where the said Troops might be Stationed accompanied with a Letter directed to the Commander in Chief of the said Troops in America. That this Deponent Judges that the said Vessell was about three hundred Tons burthen, That the Crew on board consisted of sixteen persons including the Officers and two boys, That the said Ship was armed with four three Pounders and had on board four half Barrells of Powder with Shot in proportion. That the said Ship sailed from London about the Latter end of October last past having Sealed orders on board which were not to be opened, untill they had got fifty leagues to the Westward of Cape Clear, That there sailed in company with them a number of other Transports laden with Provisions and other Stores for the Use of the Kings Troops in America, That when they arrived at the place appointed as aforesaid for opening the said Orders, the Deponent was present at opening of them and as near as he can recollect, They were in Substance as follows, to wit, That they were not to enter any Port of America not even Boston without first speaking with one of his Majesties Ship's of War and Conducted in or assured by her that it was a Port of Safety, That the Signals were to be attended to in order to discover their friends from Enemies, a List of which Signals both for day & night the said Captain had, which Signals were to be kept Secret and delivered up to the Commander in Chief on the said Ship's being discharged the Service, And this Deponent further saith, That at the time of their Sailing as aforesaid [t]heir whole Stock of Water consisted of about forty Puncheons, That the greater part of their hogs died before they had cleared the Channell, And the Chief part of the Remainder before they Struck Soundings on the Coast of America, That they Attempted to make a Northern Passage with the said Ship and after being out about six weeks and having met with much Stormy Weather and head winds during that time they Judged themselves to be on the Coast of America a little to the Northward of Boston but were not able to Strike Soundings and the Northwest Winds coming on to blow very Violent and very Constant prevented their getting nearer the Coast altho' they were about three weeks in Attempting it, That in one of these Gales the Upper Gudgeon Iron of their Rudder broke which occasioned the Middle one to work loose and under these Circumstances it was Judged best to Stand away to the Southward in hopes of making the Coast in a more moderate Climate, That at this time they discovered they were very Short of Water occasioned by its being put into new Casks which were furnished by Government and had not been Seasoned, and were leaky. That they were thereupon put to an Allowance of two Quarts a day, and for a week before they made land they were at an Allowance of three pints a day,

That the first land they made since their Sailing from England as aforesaid was on thursday the eighteenth instant near Egg Harbour in the Province of New Jersey on which they Stood along shore for Sandy hook in hopes of meeting with Some of his Majesties Ships of War, That on the next day the wind came on so Violent from the Northwest, That it drove them off the Land, That the day after being Saturday the twentieth instant the wind coming favorable they made the Land again towards evening, and the next morning being in Sight of the light house on Sandy Hook, they fired three Guns for a Pilot, That about one of the Clock the same day one Dobbs a Pilot belonging to the Port of New York with four other persons whose names the Deponent understands are Robert Hogg, George Stewart, one Lewis and one Carr, all of the City of New York as the Deponent believes came on board the said Ship in a Skiff, That the said Dobbs immediately on coming on board asked the said Captain Dempster whether he had fired for a Pilot, to which the said Captain answered that he had not, That he only wanted to put a passenger on Shore and asked the said Dobbs what he would have for doing it who demanded a half Johannes which was agreed to by the said Captain, That the said Dobbs asked from whence the said Ship came and where she was bound and was answered by the said Captain, That she came from London and was bound to the northward without mentioning any Port in particular, That the said Captain asked the said Dobbs whether there were any men of War in the Port of New York and was informed by the said Dobbs that there were two.

And the Deponent further saith, That no other Conversation passed between the said Captain Dempster and the said Dobbs that the Deponent knows of, he the Deponent having been present the whole time that the said Dobbs was on board which was only a few minutes, And the Deponent further saith, That it had been agreed between the said Captain and this Deponent before the said Dobbs came on board: That the Deponent should be sent up to New York (in case there were any of the Kings Ships of War there) in order to get some Intelligence or directions from them how the said Captain Dempster was to proceed with the said Ship, and whether he could be furnished with a Pilot or Convoy, and it was further agreed, That in Case the Deponent should not return in twenty four hours from the time of his leaving the said Ship, That the Captain in such Case was to put to Sea again concluding that the Deponent was taken prisoner, That the Deponent left the said Ship about one of the Clock on Sunday last in the said Skiff together with the said Dobbs and the other four persons herein before named having with him three Letters from the said Captain to his friends in England and one from George Townsend to his brother there, which said Letters the Deponent was to deliver on board one of the said Ships of War to be forwarded, That on their Passage up to the City of New York from the said Ship the Deponent asked the said Dobbs whether he could not put him on board the *Asia* Ship of War, to which the said Dobbs answered, That he would not do it for an hundred pounds further saying, Do you think I'll betray my Country, That they arrived at the City of New York about six of the Clock in the Evening of the same day, and landed at the White hall Slip, when the said Dobbs asked the Deponent if he would go into a Publick house and as they were cold they would get some Punch, That the Deponent went with the said Dobbs into a Publick house near the said Ship and had been in but a few minutes when the Deponent was Seized by a number of armed men the Letters aforesaid taken from him and his Pockets searched after which the Deponent and the said Dobbs were carried up to the Upper Barracks and Confined under a Guard,

That the next day the Deponent was Conducted before a number of Persons not exceeding six or seven who said they were a Committee of Safety, two of which said Persons the Deponent knew, the one by the name of [John Morin] Scott and the other by the name of [Alexander] McDougall, That they asked the Deponent some General Questions relative to the said Ship and her lading, That the Deponent was kept under Guard untill Tuesday last in the Evening when he was discharged and the Letters aforesaid returned to him opened. That the next day he went on board of his Majesties Ship of War the *Asia* where he now remains as he has heard and believes it to be true, That the said Ship in which the Deponent arrived at Sandy hook as aforesaid is seized by some persons belonging to the Colony of New Jersey and carried into some port in that Province, That the Deponent has delivered the Letters aforesaid to the Governor of New York, And the Deponent further saith, That he has been once before in this Port which is about a twelve month since, That he then came here from London in a Ship called the *Brittania* and was here about three months and then Sailed for London again in the same Ship, And further saith not

Jo^{s} Woolcombe

Sworn this 27th day of January 1776
Before me D Mathews

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/1107, Part I, 367–70.

LORD STIRLING TO JOHN HANCOCK [1]

Sir, Elizabeth Town Jany 27: 1776

My Letter to you of the 24th from on Board of the Ship *Blue Mountain Valley,* off Amboy I hope you received. the Next day we got her into the Sound near Blazeing Star, where she Grounded, but by lightening her, we got of[f] again Yesterday Morning, and brought her up to Elizabeth point where she now lies, under the Care of Capt [William] Rogers is [*sic*] whose Charge for the Use of the Continent Congress I have put her and is Guarded by a detachment of my Regiment, I thought it most prudent to Unbend her Sails and to have her unladen as soon as possible, and have given directions to have the

Cargoe & Stores brought into this town as soon as possible Capt Rogers who was recommended to me by the N York Committee of Safety, has been very Alert and Steady throughout this Whole Affair, is well worthy of the Confidence they placed in him.[2] I would Now give a More particular relation of this transaction, But the Cold & fategue I have been exposed to for the last fortnight has almost got the better of me, it is with difficulty I can set up to write this. I shall enclose a Copy of the Manifest & Bill of Lading of the Cargoe of this Ship, a Strange Cargoe! and twenty odd Similar ones Sailed about the Same time! the Capt is Brother to George Dempster Esqr a Valuable friend to North America in the House Commons, he is a Sensible Genteel Young Man, all his property, about £ 100.Sterling is on Board, a trifle also belongs to the Mates; I must beg it as a favour of the Congress to order me to restore it to them, for they have all behaved Extreamly Well, and were very Usefull to us in Working the Ship; and the Sailors are now assisting the Soldiers in Unladeing her. I have great reason to believe that more of these Ships will Come on this Coast & try to get into New York, four or Six small Vessels kept ready and in good Weather to Run between Sandy Hook & Egg Harbour might pick them up, and prevent their receiving any assistance from Capt [Hyde] Parker [Jr.].

Major [William] DeHart returned Yesterday from Long Island with the detachment of my Regiment, and has brought me four Colours of Long Island Militia; the Arms they took, they have delivered up to Col: [Nathaniel] Heard. I shall enclose a Copy of Major DeHarts Report to me. I am [&c.]

Stirling.

The Honble John Hancock Esqr

[Enclosure]

Ship *Blue Mountain Valley*
Manifest of her Cargo –
Shipp'd in London (at Different Times)
as Follows

			Chalds –
1775	26 Coals		25
Septemr	28 ditto		14
	“ ditto		14
	“ ditto		19
	29 ditto		14
	“ ditto		21
		Total	107
			Butts
Octor 2d	30 Bdles Hoops		
3	Porter, Mark'd Calvert		70
4	ditto ditto		30
		Total	100
6.	Empty Puncheons		18
9.	Beans	Baggs	225
“	Potatoes	Sacks	156

10th	Sour Crouts	Casks	10
"	Live Hoggs		80
11	Empty Puncheons		17
13	Compleated Ships Sea Stores and Proceeded on the Voyage to America —		

Sundry Stores of the Ship Vizt
Masts, Sails, Rigging, Cables,
Anchors &ca
Quantity Uncertain

[Endorsed] Copy from the Mates Book

Stirling.

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1. Papers CC (Letters from General Officers), 162, II, 388–92, NA.
2. Statement, undated, of Captain William Rogers: "Capt Rogors tuck the Ship *Blew Mounton Valey* in the year 1776 Jany. She was Caried into Elizebeth town point. he was was [*sic*] promisd one 100 Guines by Lord Sterling for being the first that boarded her – her Cargo was Sold & he Recivd Nothing ther from the Agent Sued the purchaser of the Ship for the 100 Gunes – and Never Refunded the Same to Capt. Rogars altho he obtaind it." CL.

LORD STIRLING TO CAPTAIN WILLIAM ROGERS [1]

Sir, Elizabeth Town Jany 27th 1776

I do now deliver into your Custody and charge, and you are hereby Authorized and directed in behalf and on account of the Continental Congress to take charge of the ship *Blue Mountain Valley* lately commanded by Captain John Hamilton Demptser, and now lying at or near Elizabeth Town point in New Jersey with all her Cargoe and Stores, and the same to preserve & Secure in the best Manner you can untill further order from the Continental Congress, their General or Commander in chief in this province for the time being.

And you are in the most exact way in your power to see that the said Captain Dempsters private property on board said Ship and that of each of his Officers and Men be Secured and preserved until such further Order as aforesaid. I shall in the meantime, send on board and in the Neighbourhood of said Ship post such Guards as I find Necessary to preserve her from any Attempts that may be made on her. –

In behalf of the Continental Congress of the United Colonies in America. –

Stirling.

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1. Papers CC (Letters from General Officers), 162, II, 404, NA.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS [1]

[Philadelphia] Saturday, January 27, 1776

The Congress taking into consideration the report of the committee on the case of Mr. Jugé,

Resolved, That Monsr Jugé be permitted to export the produce or manufactures of the province of Maryland (horned cattle, hogs, sheep, and poultry excepted) to any port or place whatsoever, (except to Great Britain, Ireland, British isles, and British West Indies, and for the supply of the British army or navy in America) to the amount of the canvas imported by him into said province: the said value to be ascertained by the committee of inspection and observation for the county of Baltimore:

Resolved, nevertheless, that the indulgence, in this instance, ought not to be drawn into example, the same being granted to Monsr Jugé on account of the peculiar circumstances of his case; and that the said Monsr Jugé be enjoined, by the aforesaid committee of Baltimore, to avoid, if possible, all British ships of war and armed cutters on his voyage.

Resolved, That a committee of 3 be appointed, to take into consideration the matter of the inlistment of apprentices and persons in debt, report thereon to Congress

The members chosen, Mr. [Thomas] M'Kean, Mr. [Robert Treat] Paine, and Mr. [George] Wythe.

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1. Ford, ed., *JCC,* IV, 94–98.

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH [1]

[Philadelphia] Saturday 27 January – Letters from Gen. Washington Ld Stirling and others, my Lord has taken a Transport at Sandy Hook [2] and 2 more Vessels are taken by one of the Massachusetts armed Ships [3] . . . the Matter of inlisting Apprentices and small Debtors was committed to [Thomas] McKean, [Robert Treat] Paine & myself – A Petn was read & committed, from Keppele [Henry Kepple] & [John] Steinmetz prayg Recompence for a Ship & Cargo carried into Boston to the Value of £5000 & upwards – Mr Juge of Maryland permitted to export Produce from that Colony in Return for Canvass imported

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1. Richard Smith's Diary, LC.
2. The transport *Blue Mountain Valley.*
3. The prizes were the *Friends* and *Sukey.* See Jonathan Jackson to the Massachusetts Council, January 16, 1776, and the *Essex Journal,* Newburyport, January 19, 1776.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

In Committee of Safety

Philad'a, 27th Jan'y, 1776.

Doct'r [John] Smith brought to this City and confined by order of [the Continental] Congress, as a person inimical to the Liberties of America, was this day brought before this Board, and being examined, and found, from his own confession, to have acted an unfriendly part in the present dispute between Great Britain and these Colonies, was remanded to Gaol, & there to remain 'till the further orders of this Board or the Congress.

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1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records,* X, 469.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO THE CONTINENTAL NAVAL COMMITTEE [1]

Gent. [Reedy Island, Delaware Bay] Jany 27.1776.

The River holds still froze so much that the Pilots will not undertake to carry us from here But perhaps we may Sail b[e]fore the things can come for the small Sloop [2] by Water think it will be best to Send some of the most Necessary things by Land such as some of the Swivel Guns Some Musquet Ball some old Canvas & six 20 feet Oars. I am with Respect [&c.]

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1. Hopkins Papers, II, 41, RIHS.
2. The *Fly*; purchase of "a small vessel as a tender for the fleet" was authorized by Congress on January 16, 1776. Ford, ed., *JCC,* IV, 60.

RECEIPTS RELATING TO THE MARYLAND SHIP *Defence* [1]

[Baltimore]

Recd 27th Jany 1776 of Capt James Nicholson Thirty Six Shillings for boarding Alexr Cummings three Weeks

£ 1.16 William Gittings

Recd 27th Jany 1776 of Capt James Nicholson Thirty Nine Shillings & Six pence being the Balance due for boarding William Porter & William Shoan eighteen days each

£ 1 . . 19 . . 6 John Lee

Recd 27th Jany 1776 of Capt James Nicholson Nine pounds five Shillings in part pay of Casks made for Ship *Defence*

£ 9 . . 5– John Morison

Recd 27th Jany 1776 of Captain James Nicholson Two pounds four Shillings & five pence [L.] for boarding William Matthews, William Judge & Sam: Murphy each Seven days & Richd Cockey five days

her
£ 2 . . 4 . . [5½] Ann X Simmons
mark

Recd 27th Jany 1776 of Capt James Nicholson Three Shillings for three Brooms for the use of the Ship *Defence*

£ 0.3– John Cattel

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1. Account Book, Ship *Defence* Papers, MdHS.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM ACCOMACK [VIRGINIA], JANUARY 27." [1]

I have to acquaint you that last Monday [January 22] a new cedar built rig, inward bound from the West-Indies, loaden with 3000 bushels of salt, belonging to Mr.Christian, of Northampton county, Eastern shore, was chased into Cherrystone harbour by a sloop tender; the Captain seeing that he could not escape the tender, ran the brig ashore, and took to his boat and gained the shore; the tender boarded her and was two days endeavouring to get her off, but proving unsuccessful, they set her on fire and burned her. The brig was not within musket shot of the shore, else the men stationed on that coast might have prevented their boarding her. –

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1. *Pennsylvania Packet,* February 12, 1776.

DIXON AND HUNTER'S *Virginia Gazette,* SATURDAY, JANUARY 27, 1776

Williamsburg, Jan. 27.

An express arrived here on Tuesday [January 23] with advices, that last Sunday morning near a hundred of the enemy landed at Norfolk, from the men of war, under a heavy firing of cannon, which continued when the express came away. They had set three houses on fire, but were soon forced to retire; the loss they sustained was then uncertain. Three of our men were killed by cannon shot, two of whom, it is said, belonged to Capt.Bleuford's [Abraham Buford's] company of minute-men.

On Wednesday evening last six waggons arrived here from Philadelphia, loaded with arms and ammunition.

One Wootten, in a canoe from Hampton, a few days ago, was chased by a tender as far as Sowel's Point. The old man hauled his canoe on shore, and ran into the woods, but was pursued by some men from the tender; they were soon discovered by our guard stationed there, who fired upon them, and the consequence of their attempt to catch one was, that they lost *three,* killed upon the spot.

PURDIE'S *Virginia Gazette,* FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 1776 [1]

Williamsburg, Saturday, Jan. 27.

By capt. [John] Green, just arrived from Norfolk, we learn that the day after the late cannonading, from the *Liverpool* and *Otter,* two sailors were taken prisoners a little below the new distillery, in search of water (of which the fleet is greatly in want), who informed, that a number of men were wounded in the fray at the Town Point wharf, and carried off in the boats. And capt. Green tells us, that the enemy appear solicitous to conceal their dead and wounded, as their *brother savages,* the Indians, who have always been remarkable for that piece of *finesse.*

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1. The masthead listed this issue of the *Virginia Gazette* as being published on Friday, January 26, but it was a day late in reaching its subscribers and was partially datelined January 27.

VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

In Committee of Safety Virga Jan 27. 1776

Gentn As we are so closely connected by inclination as well as interest and our situation strongly points out the propriety of attending to the operations which may be necessary for our mutual defence, We are desirous of establishing & keeping up a constant intimate correspondence with you – We think it proper to inform you that we have resolved to build for the protection of Potomac River two row gallies one of them to carry one 24 pounder, the other a twelve pounder & both swivels – also three vessels carrying one of them four six pounders & some four pounders the other two vessels four pounders & swivels. We do not conceive this adequate to the importance of that great river, but as we have three other rivers to which we must extend the like care, and as your province is equally interested in the Safety of Potomac river we could not doubt but it would be the wish of your body to participate in its protection. Our determination on this head is yet subject to alteration and we shall chearfully consult & advise with you on this or any other subject conducive to the Interest of both & to our mutual defence. We are [&c.]

John Tabb. John Page V.P.
Tho^s Walker Dudley Digges.
P. Carrington. J^s Mercer.

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1. Letters to Council of Safety, Md. Arch.

THADY TURNEY TO RICHARD BUTTON [1]

Sir Portohomack January 27th 1776.

I am sorry I've not the pleasure of delivering Mrs Buttons Commands personally, as she is a Lady I would go any length to serve, however I give your Letters to Captain Burke, whom is a Gentleman I would confide in, and am sure will deliver them safe to you. I should be the bearer only for some dispute happened between one of the passengers and I, therefore hindred me of that pleasure of being acquainted with you, tho am of opinion will be in Antigua soon. The Fleet is under Commodore [William] Stone [2] and is to take care of them till he sees them outside the Capes. the breezes is beginning to stir up, and must remain Sir [&c.]

Thady Turney.

To Richd Button Esqr St John's Antigua.
[Endorsed] (a Copy) Jam^s Young [3]

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1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.
2. Captain William Stone, of the Continental sloop *Hornet,* who had orders to escort a number of merchant vessels out of Chesapeake Bay before joining the Continental fleet in Delaware Bay, Hopkins Papers, RIHS.
3. An intercepted letter. Copy bears the signature of Vice Admiral James Young, commanding the British squadron in the Leeward Islands.

LORD DUNMORE TO RICHARD CORBIN [1]

Copy of a letter from the Earl of Dunmore to the Honble Richard Corbin Esqr dated on board the Ship *Dunmore* in Virginia 27th January 1776. –

Sir Notwithstanding the many crule and false invectives thrown out against me, as an Enemy to this Colony; Conscious to myself however of my firm attachment to this Country in General, and this Colony in particular; I am well convinced, tho' the present Rulers may have thought it requisite, in support of their late adopted Measures, to represent me in the very opposite light, to what they were pleased to do, but a few months before, yet there is not one amongst them, that ever viewed my conduct with an impartial Eye, but is sensible that every transaction of my Administration, proceeded from a heart that never yet entertained a thought which was not meant for the real happiness, and well being of this Colony; this ever having been my first object, the very moment I received my dispatches last year, I called the Assembly to lay before them the Resolves of the House of Parliament, not doubting then, but they would have been received by every well wisher to His Country with Transports of Joy; now having received His Majesty's most Gracious Speech, I catch at with the greatest pleasure, the last sentence it contains, wherein He says, "It may be also proper to Authorize persons so Commissioned to restore such Province, or Colony, so returning to it's Allegiance to the free exercise of it's Trade and Commerce and to the same protection and Security as if such Province or Colony had never revolted.["] I say I catch with the greatest avidity at this generous, this humane, this truly Noble Sentiment, again to offer every exertion of my poor Abilities, to procure by any means that shall be thought most advisable, an Honourable Permanent, Speedy and happy Reconciliation, between this Colony, and it's Parent State; I wish to God they may reflect er'e they draw upon them the wrath of that powerfull, tho' Mercifull People, and by that means involve this once most happy Land, in all the horrors of a most distructive Civil War, wherein, were they as Successfull as the most sanguine amongst them could wish, could only end in their inevitable distruction; What then have they to hope for, and what have they not to fear, by a persiverance in this most ruinous, and Unnatural contest. – Should the Rulers of the People prove as well disposed to return to their duty, as I know the bulk of the Colony are, they will embrace the favourable opportunity that now offers; but should they be so infatuated as to mean totally to throw off all Allegiance to the best of Sovereigns, and connection with the State that has fostered them with the utmost Paternal care, their Memories will be handed down to the latest Posterity, as most undutifull, and ungratefull.

Sir, a thorough Conviction of your warm attachment to this your Native land, and your Admiration of that truely excellent Constitution, and Government, under which you have so long and happily lived, as well as your love for our most Benign Sovereign, induces me to trouble you with the above tender of my Services to this Colony, and I beg you will assure, whomsoever you shall think proper to lay this before, of my willingness to undergo any fatigue, or difficulty for the accomplishment of it's happiness; I have now only to entreat that my sincere endeavours to Effect a reconciliation between this and the Parent State may be enforced by every exertion of your best Advice, and Assistance, and that both may succeed is the ardent wish of Sir [&c.]

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/1353.

MINUTES OF THE WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

Saturday Jany 27th [1776]

The Governor having Summoned his Majesty's Council to attend him on board the *Scorpion* Sloop of War, and several of his Majesty's Council being in this Town on their way to attend on the Governor agreeable to Said Summons

Resolved that this Committee are bound by a Resolve of the Provincial Council to prevent any persons from waiting on Governor [Josiah] Martin; and particularly at this present time, this Committee cannot consistant with the safety of the Country permit his Majesty's Council to attend the Governor; and the Chairman is Ordered to write respectively to each of the Council who may be in Town & acquaint them with this Resolve –

A Letter from Capt: [Francis] Parry, commander of the *Cruizer,* to captain Bachelder, informing him he wd give him leave to pass wth his Vessel provided he brought down the provisions demanded from Mr Campbell – [2] thereupon Resolved that the requisition of Capt: Parry is an insult to this Committee & for the future if any provisions are Suffer'd to go down to the Man of War, they shall be sent down in Small boats as usual –

1. Secretary of State Papers (Committees of Safety 1774–1776), NCDAH.
2. Samuel Campbell, provisioner for the British navy.

Journal of H.M. Sloop *Scorpion,* Captain John Tollemache [1]

Janry 1766	Moor'd in Cape Fear No. Carolina
Friday 26	Watering Loos'd Sails to Dry.
	Mod Breezs Empd Watering
Saturdy 27	at 9 AM Alarm'd by the Waterers hailing the ship sent and brought them off
	at 11 Fir'd 15 Round & 11 Grape Shot at the Rebels in the Fort [2]
	Burnt or Taken by the Rebels 6 Hhds & 4 Barls Powder

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/872.
2. Fort Johnston.

Minutes of the South Carolina Council of Safety [1]

In the Council of Safety,
[Charleston] Saturday, Jan. 27th, 1776.

Read a letter from Capt. Wm. Pindar, of this date.

Ordered, That Capt. Pindar have leave to depart with his vessel, in ballast – going over Charles-Town bar, and first paying all the expences of his vessels' having been brought back from Stono.

The Hon. Capt. Drayton acquainted the board, that he had taken on board the ship *Prosper,* a chest which was said to contain a certain quantity of money belonging to John Ellis, who had attempted to depart the colony without leave, in Capt. Pindar's vessel, and desired instructions how to dispose of the same.

Ordered, That the said chest be deposited in the colony treasury, until the further determination of this board.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society,* III, 225–27.

Stephen Fuller to Lord George Germain [1]

To the Right Honourable the Lord George Germaine, one of his Majesty's principal Secretaries of State

The humble Memorial of Stephen Fuller Esqr Agent for the Island of Jamaica.

My Lord, Your Memorialist begs leave to put your Lordship in mind of the smallness of the Squadron upon the Jamaica Station, which consists of only

	Guns
The *Antelope* of	50
Maidstone of	28
Squirrel of	20
Ferret of	14
Diligence of	10

The *Seaford* of 20 Guns having left the Station a long time since, and no other Ship sent out in her room. Some of our Merchant Ships will be ready to sail from Jamaica by the latter end of March, and it will be very unsafe for them to sail without Convoy, which the present Squadron can by no means afford them, consistent with the safety of the Island; which looks up to your Lordship for its protection, and for such a reinforcement of the Squadron, as will enable it to give convoys thro' the Gulph & the Windward passage into latitudes of security from the American Privateers. Totaly relying upon your Lordship's effectual attention to this important object, I have the honour to be [&c.]

Stephen Fuller

[Jamaica] 27th Jany 1776 –

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 137/71, Part I.

28 Jan. (Sunday)

"AN ACCOUNT OF THE PEOPLES NAMES THAT HAVE STOOD CENTERY AND LABOURED ON BOARD THE SLOOP [*Betsey*] TAKEN BY CAPT MANLY" [1]

John Poter [Porter] [2]	for 8 days & 8 Nights
Jonathan Larkcum [Larkum]	5½ days – 5 Nights
John Potter [Porter]	2 days & 2 Nights
Hennery Larkcum [Larkum]	1 day & 1 Night

The Above was before I Came on Board —

Sence is as follows –

Saml Stone [Storie]	4 days & 4 Nights
John Potter [Porter]	4 days & 4 Nights
Joseph Ober	4 days & 4 Nights
Jonathn Larkcum [Larkum]	4 days & 4 Nights

Rich^{d} James

Beverly Jany 28th – 1776

1. Bartlett Papers, No. 5747, BHS.
2. The corrected names are taken from receipts in another account.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO CAPTAIN JOHN MANLEY [1]

Cambridge 28th Jany 1776

The *Hancock* Armed Schooner

I received your agreeable Letter of the 26th instant giveing an account of your haveing taken & Carried into Plymouth two of the Enemys transports. Your Conduct in engageing the eight gun Schooner, with so few hands as you went out with, your attention in Securing your prizes, & your general good behavior since you first engaged in the Service, Merits Mine, & your Countrys thanks.

You may be assured that every attention will be paid to any reasonable request of yours, & that you shall have the Comand of a Stronger vessel of War, but as it will take up Some time before Such a one Can be fitted out, my desire is, that you Continue in the *Hancock*, until the end [of the] Cruize. When that is out you will Come to Head qrs & we will Confer together in the subject of the other ship. I wish you Coud engage Men at Plymouth to Make your Complement at least 40 Strong it woud enable you to encounter the small tenders that may fall in your way – tho I woud rather have you avoid an engagement untill you have a ship that will place you upon a More equall footing with your enemy – I need not recommend to you to proceed again & pursue your good fortune, I wish you Coud inspire the Captains of the other Armed schooners under your Command with Some of your activity & Industry – Cannot you appoint Such Stations for them, where they May have the best Chance of intercepting Supplies going to the enemy they dare not disobey your orders, as it is Mentioned in the instructions I have given to each of them, that they are to be under your Command, as Comodore & as Such I desire that you will give them Such Instructions in writing as to you will appear proper for the good of the Service I am Sir wishing you a Continuance of Success –

1. Washington Papers, LC.

STEPHEN MOYLAN TO WILLIAM WATSON, PLYMOUTH [1]

Cambridge, 28th Jany 1776

Your letter to his Excelly of the 26th is Come to hand with the papers found on board the *Norfolk* & *Happy return* transports taken by Comodore Manly – you will please to Libel them imediatly & the Sooner they are brought to trial the more agreeable it will be to the General you will take notice that the private property of the Captains & Crews are to be Carefully guarded for them, & that his Exy approves much of your precaution in getting the ships to the Wharf in order to Secure the small articles from Pilagers – I hope the *Harrison* is out on her Cruize & wish she may make a Successful one the General writes by this Conveyance to the Comodore, if he is in port you will please to give him the Letter Yrs

1. Washington Papers, LC.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CAMBRIDGE, JANUARY 28." [1]

Last Thursday [January 25] Capt. Manly took two store ships loaded with provisions, potatoes, coal, &c. which he carried into Plymouth, notwithstanding he was attacked by a cutter, which he could have taken had he not been afraid of losing his prizes. It is said that Capt. [Daniel] Waters in the course of last week took a ship and brig, but the success of Waters wants confirmation.[2]

1. *Pennsylvania Packet,* February 12, 1776.
2. Manley's prizes were the ships *Happy Return* and *Norfolk*; the report of Waters' success was untrue.

COLONEL JEDEDIAH HUNTINGTON TO JABEZ HUNTINGTON [1]

[Extract] Roxbury Camp 28 [January] 1776

Hond Sir Your Letters of 16th 21st & two of the 24th are to Hand – Our Privateers took, the last Week, four Prizes, two carried into Salem & two into Plymouth, the first two mentioned, were in plain Sight of the Shipping at Nantasket, the Sailors said the Yankees would come next & carry away the Admirals

Ship – the Ships carryed to Salem we hear are loaded with Coal & Potatoes from England, the Acquisition is of no great Value to us, but, for the present, an irreparable Loss to our Enemies, I do not yet learn the Loading of the [othe]r two Captures – we are told our Enemies are [fitti]ng out Privateers – want much to hear what becomes of our Fleet at the Southward . . . it is lately found that almost all our heavy Cannon must have new Carriages before they are put to hard Usage – &C &C –

Jed Huntington

1. Jedediah Huntington Letters, ConnHS.

VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO PHILIP STEPHENS [1]

Sir, *Chatham,* Boston 28th January 1776.

In pursuance of an Order from Vice Admiral Graves of Yesterday's Date, I have taken upon me the Command of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels which will remain in North America after his Departure, the Disposition of which, together with the State and Condition of those at, and near this place, I transmit to you herewith, and am to acquaint you, Sir, that by advice received last Night from Halifax, His Majesty's Ship *Somerset* sailed from that place for England the 15th and the *Roebuck* for Virginia the 14th Instant, and that Commissioner [Marriot] Arbuthnot writes to me in the following terms: "I presume as soon as the Commander in Chief can spare Forces that he will think of Sending two, Two Deck Ships to command the Heights all round the Land part of this Yard which command it very much." Their Lordships will without doubt see the impossibility of my complying with this Application under my present Circumstances.

I likewise transmit to you, Sir Copy of a Letter from Lieutenant [William] Hunter Commander of the *Gaspee* Armed Brig informing Admiral Graves of his being taken with thirteen of his Men by the Rebels at Saint Johns,[2] and if I find that the Vessel has not fallen into their hands (which does not possitively appear by the Lieutenant's Letter) I shall send an Officer to Command her.

Admiral Graves informs me there is a Scarcity of Ordnance small Stores at Halifax for the use of the Fleet, particularly Three and Four Pound Shot for the small Cruizers, and as it is very inconvenient sending so far for all kind of Ordnance Stores, I shall be glad Their Lordships will please to recommend that a Supply in a Store Ship may be sent to this place or wherever the Commander in Chief may be.

I likewise transmit to you, Copy of a Letter from Commissioner Arbuthnot to Vice Admiral Graves relating to the State of Halifax; together with Captain Wallace's Additional Intelligence from Rhode Island; [3] and must beg to refer you to my former Letters for an Account of all other Occurrencys and Intelligence necessary for Their Lordship's information. I am Sir [&c.]

M: Shuldham

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.
2. Lieutenant Hunter's letter of December 16, 1775.
3. See Arbuthnot's letter of January 15, 1776; Wallace's of January 14, 1776, and his intelligence of January 21, 1776.

LORD STIRLING TO THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

Elizabeth Town January 28th 1776.

Sir, I received your letter of the 25th respecting the 100 Stand of Arms which you were to have Supplyed me with. I shall lay the letter before the Continental Congress and the Convention which meets this week at Brunswick in hopes that some other means may be taken for providing an equal Number.

A Certain Ship is lately Arriv'd here with Stores,[2] some of which perhaps may be of use to the Public Service under your direction I therefore Subjoin a list of her Cargoe, in order that you may Know whether any part of it will be usefull for that purpose. The Ship is about 100 feet long on the Main Deck, and will commodiously carry 20 Six & 10 three Pounders, W[illiam] R[ogers] [is] well worthy of your Confidence. I have the Honor to be [&c.]

Stirling.

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[1] Papers CC (Letters from General Officers), 162, II, 402–03, NA.

[2] The *Blue Mountain Valley*.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Cruizer*, CAPTAIN FRANCIS PARRY [1]

January [1776]	Close to the Fort [Johnston, Cape Fear]
Saturday 27th	at 8 AM saw a body of Rebbels in & about the Fort hove up the best bower & slip'd the small & run close to the Fort fir'd Great guns, & small arms, which continued as they appear'd from behind the walls, cutt one of the condemn'd Cables to barricade the Rebbels fir'd some small arms.
Sunday 28th	at 1 AM saw a number of the Rebbels at work in the fort, fir'd some grape at them, which they return'd with a few small arms, & went off, at 9 weigh'd & got hold of the cable slip'd, & moor'd as before.

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 51/218.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

In the Council of Safety,
[Charleston] Sunday, Jan. 28th, 1776.

Mr. President acquainted the board that he had dispatched the following letters, written by their order.

> Charles-Town, South Carolina,
> 27th Jan., 1776.
>
> Gentlemen –
>
> . . . We received this morning your favour of the 23rd instant, and thank you very heartily for your early and minute account of the ships-of-war in your river. We persevere in our measures for defence. If the *Syren* should, as is pretended, and which we much doubt of, pass by without attempting to hurt us, there will be some other appointed to

bring us a proclamation. And we are also determined, to the utmost of our power, to repel any force which may be brought to annoy us. . . .

By order of the Council of Safety.
Henry Laurens, President.

The Hon. the Congress at Savannah.

Ordered, That previous to the going down of any of the colony vessels, the commanders of these respectively, shall always give notice of their intention, to the commanders at Fort Johnson and Sullivan's Island, either by letter acquainting them what signals they shall make, or by sending a boat ashore.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society,* III, 227–30.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Tamar*, CAPTAIN EDWARD THORNBROUGH [1]

January 1776	River Savanah Georgia
[Friday] 26	AM Saild his Majs Ship *Syren,* Carpenters Employ'd making a main Yard Mode winds & Clear Longboat Watering
[Saturday] 27	AM Loosed Sail to dry Carpenters Employ'd as before Light Airs & Clear wthr
[Sunday] 28	Employ'd Occasionally Do wthr PM Saild the *Polly* Schooner *Falmouth Packet* & *Pensicola Packet.*

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/968.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Maidstone*, CAPTAIN ALAN GARDNER [1]

Janry 1776	No end Tortugo E½S 6 or 7 Leagues
Sunday 28	At 5 AM Saw 3 sail in the SW Quarter gave Chace. high land about C. Turtolo SW 6 or 7 Leagues. at 9 fired a Gun and brot to the Chace – a Schooner from Cape Nichola to No Carolina,[2] Sent a petty Officer and 5 Men to take Charge of her. at 11 fired a Gun and brot to a french Snow from Cape Francois to Havre de Grace – Moderate Weathr This 24 hours sent the schooner to Jamaica.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/572.
2. Schooner *Dolphin,* Edward Manning, master, with a cargo of molasses and coffee, Gayton's Prize List, PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

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29 Jan.

BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID WOOSTER TO MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER [1]

Copy Montreal Jany 29th 1776.

Dear General. I wrote you the 27th Inst by Col: [Rudolphus] Ritzema since which I have received the Papers and Letters of our dear deceased General Montgomery – all which except some few which contain Instructions for our

Operations in this Country, I now forward you by Major [Matthias] Ogden – I am informed that he commonly burnt all confidential Letters from Friends as he received them so that there are none left unless there may be some in the packet to Mr [Robert R.] Livingston. I shall take particular Care of his Effects and Capt McPherson's when I receive them – The Army Accounts Receipts &c I shall be obliged to keep for a few Days till I can get them copied to prevent Impositions.

I have also received Letters from Col. Arnold with an Estimate of such Artillery Stores &c as he thinks necessary for the Reduction of Quebec together with an Inventory of such Artillery, Ammunition, Stores &c as are at St Fays, and Point aux Tremble – As I find the Return of Stores which has been made from St Johns is an imperfect one I shall to Morrow send Major [James] Lockwood to St John's in Company with Major Ogden (who will be on his Way to the Colonies) where he will make out and enclose to you an exact Inventory of all the Artillery, ammunition Stores &c which are now in this province in our Possession – We have but one piece of Cannon larger than a twelve pounder and that is a brass twenty four. If it is possible to send us a few heavy Cannon across the Lakes I think they will be highly necessary as our small ones will make but little Impression upon such a strong fortified place as Quebec, besides it will hardly answer to strip this Garrison & St Johns entirely.

I inclose you a Letter from Col Arnold to Congress with his Estimate &c you will see its Contents and if you think proper send with it the Inventory which Major Lockwood will make out, there is no need of suggesting to you the almost infinite Importance of taking possession of that Town before they can obtain a Reinforcement in the Spring and therefore the most vigorous Measures ought to be pursued and the greatest Expedition in forwarding every Thing necessary more especially as the Canadian and our Friends here assure me that by the middle of March the Roads from this to Quebec will be impassable.

Of the few Men who have arrived here I find several of them have bad Arms and are obliged to wait in this Place to have them repaired and even then they are but bad – I could wish they might be better furnished if it were possible before they come into this Country. I hope before this reaches you, that the Rebels of Tyron County will be quelled and their good Arms put to a better Use. – Accept my best Wishes for your Health, Success and Happiness and believe me very respectfully [&c.]

David Wooster.

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, I, 510–11, NA.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES [1]

[Watertown] Monday, January 29, 1776.

Moses Gill, Esq; brought down the Report of the Committee of both Houses appointed to consider sundry Resolves of the *American* Congress, viz.

The Committee of both Houses appointed to take into Consideration sundry Resolves of the *American* Congress, have attended their Duty, and beg Leave to Report as their Opinion, 1st. That Direction be given to review the Act for fixing out armed Vessels, and conform it to the Resolves of Congress, except in the Instance of taking Prizes without Commissions; and that a Representation of the Inconveniences attending that Resolve be made to Congress, praying that it may be re-considered, and altered.

In Council, January 27, 1776.

Read and accepted, and, thereupon,

Resolved, That the Committee appointed on the 26th Instant to examine the Act of this Court for fixing out armed Vessels, be directed to sit forthwith. And,

Afternoon.

John Whitcomb, Esq; brought down a Muster-Roll and Petition of Jeremiah Obrian, representing that on the 21st of August last, he was commissioned by the Hon. Council, as Commander of two armed Vessels, with Authority to Navigate them with thirty Men each. And as no Establishment has been made for Cruisers, he prays a meet Allowance for their Service.

Read and committed to Mr. [Hezekiah] Gates, Major [Nathaniel] Currier and Mr. [James] Allen.

1. Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch.

Boston Gazette, MONDAY, JANUARY 29, 1776

Watertown, January 29.

Last Week our Privateers took a large Ship and Brig, laden with Fuel and Provision, and sent them into Plymouth.[1]

Last Friday 7'night [January 19] General [Henry] Clinton, with a considerable number of Grenadiers and Light Infantry, sailed from Boston, and were supposed to be bound for Virginia.

1. The ship *Happy Return,* 130 tons, James Hall, master, and the ship *Norfolk,* 120 tons, Jonathan Grendal, master, both from Whitehaven, with coal and provisions, taken by John Manley, in Washington's schooner *Hancock*.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM A CAPTAIN OF A SHIP AT BOSTON, DATED JAN. 29. TO A MERCHANT AT CORKE."[1]

We arrived here in seven weeks and three days from Spithead. The general passage of the rest of the fleet was from twelve to eighteen weeks. The ships and cargoes suffered much, and several of them are still missing. Provisions are very dear. The Provincials have several privateers on the coast, and have taken some of our store ships; they took two ships from Corke with provisions on the 25th inst.[2]

1. *London Chronicle,* March 14 to March 16, 1776.
2. The *Happy Return* and the *Norfolk,* taken by John Manley.

CAPTAIN CHARLES STUART TO HIS FATHER, THE EARL OF BUTE[1]

[Extract] Boston, Jan. 29, 1776

We remain here pretty much in the same state, waiting with anxiety for the Spring. The water is entirely froze over, except immediately in the Harbour, and able to bear an army, which obliges us to be particularly cautious with respect to the enemy's movements.

Their Navy seems to triumph over ours; they frequently take our store ships with impunity, but we have great expectations of our new Admiral, Lord Howe [*sic* Shuldham],[2] who is liked by everybody. I dare not say any more, for fear this letter may meet with the same fate as those I have already wrote.[3]

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1. *New Records of the American Revolution. The Letters, Manuscripts and Documents sent by Lieut-Gen. Sir Charles Stuart, to his Father, the Earl of Bute, 1775–79 and Letters of General Howe, General Clinton, and other Officers to Sir Charles Stuart, during the Revolution, 1779–81* (privately printed n.d.), 5, 6.
2. Probably a mistake in the printing. Admiral Shuldham had arrived in Boston December 30, 1775, succeeding Vice Admiral Samuel Graves.
3. In the same letter, Stuart had complained that some of his letters had been stopped because he was expressing his mind rather too freely.

J. Loring to John Blackburn [1]

[Extract] Boston January 29. 1776.

There was last Friday [January 26] two Ships taken within a Mile & half of the Light House just by the Men of War, not one of them offered to rescue them, as they had no Orders till they were carried off. The Admiral made it a rule, not to suffer any of his Ships to go out, if they should see any Privateers, or any Ships attacked or taken in the Bay, till they have sent up to him, which must take them 5. Hours, so that you need not wonder at the Ships being taken, as we have no Cruizers out – if he don't take himself away very soon, we shall get but few of the Ships in. We depend much upon Admiral Shuldham.

The little fresh Meat we get is from Nova Scotia, & that at a very great price. What is to become of us the Lord only knows, for it is impossible for many of us to hold much longer, myself in particular.

J. Loring

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/40.

Vice Admiral Samuel Graves to Philip Stephens [1]

Sir *Preston* at Boston Janry 29, 1776

By one of the Sloops belonging to the Army, which arrived the 5th instant from New York, I received Letters from Governor Tryon and from Captains [Hyde] Parker and [George] Vandeput which were delivered to Rear Admiral Shuldham upon his taking the Command of the Southern Division of his Majs Squadron in North America. I am exceedingly happy to find the two large Ships can be placed so as to remain at New York all the Winter, for I had almost been prevailed on to believe it impracticable. The *Viper* not arriving there is unlucky; with that Sloop and one or two armed Schooners, which I should have sent forthwith, I had flattered myself Captain Parker would have frustrated every Attempt to stop the Navigation of the River during the small time the Ice prevents the great Ships from lying in the Stream.

Rear Admiral Shuldham will explain to Capt. Parker that my Orders to seize all Vessels laden with Provisions, Rum, Naval Stores &c are generally meant to prevent the Colonies in Rebellion from being supplied with those Articles, Although by the restraining Acts those Commodities coming directly from Great Britain or her Islands in the West Indies may lawfully be imported; And that with respect to New York, while it continues amicably disposed towards his Majesty's Government and furnishes his Fleet and Army with every thing required, the means to do this must not be cut off, and therefore the Supplies usually brought to Town from the interior Country and Parts adjacent ought by no means to be restricted or prevented.

As I transmit Copies of Captain Parkers Letters, and of the Letter and Inclosures therein mentioned to be taken out of the Carolina Sloop, I have only to add that by the *Mercury* the Slops demanded for the *Asia* are sent, which is the soonest we have been able to spare so large a Quantity as was required.

By a small Vessel bound to Halifax, which sailed the beginning of this month, I sent Orders to Commodore Arbuthnot to send the *Somerset* to England, and I find she sailed from Halifax accordingly the 15th instant; but the *Asia* being so advantageously placed before New York, and there being no likelihood of getting any more Ships there until March next, I have left it to the Discretion of my Successor whether or not to remove her until the Navigation shall be quite open in the Spring and more Ships are arrived there. I inclose a Copy of Captain Vandeputs Letter to Captain Parker on his Arrival, giving him my Orders, with such Intelligence as he had been able to collect of the State of Affairs in that Neighborhood.

The 27th instant, the day I ordered Rear Admiral Shuldham to take the Ships at Boston and the Northern Division of the Squadron under his Command, a Tender arrived from Rhode Island, and I immediately communicated to Rear Admiral Shuldham the Letters I received from Capt. Wallace, of which I inclose Copies for their Lordships Information, and am Sir, &c

Sam Graves.

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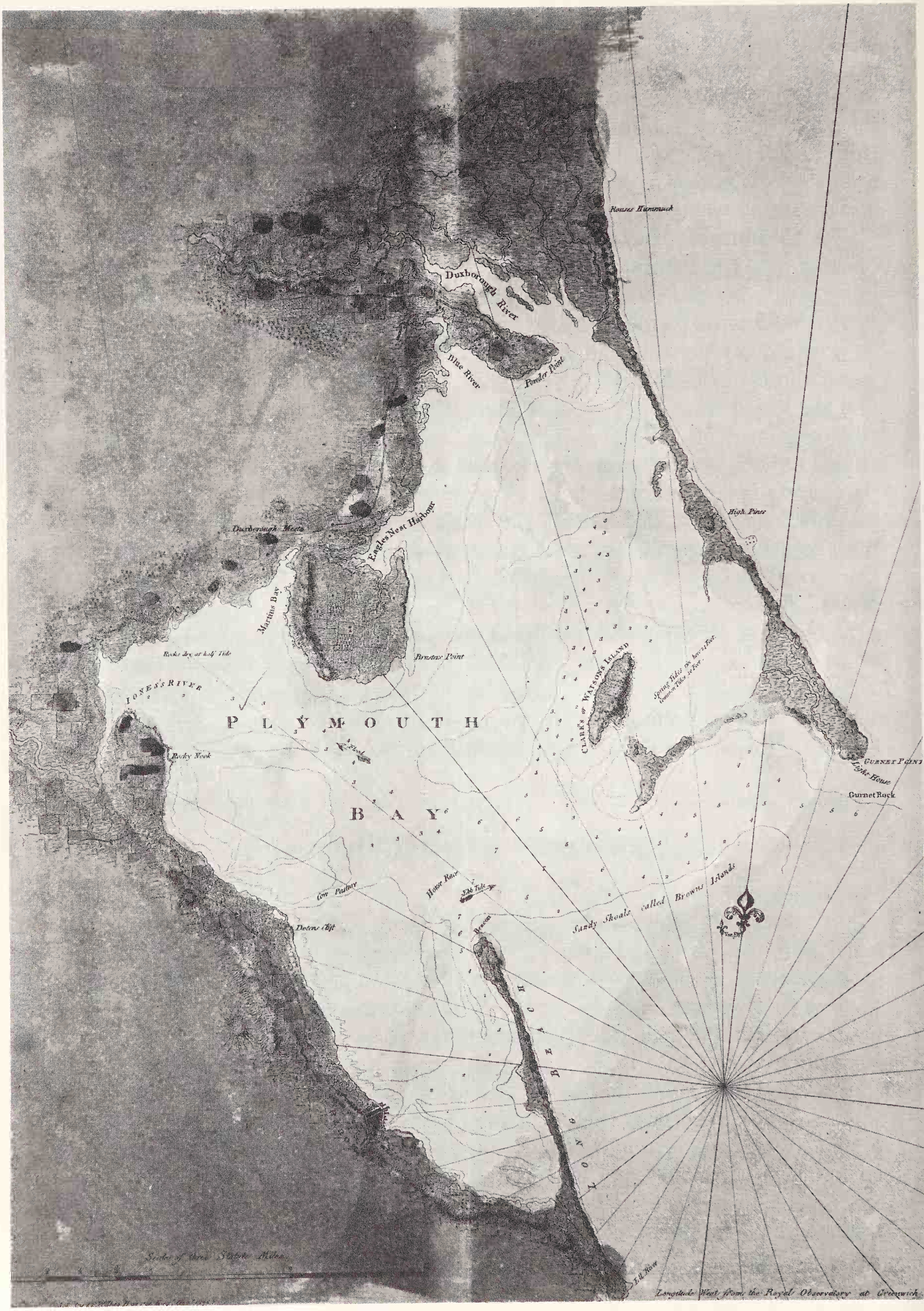
1. Graves's Conduct, II, 39–40, BM.

WILLIAM WATSON TO GEORGE WASHINGTON [1]

Sir

Plymouth 29 Jany 1776 –

I must ask your Excellencys Pardon for omitting in my last, some very material circumstances relative to the capture of Comdore Manlys last prizes – I had not when I wrote got an exact account of the matter, since wh the Comdore tells me that he had taken the prizes, & had put his people on board them some time before the Tender [2] came to their assistance, that there were two other Vessels from Nova scotia with stock, in company with these ships, & that the whole fleet with the Tender, wod have been taken, had it not been for the cowardice of one of our Continental armed Vessels, who was very near them, but dared not engage, & who made the best of his way off – Comdore Manly fought in very disadvantageous circumstances, not having more than sixteen of his own people on board, but then he received considerable assistance from his prisoners, more particularly from the Captains,[3] who did as much as they dared do in such circumstances.


Rouses Hummuck
Duxborough River
Blue River
Powder Point
High Pines
Duxborough Meeting
Eagles Nest Harbour
Martins Bay
Brustars Point
Rocks dry at half Tide
JONES'S RIVER
PLYMOUTH
BAY
Rocky Nook
CLARK'S or WATSONS ISLAND
Spring Tides rise here 13 Feet
Common Tides 10 Feet
GURNET POINT
Light House
Gurnet Rock
Horse Race
Ebb Tide
Cow Pasture
Dotens Cliff
Beacon
Sandy Shoals called Browns Islands
LONG BEACH
Scale of three Statute Miles
Eel River
Longitude West from the Royal Observatory at Greenwich

Your Excellency will please to direct me in what manner I shall conduct with these Captains relative to what they brot with them on their own account, memorandum of wh is inclosed. – If these people are indulged to return to plymouth to take care of their effects (provided their private adventures are given them) will it be any disadvantage to the public? however, your Excelly will much oblige our people, particularly the people belonging to the armed vessels, if youl permitt the Bazes & chex, to be stop'd here, as they are greatly wanted to make them shirts. –

Comdore Manly is now in our harbour, has been puzled with Ice (with which we are now blocked up) but has received [no] damage – The *Harrison* Capt [Charles] Dyar is now in the Ice, has lost anchor & cable, but we hope to find them again, we are now cu[tting] the ice, & hope to get him out without further damage. –

I shall do every thing in my power to forward geting these ves[sels] to sea, as a large number of ships from England are expect[ed] with provisions & but one of them is of any force. –

Capt [Dimond] Morton of the Artilery, the bearer of this, takes charge [of] the prisoners, Capts Hall & Grindall, who wod have been sent forward before had not the extreme cold weather prevented. I am [&c.]

William Watson

Tuesday morning 8 oclock The *Hancock,* Manly & the *Yankee* [Corbin] Barnes now under sail bound on a cruise.

Memorandum of Sundrys belonging
to the Captains Hall & Grindal

Vizt	12 peaces Check lining Cost	£36 . . 12 . . 2
	10 ps Red baze	14 . . 1 . . 6
	4 ps Coorse lining	6 . . 1 . . 4
	two Ullages Jama[i]ca rum	
	1 hand Gun	
	20 barrells beefe	
	8 Ditto Pork	

The Above on bord the Ships *Norfolk* & *Happy return* at Plimo Janry 30th 1776

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1. Washington Papers, LC.
2. The *General Gage*.
3. James Hall and Jonathan Grendal.

Journal of the Committee Appointed to Build Two Continental Frigates in Rhode Island [1]

[Providence] Jany 29th 1776

Meeting in being according to adjournment

Voted That Mr Ethanah [Palmer] be imployed to get the Four Masts for the Ships (in the room of Mr Caleb Bowen) and that he proceed to get the sticks cut and Transported by Land to providence if p[ossible] if not then to have them brot to Wrentham if it cannot be done to either of the above places, then to get them to Taunton the best Terms he can. That he also get two Bowsprits the one to be 52 feet long 25 Inches Diameter the other to be 4[8] feet long & 23 Inches Diameter to be transported in the same manner as the masts.

Voted. That Mr George Olney be employed as Clerk to keep the Books of Accompts necessary in the Building of the Ships & to Transact any other Business the Committee may employ him about the [*sic* that] he have six pounds twelve shillings P month for the said Service he to bord himself in the neighbourhood and give constant attendance till the Business be done in the Evening. –

Reckoning 23/ paid by Col Nightingale

Meeting adjourned to Wednesday evening 6 o'clock

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1. Journal R.I. Frigates, RIHS.

MINUTES OF THE CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

At a meeting of the Governor and Council of Safety,
[Lebanon] Monday January 29, [1776]

Cap. [Jonathan] Lester came in from viewing the row-gallies at Philadelphia and also Mr. [Job] Winslow from the same view at Providence and reported the construction &c., and shew'd plans, and were consulting about them &c. forenoon.

P.M. The said builders came in, having consulted a plan of building two of said row-gallies, and considered the same; and agreed, that two to be built, one by said Lester, and one by Winslow, shall be 60 feet keel, 18 feet beam, and 5 feet hold, four inches dead rising. And agreed with them, that they as master-builders shall have one dollar per day for themselves, and they employ good workmen at the best and easiest rate they possibly can, and faithfully do and discharge every part of the duty, by their best skill and fidelity.

Cap. Lester moves that he should have some allowance for the use of his yard and tools, and is willing to submit it to our future consideration. And that they may allow their workmen liquor necessary, and as they used to do when they employ'd men for themselves, and that Cap. Lester procure the necessary iron works, and apply as occasion shall be to Col. [Jabez] Huntington and Esq. B. Huntington. And they withdrew.

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1. Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut Records,* XV, 227.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO JOHN HANCOCK [1]

[Extract] Albany Monday January 29th 1776.

Sir. Yesterday at four O'Clock, I had the Honor to receive your Dispatches of the 20th Instant.

Congress will perceive by the Copy of General Washington's Letter, which I had the Honor to inclose you in my last, that a Regiment is raising in the Massachusetts Bay, and Yesterday I received a Letter from Colo: [John] Fellows, who was to have raised and commanded a Regiment, in Consequence of my Consent given to the Committee of Berkshire – I hope my answer to that Letter will prove satisfactory to Congress.

On Sunday Jany 14th I wrote to General Wooster; the following is an Extract of my Letter

> Dr Sir. At six last Night Mr [Edward] Antill delivered me your Dispatches. It is much easier to concieve than to describe the Distress it has occasioned me.
>
> In the gallant and amiable General Montgomery the Continent has suffered a vast Loss. May Heaven graciously be pleased [to] extricate you out of the perilous Situation you are in – At this Distance it would be presumption in me to direct what Measures should be taken, these can only be determined by Events as they turn up – May God guide your Councils and bless your Operations.
>
> Expresses are already gone to Congress and General Washington. I have proposed to the latter to detach three thousand Men to your Assistance by the Way of Number four Onion River and Missisque Bay – I have furnished Colonel [Seth] Warner with Money to engage all the Men he possibly can, and to send them on to you without the least Delay. I am in great Hopes from that Gentleman's Zeal that he will be able to procure Men.
>
> As I have by repeated Letters observed to Congress the Necessity of sending Troops immediately into Canada. It is probable that some are on their march from New Jersey; the Moment they arrive here, I shall push them forward or conduct them myself, if my Health will permit. I shall arrange Matters in such a Manner that I make no Doubt, they will arrive in Canada in six or seven Days from this.
>
> I am very happy that you have issued Orders not to let any Men depart, altho' the Term for which they are enlisted is expired; You may rest assured Sir, that a Conduct so prudent will meet with the fullest Approbation.
>
> By all Means secure a Retreat for Colo: Arnold at Montreal and should [Guy] Carleton follow you there, as you may certainly expect Succours, I do not doubt but you will suffer every Hardship before you will give up the Town – Our Cause Sir is just, and I trust that Divine providence will dispel this untoward Cloud, and that we shall again receive its Smiles.

As I have no Return of the Arrangement made in Canada, I cannot fill up the Commissions: I some Time ago wrote to General Montgomery for it, and should probably have had it had we been so happy as not to have lost him; I have reminded General Wooster of it, and am in Hopes I shall soon receive the proper Returns.

I am making every preperation in my power to facilitate the March of the Troops into Canada; – Biscuit is baking here at Fort George & Tyconderoga; and I have had a Quantity of the most portable pork boiled to be used on the March – I am much put to it to procure a sufficient Number of Felling axes, but hope to receive some from New England to which I have sent.

Permit me to observe that Intrenching Tools of every Kind will be wanted in very considerable Numbers, Whether we do, or do not possess ourselves of Quebec in the Course of the Winter.

The Hint General Wooster has given of sending Sutlers into Canada is a very good one; If I can get any good Men to go, I will venture to assist them, on proper Security with Money out of the Military Chest here, to purchase the necessary Articles, and let them repay it in Canada.

From all the Enquiries I have made I have reason to conclude that the Want of a small circulating Medium greatly distresses our people in Canada Perhaps it would have a good Effect and tend to introduce the Circulation of all our paper Currency in Canada. if Congress was to furnish some persons, such as may be depended upon, with ten thousand pounds in Specie and send them to Canada, with twice or thrice that Amount in small Bills, none exceeding a Dollar, and a great proportion of them of one Shilling only; when a Soldier receives his pay in Continental Money he might go to those persons and get small Change, and if it was then promulgated that any Holder of such small Bills might immediately receive Cash for them, and that being punctually complyed with for a little Time; their Credit I fancy would be so well established that very few more would be brought in – The Expence in emitting these Bills would I conceive be compensated to the public by the wearing out of the Bills – I am the rather induced to believe that this plan would have the Effect I expect from it as the Bills emitted last Spring by the Committee of this County and which were small are not brought in for Redemption, altho' the Committee have repeatedly advertised for them – Many of the Bills should be 1/6 2/6 & 3/6 as with these six pence may be paid where no more is due by changing.

The Expence that arises by the Officers that are prisoners is extremely high – I have desired them to pay the Bills and promised to repay as much as Congress should allow; in future I shall allow only Fire-Wood Candles and Lodgings – I shall order the Expence that has attended them to be made out, and transmit it as soon as I can – The Transportation of the Cloathing should be charged to them, as also that of such Women as are above what each Company is allowed – It is even a greater Burthen that we are to furnish these with provisions. . . . I am Sir [&c.]

P Schuyler

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, I, 478–84, NA.

New-York Gazette, Monday, January 29, 1776

New-York, January 29.

We hear from New-Jersey, that on Monday last [January 22], the people in the sea port towns, having notice that a store ship with coals, porter, cheese, &c. for the ministerial army in Boston was arrived at the Hook,[1] a number of men in a small vessel at night boarded, took and brought her into port, where they have unloaded her. The cargo consists of 120 chaldron of coals, 100 barrels of porter, 300 sacks of potatoes, 10 pipes of sour crout, 4 four pounders, some powder and arms, and sundry other goods: They brought 80 hogs from London, but many of them died on the Voyage.

1. The *Blue Mountain Valley.*

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

[New York] Die Lunae, 10 HO. A.M.
Jany. 29th, 1776.

Mr. [Comfort] Sands informed the Committee that the Sloop *Sally* is ready to sail, and requested a permit for Wilkie Dodge, master of the said sloop, to go on board of the ships *Asia* and *Phoenix*.

Thereupon a certificate was given to him in the words following, to wit:

In Committee of Safety,
New-York, 29th Jany. 1776.

Permit Wilkie Dodge, master of the sloop *Sally,* to go on board of both His Majesty's ships in the harbour of New-York.

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1. *New York Provincial Congress,* I, 271.

CERTIFICATE BY GOVERNOR WILLIAM TRYON [1]

By His Excellency William Tryon Esquire Captain General & Governor in Chief in and over the province of New York and the Territories depending thereon in America; Chancellor and Vice Admiral of the same.

This is to certify that David Mathews, before whom the annexed Deposition of Joseph Woolcombe was taken in my presence, is one of His Majesty's Justices assigned to keep the peace in & for the City & County of New York, and duly authorized & impowered to take the Deposition of persons voluntarily making the same before him, and that all due Faith and Credit is, and ought to be, given to depositions so taken & attested.

In Testimony whereof I have herewith set my Hand and Caused the Great Seal of the province of New York to be affixed on Board the Ship *Dutchess of Gordon*, in New York Harbour the Twenty ninth Day of January in the Sixteenth Year of His Majesty's Reign.

W^m^ Tryon

By His Excellency's Command./ Edmd Fanning p. Secry

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1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/1107, 371.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS [1]

[Philadelphia] Monday, January 29, 1776

The committee, to whom were referred . . . the letter from lord Stirling, dated 24th of the same month [January], and the letter from Mr. [Samuel] Tucker, chairman of the committee of safety of New Jersey, dated the day last mentioned, brought in their report: Whereupon,

[*Resolved*] That the alertness, activity and good conduct of Lord Stirling, and the forwardness and spirit of the gentlemen, and others, from Elizabeth town, who voluntarily assisted him in taking the ship *Blue Mountain Valley,* were laudable and exemplary; and that his lordship be directed to secure the capture, until the further order of the Congress; and that, in the mean time, he cause such part of the loading, as would otherwise perish, to be disposed of by sale.

The committee on the inlistment of apprentices &c. brought in their report, which, after debate, was recommitted.[2]

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1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 98–101.
2. This sentence is inked out on the manuscript Journal.

JOSEPH HEWES TO SAMUEL PURVIANCE, JR.[1]

Dear Sir Philadelphia 29th Jany 1776

I received your favour of the 20th instt informing me of Mr. [William] Lux's resignation, the Marine Commee met the day after your Letter got here, a majority of whom were of Opinion that a Letter should be wrote to Mr Lux to request him to Act in his Appointment and Mr [Robert] Morris was requested to write in behalf of the Committee to him on that Subject, they were also of Opinion in case Mr Lux should refuse, that the business should go on under the direction of yourself Mr. [Samuel] Chase & Mr [Stephen] Stewart, I should have been very glad to have had your Brother put on that Service in Mr Lux's room, but the Commee in general thought it unnecessary to add another seeing two good Men had agreed to Join Mr Chase in the service, as Mr Chase is entirely unacquainted with Ship Building, I do not expect you will be much Assisted by him, I wish you had been mentioned at first on this business, that no time might have been lost, however I make no doubt but that you will have your Ship[2] ready before some of those that are building to the Northward. . . . I shall be glad to have a line from you when any thing Occurs and Am with Compliments to your Brother Dear Sir [&c.]

Joseph Hewes

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1. Purviance Papers, MdHS.
2. The Continental frigate being built at Baltimore, subsequently named the *Virginia*.

WILLIAM FLOYD TO FRANCIS LEWIS[1]

[Extract] Philadelphia January 29, 1776

The members your Marine Committee gave me an order on the Treasurer for Forty thousand Dollars, to be transmitted to you.[2] I recd the Same and for which I gave my Receipt, and Sent it with twelve thousand five hundred Dollars by Mr. [Thomas] Lynch and Mr. [Andrew] Allen to the Committee of Safety at New York. There was also one hundred 29 and 4 tenths Dollars for the Accounts you Sent to our Committee of Claimes all which I hope will come Safe to your hand.

P.S. The 12500 Dollars are to raise and forward the Regiment which our Convention is to Send to Canada. . . .

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1. *Rare American Historical Autographs. The Collection of Frederick S. Peck* (Philadelphia, 1947).
2. Both Floyd and Lewis were New York delegates in the Continental Congress. Lewis was in New York laying the ground work for the construction of two Continental frigates. The $40,000 was on account of the frigates.

Agreement Between the Committee for Building the Philadelphia Frigates and Wharton & Humphreys[1]

Cash Dr To Carpenters Yard

Received by John Warton of William West by the hands of Joshua Humphreys junr for the Stock remaining in the Yard this day which we sold to David Thomson Francis Grice Saml Penrose & William Pollard,[2] for the use & Accot of the Continental Congress – viz –

2 Poplar Logs a 10/ & 15/		1.. 5.. –
1 Cut water 50/. 1 lower Stern piece 60/		5..10.. –
1 White Oak harpin ps 30/ 1 Stern Post knee 35/		3.. 5.. –
1 Stern Piece		5.. –.. –
sundry osfal Chuncks pieces of Shores &c		2.. –.. –
1 lott of Cedar Qty 168 ps	a 14/	117..12.. –
75 pieces of ditto	a 7/6	28.. 2.. 6
60 lower futhooks	17/6	52..10.. –
35 floor Timbers	22/6	39.. 7.. 6
8 Rising Timbers	22/6	9.. –.. –
31 Crossways	12/6	19.. 7.. 6
1 Stern piece		3.. –.. –
32 Anchor stocks a 3/9 & 2do	a 10/	7.. –.. –
15950 Trenels 18 Inch	45/	35..17.. 9
1600 ditto 24 do	80/	6.. 8.. –
289 upper Futhooks & Toptimbers	13/6	195.. 1.. 6
18 Hause ps & Bow Timbers	a 35/	31..10.. –
39 Middle Futhooks	25/	48..15.. –
1 Double Counter Timber		3.. –.. –
6 Large Sterns &c	a 80/	24.. –.. –
1 Double Fashion Piece		3.. –.. –
1 Hause piece		1..10.. –
35 Standards	7/6	13.. 2.. 6
40 Shores		5.. –.. –
1 Stern Post knee		2.. –.. –
1 lott largest Live Oak Qty 72 pieces	a 45/	162.. –.. –
2 Breast hooks a 90/ & 3 ditto	a 70/	19..10.. –
Carried over		£ 843..14.. 3

[Page 2]

To Amount brought over		£ 843..14.. 3
1 Lower Stern Piece		6.. –.. –
1 Lot of Live Oak Qty 198 ps	a 22/6	222..15.. –
1 Lot of Smatter do 148 do	20/	148.. –.. –
14 Live Oak half Tim[b]ers	a 5/	3..10.. –
a Lott of Old Knees &c &c at the burning place		3.. –.. –
22 Middle futhooks	a 22/6	24..15.. –

all the blocks in the Yards & 25 Knees, sound & rotten		4.. –.. –
25 Pieces of Ribbands &c		5.. –.. –
2 futhooks or small rising timbers		1.. 5.. –
1 Apron delivered to No 1 [frigate]		7..10.. –
1 Short Logg in the water		1.. –.. –
1 futhook		..17.. 6
1 Keel – 75 feet		8..10.. –
2 Fitters		1.. –.. –
1687 feet of 2 Inch plank	a 25/6 p Ct	21..10.. 2
794 feet of 2 Inch pine do	21/6	8..10.. 9
12,387 feet of 2½ Inch plank	32/	198.. 3.. 9½
718 feet of 2½ Inch pine do	27/	9..13..10
8012 feet of 3 Inch plank	37/6	150.. 4.. 6
379 feet of 3 Inch pine do	31/6	5..19.. 4½
92 feet of 4 Inch plank	50/	2.. 6.. –
525 feet of 6 Inch plank a 10d p foot		21..17.. 6
540 feet of Wales a 10d p foot		22..10.. –
for One half cost of Measuring		2.. 1..11
		£ 1723..14.. 7

Philadelphia Janry 5th 1776

We hereby agree with said David Thomson Francis Grice Saml Penrose & William Pollard on behalf of the Congress that any part of the above Timber plank &c which shall remain unused after the building of 4 Frigates now in hand for the use of the said Congrses, We will take back to our own Accot at a valuation put thereon by Men mutually Chosen for that purpose, the Amot thereof to be deducted out of Our Accots for building, or paid by us –[3]

January 29, 1776 –

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1. Joshua Humphreys, Shipyard Accounts (Ledger D), HSP.
2. The timber commissioners for building the four frigates.
3. Wharton & Humphreys were building frigate No. 2, eventually to be named the *Randolph.*

Minutes of the Pennsylvania Committee of Safety[1]

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a, 29th Jan'y, 1776.

Upon application of Major [John] Bayard for permission to employ a Pilot and Pilot Boat, to cruise of[f] the Capes of Delaware, for a Ship with arms and ammunition bound to this port,

By order of the Board, the Chairman wrote to Mr. Henry Fisher, directing him to furnish Mr. Nathaniel Rumsey with a Pilot & Boat for the above mentioned purpose.

Lt. Cammeron [Allen Cameron] taken with Mr. Connolly, and confined by order of Congress, as a person inimical to the Liberties of America, was this day brought before this Board, and being examined, and found to have acted an inimical part in the present dispute between Great Britain and these Colonies, was remanded to Gaol & there to remain 'till the further order of Congress and this Board.

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1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records,* X, 469, 470.

JOHN NIXON TO HENRY FISHER [1]

Mr Fisher

In Committee of Safety
Jany 29. 1776

This will be handed you by Mr Nathl Rumsey; And we Request you will furnish him with a Boat & Pilot with Such a Number of people to Assist him as he shall Want – This boat is to Cruize of[f] for a Vessell which he Expects every Minute. The Expences attending this Matter, this Gentleman is to pay for

By Order of Committee
John Nixon Chair[ma]n

[Enclosure]

Mr Fisher

Above you have the Order of the Committee of Safety to furnish us with a Boat & Hands – the Vessell we Expect has a Valuable & Important Cargoe wch is much Wanted. We therefore depend upon your giving Mr Rumsey every Assistance in your power for wch We shall cheerfully Satisfy you – the signals Mr Rumsey is posses'd of, wch you will order to be strictly adhered to – We are sir [&c.]

Hodge & Bayard
Jos Carson

Mr Henry Fisher Lewis Town

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[1] Charles Roberts Autograph Collection, HCL. Nixon was chairman of the Pennsylvania Committee of Safety.

Pennsylvania Packet, MONDAY, JANUARY 29, 1776

Philadelphia, January 29.

Arrivals. From Philadelphia; *Molly,* Johnson, and *Mary,* Jenkins, at Falmouth; *Hope,* Collins; *Betty and Helen,* M'Cormick; *Alfred,* Callender; and *Nancy,* Corrie, at Bristol: *Harmony,* Crawford, at Portsmouth; *Speedwell,* Keith, with the loss of all her masts, at Waterford: *Britannia,* Loxley, at London.

From Maryland; *Louisa,* Payne, and *Molly,* Maynard, at Dover; *Rebecca,* Caton, at Falmouth.

The *Daniel,* Hope, from New-York, and the *New-York Packet,* Fryer, from Rhode-Island, are arrived at Cork: the *Portland,* Watson, from Virginia, is arrived at London, and the *Lydia,* Dean, from Quebec, at Falmouth.

[Advertisement]

For Londonderry, The Brig *MINERVA,* John Winning, Master; Will be clear to sail by the 20th of February at farthest. For passage only, apply to Joseph Wilson, or the master on board.

N.B. There will be every necessary accomodation provided for passengers, and those whom this opportunity may suit, are desired to be speedy in applying.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE [1]

Monday 29 Jany 1776 – The Committee met –

Upon Motion Resolved Uny, That Messrs S. Purviance, Isaac Griest, Benjamin Griffith, William Buchanan, & Thos Harrison be a Committee to devise and point out to the Council of Safety the best Modes for fortifying, and defending Baltimore Town, and to make out an Estimate of the Expences of each –

[1] Baltimore Committee, LC.

MINUTES OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

[January 29]

The Council requested of Mr. Samuel Purveyance Chairman of the Commee of Observation in Balt Town that said Commee would furnish them with a Chart of the North East branch of Potapscoe River from Whetstone point, also the Soundings or Depth of the Water between that point and Gorsuch's point, also a plan of fortification and Cheveaux de frise or other obstructions to be placed in the River together with an Estimate of Expence.–

[1] Executive Papers, Box 6, Md. Arch.

JOHN VEAZEY, JR. AND JOHN D. THOMPSON TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

Gentlemen, Cecil County 29th January 1776

The Bearer hereof Capt Robert Craig an Inhabitant of this County, has now a Brigantine well fitted lying in Sassafras River. and is very desirous of being employed by the Publick for the purpose of importing Arms and Ammunition. he is a person of property and by his Conduct appears to be well attached to the American Cause, from his long experience at Sea is well acquainted with foreign Ports, we therefore think him a proper person to be employed, and as such beg leave to recommend him to you, We are [&c.]

John Veazey Junr Jn^{o} D: Thompson

[1] Red Book, XIII, Md. Arch.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

In the Council of Safety,
[Charleston] Monday, Jan. 29th, 1776.

Mr. Gibbes informed the board, of the dangerous situation of a flat laden with cannon for Sullivan's Island.

Whereupon the following order was issued to Capt. Drayton:

Ordered, That Capt. Drayton, do immediately send an officer with a proper number of men, to give all possible assistance in getting off a flat laden with cannon, that is a-ground on the spit in Hog Island creek.

Capt. [William] Pindar applied for a permit to proceed on his voyage to [New] Providence. And at the same time laid before the board an account of stores belonging to his vessel that had been dissipated.

Ordered, That Mr. President do write to Capt. [Benjamin] Stone upon this subject.

[1] *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society,* III, 231–32.

30 Jan.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Fowey,* CAPTAIN GEORGE MONTAGU [1]

January 1776	Baker's Island SW dist 1½ Mile
Tuesday 30	A M buried the deceased – reced Water on board, at 10 sway'd up the Topgalt Masts clap'd a slip Buoy on the small Bower Cable & sliped it, hove up the best Bower and gave chase to 4 Privateers to the Eastward First part fresh gales with sleet, middle moderate with rain, latter light airs & fair at ½ 1 P M the Privateers took shelter in Cape Ann Harbour –

[1] PRO, Admiralty 51/375.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO JOHN HANCOCK [1]

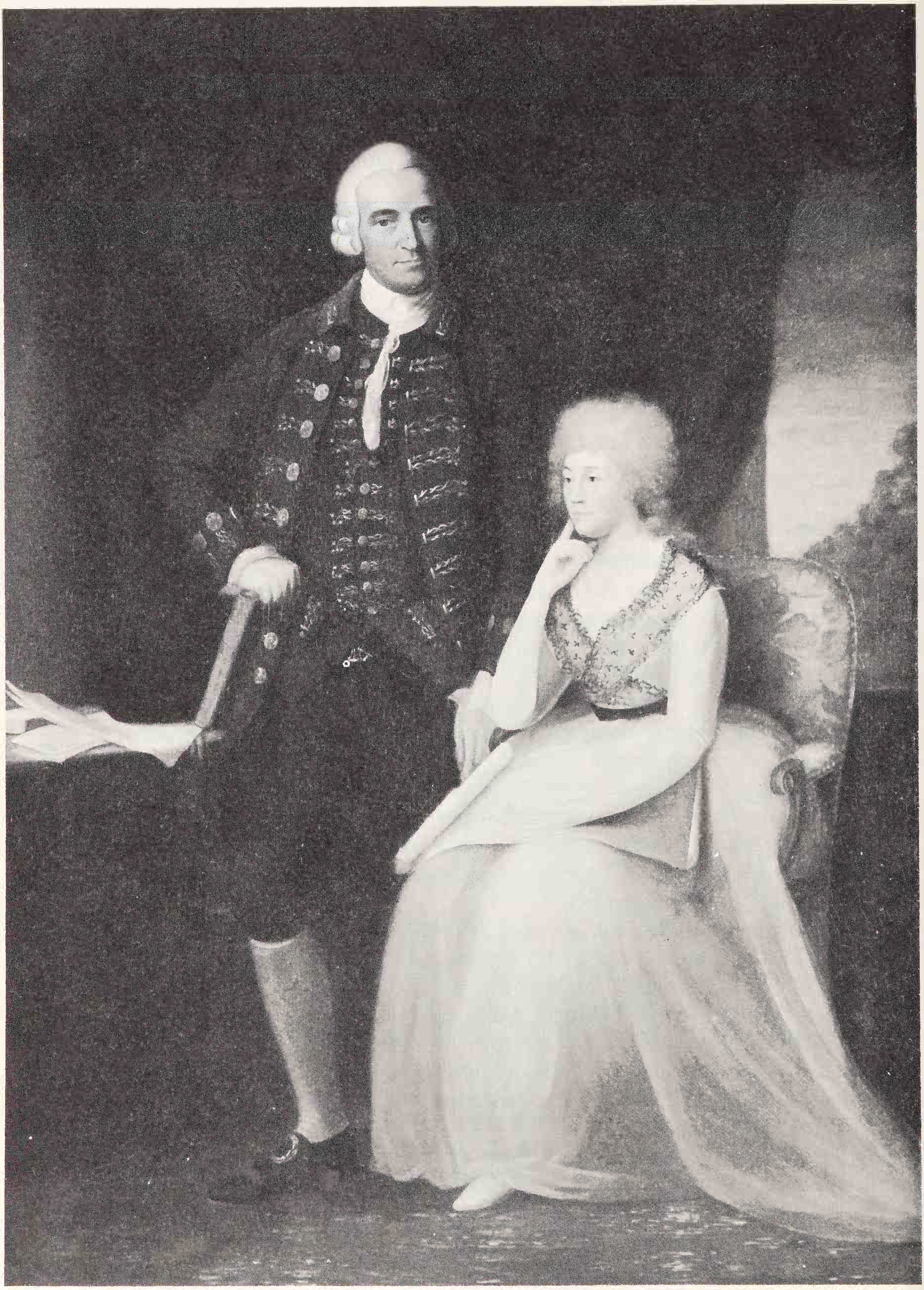
[Extract] Cambridge Jany 30. 1776

Sir Your favours of the 6th & 20th Instant, I received yesterday with the several resolves of Congress attended to, for which I return you my thanks.

Knowing the great Importance Canada will be of to us in the present Interesting contest, and the releif our Friends there stand in need of, I should be happy, were It in my power to detach a Batallion from this Camp, But It cannot be done – On the 19 Inst I had the Honor to write you, which will fully Convey the Resolutions of a Council of War & the Sentiments of the General Officers here, as to the propriety and expediency of sending Troops from these Lines, for the defence of which we have been, & now are, obliged to call in the Militia, to which I beg leave to refer you —— You may rest assured, that my endeavours & exertions shall not be wanting to Stimulate the Governments of Connecticut & New Hampshire to raise & forward reinforcements as fast as possible, nor in any other instance that will promote the expedition . . . .

You may rely that Conolly had Instructions concealed in his Saddle – Mr [John] Eustice who was one of Ld Dunmores family, & another Gentleman who wishes his Name not to be mentioned, saw them cased in Tin, put in the Tree & covered over. — he probably has exchanged his Saddle, or withdrew the papers when It was mended as you Conjecture — Those that have been discovered are sufficiently bad, but I doubt not of the others being worse & containing more diabolical & extensive plans – I hope he will be taken proper care of & meet with rewards equal to his merit . . . .

It gives me great pleasure to hear of the measures Congress are taking for the manufactoring powder – I hope their endeavours will be Crowned with Success – I too well know and regret the want of It – It is scarcely possible to describe the disadvantages an Army must labour under, when not provided with a sufficient supply of this Necessary – It may seem strange that after having received about



John Hancock and his wife, Dorothy Quincy Hancock.

11 Tons added to about five Tons which I found here and No general Action has happened, that we should be so deficient in this Article & require more – But you will please to consider besides Its being in its nature subject to waste, & whilst the men lay in bad Tents was unavoidably damaged by severe & heavy rains (which could not have been prevented, unless It had been entirely withdrawn from them, and an Attack hazarded against us without ammunition in their hands) that the Armed Vessels – Our own occasional firings, & some small Supplies I have been Obliged to afford the Sea Port Towns threatned with destruction, to which may be added the Supply to the militia, & going off of the old Troops, have occasioned & ever will a large consumption of It, a waste in spite of all the care in the world — the Kings Troops never have less than 60 rounds a man in their possession independant of their Stores — to supply an Army of 20,000 in this manner, would take near 400 Barrells, alloweing nothing for the Artillery &ca – I have been always afraid to place more than 12 or 15 Rounds at a time in the hands of our men, lest any Accident happening to It, we should be left destitute & be undone — I have been thus particular not only to shew our poverty, but to exculpate myself, from even a suspicion of unnecessary Waste . . . .

The Companies at Chelsea & Malden are, & have always been Regimented – It was not my Intention to replace with Continental Troops the Independant Companies at Hingham, Weymouth & Braintree — these places are exposed, but not more so than Cape Ann, Beverly, Salem, Marblehead &c &c &ca . . .

I wish It was in my power to furnish Congress with such a General as they desire to send to Canada — Since the unhappy reverse of our Affairs in th[at] Quarter, General Schuyler has Informed me, that tho he had thoughts of declining the service before, he would now Act. — My letter of the 11th will Inform them of General [Charles] Lee's being at New York, he will be ready to Obey their Orders should they Incline to send him, But If I am not greatly deceived, he or some other spirited able officer will be wanted there in the Spring, if not sooner, as we have undoubted Intelligence that General [Henry] Clinton has sailed with some Troops – the reports of their Number are various, from between 400 & 500 to Nineteen Companies of Grenadiers & light Infantry – It is also Immagined that the Regiments which were to sail the 1st of December are Intended for that place or Virginia – General [Israel] Puttnam is a most valuable man, & a fine executive Officer, but I do not know how he would conduct in a separate department – he is a younger Major General than Mr Schuyler who as I have observed, having determined to continue in service, will I expect repair into Canada – A Copy of my Letter to him on this & other Subjects I [e]nclose you, as It will explain my motives for not stopping the Regiments from those Governments.

When Captain Cockran [2] arrives I will give him every Assistance in my power, in obedience to the Orders of Congress – but I fear it will be the Means of laying up our own Vessels, as these People will not bear the distinction – should this be the consequence, It will be highly prejudicial to us, as we sometimes pick up their Provision Vessells, and may continue to distress them in this way. – Last week Captain Manly took a Ship & a Brig bound to Boston, from White Haven with Coals chiefly, & some potatoes for the Army – I have for his great vigilance and Industry appointed him Commodore of our Little Squadron & he now hoists his Flag on board the Schooner *Hancock* – . . .

Since writing the above I saw Mr Eustice, & mentioning that Nothing had been found in the Tree of Connolly's Saddle, he told me that there had been a mistake in the matter; That the Instructions were artfully concealed in the Two peices of Wood which are on the Mail section of his Port Manteau Saddle; that by order of Ld Dunmoor he saw them contrived for the purpose, the papers put in, & first covered with Tin and over that with a waxed Canvas Cloth – he is so exceeding[ly] pointed & clear in his Information, that I have no doubt of Its being true – I could wish 'em to be discovered, as I think they contain some curious & extraordy Plans . . .

I had the honor of writing you on the 19 of November & then Informed you of having engaged Two persons to go to Nova Scotia on the business recommended in your Letter of the 10th & also that the state of this Army would not then admit of a sufficient force being sent for carrying into Execution the views of Congress respecting the Dock Yards &c. I would now beg leave to mention, that If the persons sent for Information should report favourably of the expediency and practicability of the measure, that It will not be in my power to detach any men from these Lines, the Situation of our Affairs will not allow It – I think It would be advisable to raise them in the Eastern parts of this Government – If It is attempted It must be by people from the Country – A Col [Samuel] Thompson a Member of the General Court, from the province of Main & who is well spoken of by the Court, & a Captain Obrian have been with me – they think the men necessary may be easily engaged there, & the measure practicable; provided there are not more than 200 British Troops at Hallifax – they are willing and ready to Embark in the matter upon the Terms mentiond in their plan which I Enclose you[3] – I would wish you to advert to the considerations Inducing them to the expedition; as I am not without apprehension should It be undertaken upon their plan, that the Innocent & Guilty will be Involved in one common Ruin – I presume they do not expect to receive more than the 5 or £10,000 mentioned in their Scheme & to be at every expence – If we had Men to spare It might be undertaken for less than either I conceive – perhaps If Congress do not adopt their proposition; they will Undertake to raise men for that particular purpose, which may be disbanded as soon as It is Effected & upon the same Terms that are allowed the Continental Troops in General – Whatever may be the determination of Congress upon the Subject, you will please to communicate it to me Immediately, for the Season most favourable for the Enterprize is advancing fast & we may expect in the Spring that there will be more Troops there & the Measure be more difficult to Execute. I have the Honour to be &c.

G: Washington

1. Papers CC (Letters from George Washington), 152, I, 447–54, NA.
2. Captain Robert Cochran, from South Carolina, on a mission to recruit seamen for the South Carolina navy, was referred to Washington by the Continental Congress on January 19, 1776.
3. See next entry.

PLAN OF AN EXPEDITION AGAINST WINDSOR AND HALIFAX [1]

For the Expedition purposed, One thousand Men including Officers, four Armed vessels, & eight Transports, the Men to be raised at the Eastward – the Fleet to be Made up at Machias, & then proceed to Windsor, Captivate the Torys, Make all the Prosolites we Can & then proceed to Halifax – if possible destroy the Kings Dockyard, & town is thought proper. —

it may be undertaken for £5,000 Lawful money and all that can be procured from the Tories – or ten thousand, & the one half of what is taken from them – at Windsor we understand, there is abundance of Goods – which is the next Capital Town to Halifax – we are Lately informd that there is not to exceed 200 Brittish Troops in Halifax —

A true Copy

Steph. Moylan, P.T.S.

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1. Papers CC (Letters from George Washington), 152, I, 463, NA. Plan was proposed by Colonel Samuel Thompson and Captain Jeremiah O'Brien and was enclosed in Washington's letter of January 30, 1776.

BRIGADIER GENERAL HORATIO GATES TO ______ ______ [1]

head-quarters [Cambridge] Jany 30 (1776)

you and the rest of my friends must excuse me for not writing often the disbanding An Army within half a cannon shot of the enemy and fixing another in its place is not only a new manouvere but one that causes much trouble and some anxiety the far greater part of this business is happily finish'd for the particulars I refer you to the last page. last night an express from Col. Arnold dated the 14th Instant acquainted us that he and his troops remained in their cantonment round Quebeck in health and spirits the garrison of that town Keeping close within their Walls ever since the unfortunate repulse of our people the 31st ultimo the express mett some of our reinforcements near Montreal and heard that others were with all expedition marching into Canada so there is good reason to hope matters will recover their former prosperity in that quarter one only loss and that is not so easily repared the General Montgomery born like Wolfe to blaze and I, Sir, to Lament his Death we shall find time hereafter the present must be employed to revenge it I Know no man but [Charles] Lee capable of commanding in Canada Arnold is excellent were he able to act but splinter'd bones must have time to heal he is a most persevering hero but I wish he had told us in his letter of the 14th how it far'd with himself which I think is the only thing that materialy concern'd the publick that he omitted to mention General Wooster had not sent any the smallest succour from montreal when the express left it the 21st Instant

every intelligence from Boston for this week past agrees that G[eneral Henry] Clinton is gone by Tryson's request to N.Y. a Mr White who left Boston on Saterday confirms the information in my humble opinion he is certainly gone there, the folly of attacking the head of the snake [William] Howe now sees and only wants a plausible excuse to change his ground depend upon it the ministerial push will be to regain the possession of the river St Lawrence & Hudson & as sure as our artillery makes the town of Boston uneasie to its present garrison so surely will they leave it. I have conversed with some of the oldest and most observing inhabitants of that place and they asure me it is not probable that the Bay between us & them will be froze up this winter their remark is if it is not closed by the last of Jany. it is not likely it will be so for the rest of the winter the rain last night and present th[ere] will entirely break up the bay the General writes to the Congress upon the subject of powder & send them an exact state of our magazine when that has been considered you will think seriously of the disposition to be made of the continental armies (should the force of the enemy be directed as I suspect) and whether it would be prudent to dislodge them from here before you are prepared to meet them elsewhere entirely to subdue may be a task our troops are unequal to & if equal to the necessary corresponding circumstances may not favor us to assault the town of Boston by the only approaches that now present themselves would be putting our affairs to a most unnecessary hazard remember pompey and Brutus were ruined by precipately giving the advantage to vetran troops sufficiently to defend the continent is in the power of the Congress to risk all for a victory must and will be the ministerial mandate to their General, therefore avail yourself of numbers and if your enemy must fight suffer him only to do that where: the situation and circumstances are apparently on your side

strain every nerve to get Quebeck before May day for that in your possession & well garrison'd cuts off the enemy from all prospect of penetrating Canada on that side Hudson River by a strong Camp being taken on the properest ground between that and the East river and a good fort somewhere in the narrows above the highlands to Command the Channel will prevent the enemy from entering our Country that way: and throw them into the same difficulties they have already experienced at Boston

should they persist in their diabolical desolating plan to the Southward it can have no effect but to irritate the continent more violently against them the entire devastation of The flatt country of Virginia & Maryland advance them not one step toward the reduction of the united colonies if they over[offer] a regular campaign in either of those colonies or to the Southerd of them one half of their troops will be in the hospital and the rest fall a prey to our army I look upon it therefore to the highest degree probable that the future efforts of the enemy will be directed to recover the provinces of New York and Canada of course there must be the main strength of our opposition –

I write this surrounded with business I know it is full of little errors but those your friendship will correct I only mean to give my sentiments of the General outlines of the War perhaps I may mistake the matter my intention is good & I have exerted the best of my judgment & experiences for the opinion I have given, if you please I should when you think proper desire you to shew this letter to Mr Robt Morris & Mr T[homas] J[efferson], they are men of very sound and I believe most impartial judgment and are to be confided in.

1. Force Transcripts (Horatio Gates), LC.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M. SCHOONER *Halifax*[1]

January 1776 Remarks in Boston Harbour

Monday 29th AM a Great Deal of Ice Comeing down at ½ past 1 Weighd and Came to sail and turnd to windward at 4 got in to a Feild of Ice which Intirely stopt the passage – the Ice Coming up with the flood prevented our getting up or down fired two 4 prs and Made the signal for Assistance shortned sail

Tuesday 30th AM still shut in with the Ice at 6 carried out the Kedge Anchor on the Ice and endeavourd to brake through at 9 the Rebels came down on Thompsons Island and began a heavy fire of Muskettry on us Several of which struck our sails – fired several shott from the 4 pr at them at Noon drove them off from that part of the Island.

PM at 2 a Breeze sprung up the Vessel began to make way through the Ice at 3 got clear several Boats came to our assistance, at ½ past 3 Came too with the small Bower off Hancocks Wharf at Boston –

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 52/1775.

GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE TO GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL[1]

Sir Providence January 30th 1776

I am favoured with yours of the 5th instant. Last Saturday the Powder from Bedford arrived here. It is stored and waits for your further Orders.

I shall be obliged to you for communicating to me any Intelligence you may receive from Canada. We have not as yet had any of the Particulars of the unfortunate Attack; nor do we know whether Col. [Christopher] Greene with the brave Men under him were made Prisoners or not.[2] I shall also be extremely glad to know what Reinforcements are sent forward. I am with great Truth and Esteem [&c.]

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[1] Letters from the Governor, 1768–1777, vol. 2, R.I. Arch.

[2] Greene was captured along with most of Benedict Arnold's force.

GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE TO THE RHODE ISLAND DELEGATES IN THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS[1]

Gentlemen Providence January 30th 1776

I have not been favoured with a Letter from you since you wrote by the Express belonging to Newport. – You will see by the inclosed Papers the State of the Negotiations with [James] Wallace at the Time Col. West's Letter was written.[2] I have since recommended it to him to permit the Boats with Necessaries for the Town to pass as usual, as otherwsie great Obstructions must be given to their Supplies. Notwithstanding the Measures taken by the Genl Assembly the Inhabitants of that Town seem to have no Idea of removing. And I am compelled to say that some of the Persons who at present are at the Head of their Affairs are I fear and always have been inimical to the common Cause.

And to me it appears clearly that some of the principal of them have Views of restraining the People until a Force shall arrive sufficient to enable them to declare their hostile Intentions.

Our Cruisers took Two more of the Enemys Ships last Week. I have not yet had an Account of their Cargoes nor from whence they are.

I must recommend to your closest Attention the Application of the Colony to Congress for Assistance.[3] A considerable Part of the Regiment ordered at last Session have inlisted.

I have the Pleasure to inform you that the Manufacture of Saltpetre increases very fast in New England; and that we have the greatest Prospect of a large Quantity being made as soon as the Weather opens. I hope the Congress have taken some Measures for the Importation of Sulphur; as by the best Intelligence I can get there is not above Twenty Tons upon the Continent. I am with great Esteem and Regard [&c.]

Hon'ble S. Hopkins & S.Ward Esqrs Nich^s^ Cooke

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1. Letters from the Governor, 1768–1777, vol. 2, R.I. Arch.
2. See William West to Governor Cooke, January 24, 1776.
3. The Rhode Island memorial was forwarded through General Washington who did not deliver it to Congress until May 1776.

JOHN COTTON, JR. TO BARNABAS DEANE [1]

Sir Middletown 30 Jany 1776

I Recd Yours with the Money and Agreeable to your Desire I waited on Capn Bush and Dlivered him 100 Dollars things Seem to Goe on well as Both Bushes Seem to be Much Engaged I under Stand they have found this Side a Noble Lott of Timber, the Other Money I intend for Southmayd and Joe Willis — Mr George Lewis the Bearer is Recomended by Mr Bush as A Good hand to Send to Infeild after pine Timber both white and Yellow Together with the Trunels the Lenth of which Must be 2½ foott 3000 and 2 foot, as Many More as Lewis will Derict of 1½ Inch in Bigness as for the Masts and Yards I would have them Gott of the Inclosed Dementions as it is Easey to Reduce them as we please – your other Matters Shall be Complyed With By Sir [&c.]

John Cotton Jun^r^

1. Barnabas Deane Papers, ConnHS. Cotton would build the frigate in Connecticut under the supervision of Barnabas Deane.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS [1]

[Philadelphia] Tuesday, January 30, 1776

The Committee on the inlistment of apprentices, brought in their report, which was taken into consideration, and thereupon

Resolved, That no apprentice whatsoever be inlisted within the colonies of New Jersey, Pensylvania, the counties on Delaware and Maryland, as a soldier in the army or navy of the United Colonies, without the consent of his master or mistress first obtained in writing; and that all apprentices now inlisted as soldiers in said army or navy, without such consent, be immediately discharged from the service, on the application of his master or mistress, upon payment of all just and reasonable charges of their inlistment:

That it be recommended to all creditors, whose demands against any person who is inlisted, or shall inlist, in the continental service, shall not amount to the value of 35 dollars, not to arrest any such debtor till the expiration of the time for which he is inlisted.

That every person under the age of twenty-one years, inlisting himself in the army or navy aforesaid, may, within 24 hours after such inlistment, obtain his discharge, by refunding the money received from the recruiting officer, and returning such necessaries as may have been supplied him by the officer, or the value thereof in money.

That these resolutions be published.[2]

Resolved, that a member, Mr. R[obert] Morris, be added to the committee of [Secret] Correspondence.

Resolved, That the committee for fitting out armed vessels be empowered to draw on the treasurers for a sum not exceeding 30,000 dollars, in order to discharge sundry debts by them contracted.

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1. Ford, ed., *JCC,* IV, 101–04.
2. Printed in the *Pennsylvania Gazette,* February 7, 1776.

Diary of Richard Smith[1]

[Philadelphia] Tuesday Jany 30. A Report on Apprentices, Small Debtors and Infants inlisting was a second Time made, altered, passed & ordd to be published – Yesterday I went with some of the Delegates to view the Boom Chain, Fire Rafts and Two Men of War on the Stocks One of 32 & the other of 28 Guns at Kensington[2] – 30,000 Dollars voted on Account to the Comee for Building the 13 new Men of War –

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1. Richard Smith's Diary, LC.
2. The Continental frigates *Washington,* 32 guns, and the *Effingham,* 28 guns.

Nathaniel Falconer to Commodore Esek Hopkins, Reedy Island[1]

Sir inclosed you have a list of what things are in Each waggon the Remainder will be Sent down as Soon as possable

I am Sir [&c.]

Nath Falconer

[Philadelphia] January 30th '76

[Enclosure]

An Account of What went in the Wagons

In the first Wagon

1 Cask Cheese
3 Barrells of Bread
1 Bundle wth 9 Jacketts
1 Do 13 Great Coats
1 Do 7 Do Do
2 Casks Muskitts Balls & 198 Barrs Lead
10 Bolts Canviss
1 bagg Coffee
2 Quiles Riggin[2]
1 Speaking Trumpitt
6 Tin Meashuers
2 Pr Scales & 1 Spy Glass

Second Wagon

1 Matt wth Canviss
5 Barrells Bread
1 Do Rum
2 Boxes Candles
5 Quiles Riggin
1 Barrell Cloaths
4 Dozn Linstocks & two Swivell Guns
6 Swivell Ladles & 8 Worms
1 Small Bundle Cullers[3]
3 Tallow Brushes
4 Axes & 4 Hatchets
1 Pump Spear & 1 Spare Box

Third Wagon

6 Swivell Guns
6 Barrells of Bread
1 Ditto Cloaths
1 Do Tallow
& 12 Oars –

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1. Hopkins Papers, RIHS.
2. Coils of rigging.
3. Colors.

Minutes of the Pennsylvania Committee of Safety[1]

In Committee of Safety.
Philad'a, 30th Jan'y, 1776.

Agreeable to direction of [the Continental] Congress, this Board went into the Examination of Doct'r Connelly, and find him to be a person inimical to the Liberties and dangerous to the safety of these Colonies; therefore, was remanded to Gaol, 'til the further orders of Congress or this Committee.

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1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records,* X, 470, 472.

"Manifest of Sundries on Board the Brig *Friendship* Capt Jno Martin"[1]

[Baltimore, January 30, 1776]

	225 Barrels of Powder 228 half Do Do	163 for Virga – 20–½ Bl for Smith – 10 –½ Do for J. Rumsey & the Balce for Maryld
	17 Chests of Arms 2 Sheets of Lead 23 Bales of Canvas	Maryland
Frt to be accounted	7 Chests No 1 a 7 1 Bale No 8	Mark'd R:F – Capt Forsythe at Baltimore –
Freight Credd by Capt Martin	2 Cases 1 Bale	Mark'd I:R for J Rumsey
Freight to be accounted for	2 Large Chests 1 Crate 3 Barrells	Mark'd for Capt Stone of Z Z Baltimore –
	1 Chest 1 Bale 1 Barrell	Mark'd H:C – Capt Stone –
Settled at 25£ & paid by Jenifer & Hooe vide their Acct.	11 Bolts of Canvas 1 Barrell 1 Box	Mark F:W – Jonah Watson
26/5 paid by Do as P Do	1 Cask Marked W – Is:Wikoff this Ft ascertaind in St Eustatia	
Ft to be accounted for	1 Small Box Mark'd H Y – Hugh Young a box of small Swords – Baltimore –	

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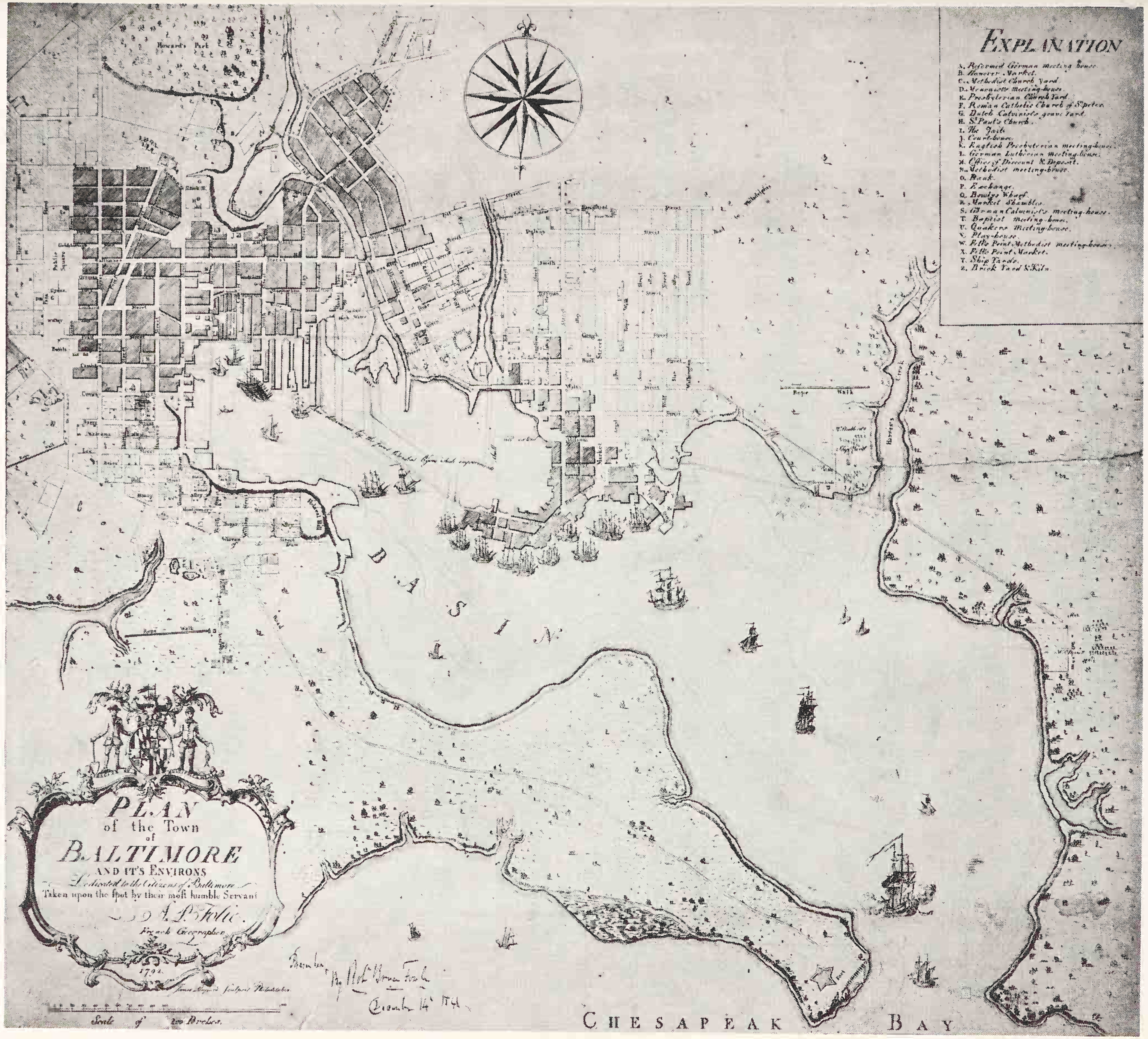
1. Executive Papers, Box 2, Md. Arch.


EXPLANATION
A. Reformed German meeting house.
B. Hanover Market.
C. Methodist Church Yard.
D. Menonists meeting-house.
E. Presbyterian Church Yard.
F. Roman Catholic Church of St. Peter.
G. Dutch Calvinists grave Yard.
H. St. Paul's Church.
I. The Jail.
J. Court-house.
K. English Presbyterian meeting-house.
L. German Lutheran meeting-house.
M. Office of Discount & Deposit.
N. Methodist meeting-house.
O. Bank.
P. Exchange.
Q. Bowlys Wharf.
R. Market Shambles.
S. German Calvinist's meeting-house.
T. Baptist meeting-house.
U. Quakers Meeting-house.
V. Play-house.
W. Fells Point Methodist meeting-house.
X. Fells Point Market.
Y. Ship Yards.
Z. Brick Yard & Kiln.
PLAN
of the Town
of
BALTIMORE
AND IT'S ENVIRONS
Dedicated to the Citizens of Baltimore
Taken upon the spot by their most humble Servant
A. P. Folie.
French Geographer
1792.
Scale of 200 Perches.
BASIN
CHESAPEAK BAY
Howard's Park
Rope Walk
Road to Philadelphia
Street

RECEIPTS RELATING TO THE MARYLAND SHIP *Defence* [1]

[Baltimore]

Recd 30th Jany 1776 of Captain James Nicholson Eighteen pounds for sail making
£18 – William Johnson

Recd 30th Jany 1776 of Captain James Nicholson on Acct of Ship *Defence,* Thirty one pounds Six Shillings and two pence for Nails as p Acct
£31.6.2 John Graham

Recd 30th Jany 1776 of Captain James Nicholson Twenty one Pounds in part for Iron work, Timber and Recd for Mr Wells by
£21 – John Barry

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1. Account Book, Ship *Defence* Papers, MdHS.

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

[Annapolis] Tuesday 30 January 1776.

Instructions and sailing Orders were given to Capt John Martin of the Brig *Freindship.*

Mr [William] Lux delivers to the Council the following Proposition –

The pilot Boat *Chatham* is bound for Statia with Money to purchase Goods to the Amount of £3000 or more to the Consignment of Mr Thomas Russell who goes out in her. The Boat is valued at £300 and each Shipper is to pay in proportion to the Amount of his Property, in Case she is lost. Mr Russell will take One hunderd Barrels light Flour on Account of the Province at 6/ per Barrel, and they to pay their proportion of the Value of the Vessel in Case of Loss.

Lux & Bowley.

Which was read & agreed to.

Instructions were accordingly given to Captain Thomas Russell.

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1. Council of Safety Journal, 29 August 1775 to 20 March 1777, Md. Arch.

STEPHEN WEST TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

[Extract] Woodyard 30th January 1776.

Honourable Gentlemen. I think it my duty to acquaint you that I have received a letter from Capt Isaiah Robinson Lt of the *Hornet* Capt [William] Stone dated off Annapolis desiring me to recommend him to your favour – I know him to be a very honest sensible faithful man, it will be seen how he behaves in his present station – He writes to me on another subject – I shall give you his words – "I have another request to make you about a matter that I am very anxious for vizt that you will please to Countenance my Brother in law Mr Burgess, he is come over at an unlucky time for himself as to what he Primarily intended, but as he is remarkable ingenious, and well versed in drawing, and in military matters he may be a very useful hand at this time, should there occur any thing in which he could be employed I'm confident his conduct would give satisfaction,["] so for as Capt Robinson – and as to the gentleman in question Mr Burgess. I have seen him – he is a sensible clever middle aged man from Ireland brought his wife & children and is now at Hagers Town his intention was for Fort Charles

[Chartres] on the Ilionois in the view of a grant there where he has friends – I believe he is both a sea and land officer – perhaps of the marines he appears to me to be a man of great spirit & understanding and if he was to engage in the American service would be of use – Capt Stull or some of the officers there might sound him – but I would rather wish that the Honourable Council themselves were to examine him, I inclose a letter to him which may be forwarded or not – as you Judge proper,[2]

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1. Letters to Council of Safety, Md. Arch.
2. See following letter.

Stephen West to —— Burgess [1]

Sir.

Woodyard, 30th January 1776.

I wrote to you pretty fully from Frederick Town to the care of Mr Sprigg and Mr Hall – and wrote also to those gentlemen – I hope you and your spouse and family have been happily situated this winter. I have just received a letter from your Brother in law, Captn [Isaiah] Robinson who is gone out lieutent in an armed vessel in the service of the Province – I shall give you his words – "I have another request to make you about a matter I'm very anxious for vizt that you'l please to countenance my Brother in Law Mr Burgess, he is come at an unlucky time for himself as to what he Primarily intended, but he is remarkably ingenious and well versed in drawing and in military matters, he may be a very useful hand at this time, should there occur any thing in which he could be employed I'm confident his conduct would give satisfaction – ["]

So far your Brother – Now Sir in conformity to his letter I have wrote to the Honourable Council of Safety at Annapolis – If you have any desire of being employed it will be your best way I think to wait upon them and offer your service – and if you have interest enough with Mr Hall either to go with you or unto the Council of Safety in your behalf. I think it might be of service – the small acquaintance between us prevents my saying further my respect for Isaiah and all his friends is sincere, and I am [&c.]

Stephen West.

If you come this way I shall be glad to see you.

To Mr Burgess at Hagers Town.

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1. Correspondence of Council of Safety, Md. Arch.

Minutes of the South Carolina Council of Safety [1]

In the Council of Safety.

[Charleston], Tuesday, Jan. 30th, 1776

Mr. Robert Farquhar acquainted the board, the sending of his scooner the *Lovely Betsey,* into Kayawa River, from whence it had been ordered to be brought back, was not for any illicit purpose, but merely to take on board part of the rice which Capt. [Charles] Morgan was then applying for leave to export; and therefore petitioned might be discharged.

Ordered, That the prayer of his petition be granted, if Capt. Morgan applies by letter, and explicitly.

The memorial of Mr. Peter Le Vien and Company, in behalf of themselves and other shippers on board the Brigantine *William,* Capt. Mercier, was taken into consideration.

Mr. Le Vien, the most considerable shipper, attending, and being heard,

And also Mr. Pooler, owner of the said vessel.

Resolved, That no indico the property of inhabitants of this colony can be permitted to be shipped in the said vessel.

Resolved, That the further determination in this case be postponed, until Mr. President shall have written to the Committee at Beaufort, and the Provincial Congress, or Council of Safety of Georgia, upon that subject.

Read a letter from Geo. Gab. Powell, esq., of this date, inclosing his commission as commander of the colony Brigantine *Comet.*

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1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society,* III, 233–34.

LIEUTENANT HENRY CHADS, R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG [1]

(a Copy) *Hartfield* Armed Transport. Barbadoes
January 30th 1776.

Sir,

I beg leave to acquaint you that I arrived at this Place yesterday from Boston, and as soon as I can get the Rum and Provisions that Captain [B.C.] Payne has engaged, I shall make the best of my way to Antigua, when I will do myself the Honor of waiting on you. Enclosed I send you a Copy of my Instructions from His Excellency Major General [William] Howe, and I am Sir [&c.]

H: Chads.

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1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309. Chads was a naval officer assigned to the transport division of the army.

CAPTAIN B. C. PAYNE TO VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG [1]

(a Copy) On Board the *Heartfield* Armed Ship.
Barbadoes 30th January 1776. –

Sir.

I have the Honor of enclosing to you General [William] How[e]'s dispatches, with a Copy of my instructions I shall beg leave to add what the Commander in Chief told me on taking my leave "that the preservation of the Garrison of Boston depended on my Success" – Immediately on my arrival here I waited upon the Governor who has called his Council, and I have reason to believe that I shall be able to procure a few Hundred Barrels of Beef, which I shall set about getting on board as fast as possible, with 100 Casks of Rum, and then proceed to Antigua and compleat the Stores there, or St Eustatia, which ever you shall think best.

The *Diana* Transport is not yet arrived, the moment she does, will dispatch her to Antigua, for the purpose of fitting her out agreeable to the General's instructions.

Give me leave, Sir, to take notice how anxious the General is for a Convoy for us, and such Transports and Store ships as have by distress of Weather been driven to the West Indies – the Number of Piratical Ships of War which swarm on the American Coast make is absolutely necessary.

The importance of the enclosed dispatches will I hope plead an excuse for my demanding your Tender to take them down to you.

Captain Otta of the 38th Regiment will have the Honor of delivering them to you, and to whom, Sir, I beg leave to refer you for particulars. – I expect to Sail from hence in four or five days. I have the Honor to be Sir [&c.]

B.C.Payne
Captn 18th Regt of Foot.

Admiral Young at Antigua.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

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31 Jan.

CAPTAIN CHARLES HUDSON, R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM [1]

Orpheus Halifax 31st Jany [17]76

With what reluctancy do I inform you that on the 21st of Novr when I lost sight of the *Chatham,* I was on that day rendered to a State disagreeable indeed, by the total loss of all our principal Sails then bent, which was Occasioned in some Measure by the Violence of the Wind, but more so by the badness of the Cordage and Iron work that the Ship was Equipt with, And to Add to my Misfortunes, I lost on the 30th of that month our Fore and Main Masts, with all the remainder of the Essential sails in the Ship, a Fore and Foretopsail, excepted;

In this Condition I continued till I got Jury Masts erected, with a determined resolution to gain the Coast of America, which I persevered in and happily Attained on the 29th Instt and yesterday got into this port,[2] where I shall exert every endeavour in my power to get the Ship re-established with her proper Materials in order to join you, in this I am convinced that I shall be much assisted by Commodore [Marriot] Arbuthnot, who in truth gives assured proofs of his Abilitys and expedition in forwarding the Service.

I am happy to hear of your safe Arival at Boston, which place I shall repair to as soon as in my power – Enclosed I send the State and Condition of the *Orpheus,* and believe me [&c.]

Charles Hudson

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.
2. Rear Admiral Bartholomew James, who was serving as a master's mate in the *Orpheus,* describes the storm in his journal as follows:

> . . . We kept to the northward, notwithstanding the season of the year, and on the 6th of November, meeting with a heavy gale of wind and shipping a tremendous sea over the starboard chesstree, we lost a fine cutter of twenty-four feet keel off the larboard skids, together with some of the rails and carlings of the head. From the 7th in the evening, at which time the gale ceased, to the 10th in the morning, we had very tolerable weather; when, lying with our topsails on the cap and courses hauled up, in a stark calm and without the least appearance of bad weather, a sudden gust of wind obliged us to clap the ship before it. The wind continued to freshen and change a quarter of the compass at a time, raising such a prodigious sea as I never before saw equalled. The first attack of the wind on the ship carried away our topsail sheets, clewlines and buntlines. The main clew-garnets, buntlines and leechlines also broke immediately, and the main topmast stay-sail jib and several other sails, with the topsails and courses blowing in pieces from the masts and yards. Unable to bring the ship to in her present situation, the only chance left us was that of scudding, which became at last very dangerous, as the violence of the wind and increase of the sea had made it difficult to keep the deck. The sea had broken in abaft and made a fair sweep fore and

aft, nor were the united efforts of the ship's company capable of preventing it, with all the additional plank and shores they made use of on this occasion. The ship was running at this time (as supposed by the officers and ship's company in general) at the rate of fourteen miles an hour, which will not appear very strange when it is considered that all her sails were loose, and consequently did not a little contribute to her going.

To paint a true description of this horrid gale, and to discover the distressed situation we were in, amidst a dark winter's night, severe frost and snow, and constant watchings for forty-eight hours, is totally beyond the power of words to express. I shall therefore observe only, that the gale having somewhat abated on the evening of the 11th, and the wind shifting round suddenly from north-west to north-east, we brought to under a fore staysail at the mizen mast, and having replaced some of the most necessary parts of the rigging, divided the ship's company into four watches, and sent all those except the watch to sleep.

The following day was employed in unbending the remaining canvas from the yards, and replacing them with a new suit of sails fore and aft, reeving new running rigging, and repairing the stern frame. Here I must observe that from the commencement of this horrid gale we had parted company with the admiral, and never again saw him till we joined in America, when we learned he had suffered extremely, and that having lost all his sails, quarter-galleries and head-rails, he had broached to, and nearly gone down.

The weather continued to blow fresh till the 15th, when we had another smart gale, during which we lay to under a balance-mizen; in this gale we lost the bumkins and remaining part of the carlings, rails &c. of the head and a part of the starboard quarter gallery. Nothing was wanting to prove the extreme severity of the season; but yet, notwithstanding, Captain [Charles] Hudson determined to make the northern passage, concluding that the voyage would be greatly protracted by any other step. The 19th we had a severe gale, which on the 21st increased to a violent one indeed. About one o'clock this morning a heavy gust carried away our fore mast fifteen or twenty feet above the forecastle, which fell over the lee fore chains and remained in a disagreeable situation for some time; in clearing which, the main topmast stay was cut, which carried away the main topmast, and wounded nine men. At half-past eight o'clock in the morning the main mast also went by the board, crushed down the booms, and stove the long boat and a large cutter all to pieces, as well as the gallows bitts, gangway rails, and some of the fore part of the quarter deck. Having with difficulty cleared the ship of the wreck, we hoisted a fore topgallant-sail to the stump of the foremast to keep the ship before the sea, which ran amazing high and frequently broke all over us. The situation we were in at this period was distressing beyond all description. The people was so fatigued that they daily fell sick, nor was there the least probability of a few days' good weather to repair our defects, as the heavy falls of snow totally prevented the erecting jurymasts, without which we could make no progress.

Captain Hudson was now resolved to bear up and sail for England, the wind at this time favouring his intention; we accordingly kept her east, which was nearly our course to the Lizard, from which we were distant 460 leagues. Some days had passed ere the least alteration had taken place in the weather, which at last became more moderate. This opportunity was immediately embraced to erect jurymasts, which was completed by the 26th, and equal, if not superior, to any of the kind fitted at sea. The 26th, 27th, and 28th was again blowing weather, during which time we lay to; on the latter of which days the cover of the armchest fell out of the mizen-top, knocked out four of the gunner's teeth, cut his right eye in a most shocking manner, and broke his right shoulder in two places, notwithstanding which he soon recovered, and in two months returned to his duty. I must here make a small digression, and observe that in the gale of the 10th we lost a whole suit of sails, and on the 21st another, the sails on the mizen mast excepted; the third and only remaining suit was cut up for jury sails at different times; and thus situated, the captain again determined to gain the coast of America; the course was accordingly changed to the westward, and we went on for some days tolerably well.

But a few days was sufficient to discover that the season was big with raging winds as we advanced towards the American shore, and that we was to experience every great distress that seamen are in general subject to; for on the 2nd of December a heavy gale of wind arose which carried away our jury maintopmast and topsail yard, and split the sail from clew to earing. The weather now never continued fair or moderate, and gale followed gale with more severity than ever; and I shall here content myself with observing, that from the 4th of December to the 20th, we lost four topmasts, six topsail yards, one mainsail, one foresail, two main topsails and one fore topsail, besides innumerable other accidents too tedious to give a particular detail of; for our masts and yards was no other at this time than studding-sail booms, and all our square sails had been for some time expended, together with most of our staysails and studdingsails. Notwithstanding this our unpleasing situation we were determined to keep Christmas Day, which we celebrated with dishes and chairs lashed to the table amidst a heavy gale of wind. The 28th being the anniversary of my birth, I gave the Royal Africans a dinner, and passed a jovial day, which even a tremendous gale of wind was incapable of preventing, and which day differed nothing from the 25th in point of living or weather.

I shall now come to the beginning of January, 1776, at which time our distresses were multiplied, and we had neither spars, sails, or anything left, except those then at the masts, and we had also the mortification to find our water grow short, having been put to an allowance of a pint a day. Our ship was grown so amazingly light, from the prodigious quantity of stores and provisions expended, that she not only became troublesome but very dangerous, as in some of the late gales she rolled so deep and quick that the guns in the galley drew the ring bolts from the side and broke loose; we were not within four hundred leagues of the coast at this period, nor [had] any more hopes of reaching it than we had a month back, and though the officers were great advocates for bearing up for the West Indies, yet Captain Hudson was determined to persevere, and reach America at all events.

On the 18th of January, from having unexpectedly a few days' moderate and fair weather, we got within twelve leagues of Cape Sambro; but the wind flying round to the westward, and as usual blowing tremendous gales with powerful falls of snow and dreadful severe frost, we were on the 25th, being eighty leagues from the cape, still more distressed for masts, yards and sails than ever, and on this day we were put to half a pint of water a man. The severity of the frost was such that we was unable to set our sails until boiling water was thrown on them, and our men now began to fall sick daily from the fatigue and hardships they underwent. Our ideas was so filled just now with misfortunes that it was usual to ask in relieving the deck what accidents had befallen us in the preceding watch; and I may venture to affirm that all hopes of ever seeing land again had vanished for some time from the breast of every individual in the ship. One night while I was sleeping in my cot a heavy squall of wind, accompanied with a horrid sea, lay the ship on her beam ends, at which time seventy-four shot boxes broke adrift from the main mast and crushed down the frame of my berth, passing under my cot with a most hideous noise. I immediately sat up in my bed, and hearing the splitting of sails, the washing of water on the deck, the noise and bustle of the people, all joined to this horrible attack upon my berth, I conceived the long expected awful and final stroke had been given us, and fancied the ship then in the act of sinking, until I was relieved from those dreadful apprehensions by one of my messmates, who was turning up the idlers to assist in taking in the sails, when he informed me the ship had been in great danger, but was then brought to.

Words, in fact, are not sufficiently expressive, and my pen is equally defective in describing this unhappy passage. I shall therefore observe only that on January 31 we arrived at Halifax in Nova Scotia, after a passage of ninety-seven days, ten weeks of which we had been under jurymasts; the second lieutenant, gunner and seventy-three men sick (twenty of which were frost-bit); the only square sail, a spritsail, at the mainyard for a main-sail; the ship covered strangely with ice, and such a wreck as hardly before ever [was] seen, having encountered

> forty-five heavy severe gales of wind. To prove the matter still further, I shall observe that the thanks of the commander-in-chief was gave to the captain and ship's company, and on the Sunday following we returned thanks to Almighty God for our safe arrival in Halifax, and for our happy deliverance from the hardships and perils of the sea.

John Knox Laughton, ed., *Journal of Rear-Admiral Bartholomew James 1752–1828* (London, 1896), 16–22. Hereafter cited as Laughton, ed., *James' Journal.* Many of the dates given by James are incorrect, and the passage, according to the log of the *Orpheus,* was ninety-three days, not ninety-seven.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO COLONEL JOSEPH REED [1]

[Extract] Cambridge, January 31, 1776

. . . I can acquaint you that our Commodore Manly has just taken two ships from White Haven to Boston, with coal and potatoes, and sent them into Plymouth,[2] and fought a tender (close by the light house where the vessels were taken), long enough to give his prize time to get off, in short, till she thought it best to quit the combat, and he to move off from the men-of-war, which were spectators of this scene.

[1] Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington,* IV, 299–301.

[2] The *Norfolk* and *Happy Return.*

STEPHEN MOYLAN TO JAMES WARREN [1]

[Extract]

Sir Mr [Jonathan] Glover called upon the General this day informing him that the Legislative power of this Province, were about makeing Some alterations or amendment in the Act, relative to Captures made by armed vessels, fitted out of this Colony. So as to make that act Conformable to the Resolutions of Congress, he allso mentioned that Some difficulties may arrise, after Condemnation respecting the sale of prizes made by the Continental vessels, as it Seems the deputy Sheriff is ordered to take charge of, & sell the prizes made by vessels fitted out by indeviduals, or otherwise that will Certainly militate with the agreement entered into by his Excellency with the Agents appointed by him, who are to have a Certain Commis[si]on & no more, for transacting that b[usi]ness now Sir I am ordered by the General to Lay this matter before you, requesting that no future impediments may arise after Condemnation of these vessels, to interrupt the sale of them & Cargoes a Clause in this particular, enacting that all vessels taken by the Cruizers fitted out at the Continental expence shall be given up to the Agents appointed for negotiating that business, imediately after Condemnation, will answer every purpose of this application to you —

[Cambridge] 31st Jany

[1] Washington Papers, LC.

JAMES WARREN TO SAMUEL ADAMS [1]

[Extract] Watertown, Jany. 31, 1776

Manly last week took two Ships from Whitehaven with Coal, Beer, Potatoes, and some other small Articles.[2] a Tender came to their relief with a Force superiour to Manley's, but he Bravely Beat Him off and Triumphantly Carried them into Plymouth.

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1. *Warren-Adams Letters,* II, 433–34.
2. The ship *Happy Return,* 130 tons, James Hall, master, and the ship *Norfolk,* 120 tons, Jonathan Grendal, master.

JOSEPH PALMER TO ROBERT TREAT PAINE [1]

[Extract] Watertown, January 31st 1776.

I think with you, that it can't be long before we shall see the worst of this controversy: I think it clear, that Quebeck & Boston, must both be reduced before the Spring opens: And as our Enemies intend to pour A dreadful Storm upon us as early in the Spring as possible; I wou'd ask, whether Something ought not to be done? whether self preservation does not dictate, that something ought to be done to divert Storm? & whether F[rance] & S[pain], if they break with G[reat] B[ritain], will not direct the Storm, or a part of it, to other objects? & is it not better for us, being thus threatened, to enter into a Treaty with F & S, defensive & offensive, rather than Suffer the whole Storm to fall upon us? I shou'd now, notwithstanding my connections in Br: [Britain] by blood & Friendship, most heartily rejoice to see a Superior F & S Fleet, enter the Harbour of B.[Boston] & Subdue our unnatural enemies. We doubt not but you will do all in your power to assist us; but you must not depend upon our present prospects of [Salt] Petre & Powder for our present military exertions, & our Eyes are upon the Congress for further Speedy Supplies of Powder; a number of Vessels are out, for that Article; but their arrival is too uncertain for our present dependance. The exigency of the day, require dispatch & Strength; not a moment to be lost . . . .

We have it now in contemplation to build upon our own a/c, 2 Vessels, of 36 & 32 Guns: The Estimate for 'em, including 6 months wages & provisions, 2 Suits Sails, 2 Sets of Anchors & Cables, & every thing else as nearly equal to Bri[tish] Men of War as possible; its amo is nearly £22000; & £19000, Lmo & I believe its not far from right: The Report is not yet made; how it will be received I cannot say – Pray my very respectful Compts to all Friends, & believe me to remain, [&c.]

J P

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1. Robert Treat Paine Papers, MassHS.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M. BRIG *Hope* [1]

Remarks on bd the *Hope* Janry Tusdy the 30th 1776

8 [A.M.] Fresh Breezes and Clear Got up T-G-yds Weighd & Came to Sail in
9 Compy with the *Nigar* & a Transport
10 Turning out of the Above [Cape Cod] Harbr
12 Do Wr Race Point N N E 3 Leagues
1 [P.M.] Fresh Breezes and Squay, Saw a Sail to the N W
2 Made Sail & Give Chace

4 Drove the Chace on Shore, Close to the Mouth of the North River, found her to be one of the Rebel armd Schooners [2] at 4 Anchored within Gun Shot of her Fired a Number of Shot at her, Fresh Gales with Snow

8 it being Dark Obliged us to Leave of[f] Firing in 2d Reefs TS and got down T-G-yds it Blowing hard Could not Purchace our Anchor. Vrd to 2/3 of a Cable

12[M.] Do Wr

Remarks on bd the *Hope* Wednsdy the 31st Jany 1776

4 [A.M.] More Modt and Hazy

5 at Day Light Saw the Rebel Schooner Sunk in the Entrance of the
6 River. Hoisted the Boats out and Sent them Mand & Armd to
7 Endavour to Set her on fire but found her full of Water, Could by
8 no Means Set fire to her, the Same time the Rebels firing from
9 Both Sides of the River at us, at ½ past 9 the Boats Returned
10 at 10 Weighd & Came to Sail at Noon.

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1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1823.
2. Washington's schooner *Hancock,* Captain John Manley.

Nicholas Brown to Captain Benjamin Comstock [1]

Sr Providence Jany 31st 1776

You having the Command of the Sloop *Polly* bound [for] St Estatia our orders are that You Imbrace Every Oppertunity you possably Can to Gain your passage their by going out Secunnet way, and on your Arivel their Dispose of the Cargo for the Most you Can provided you Can purchass Gun Powder, or in Lue their of Salt Peter with about 15 lb of Sulpher to Every 100 lb of Salt Peeter, Good Fire Arms Good Double Bridled Gun Locks & Lead, Or if these Articals are Not to be had Lay the whole Neet proceeds out in Roushie Duck or in Lue of part their of Ticklingburg and ozinbriggs, and proceede Back to this place as Soone as possable Either by Stopg at Stoneg Town or at aney harbor on the Eastern Shore from Secunnitt to Bedford or by Runing Directly to this Town, by Coming in by Nite Secunnit way as the wind may permit of if none of the above Articals Can be Got to the Amount of your Cargo, You are to procede to aney other of the French or Nutral Islands you may think best, but we hope you'l be able to Lay out the whole in St Estatia in Duck if not in Powder &c Nessessary You'l Do Every thing in your power to Accomplish the Voyage as Soone as You possably Can –

Your Commn for Doing the Whole Buisiness of the Voiage is to be 5 PCt Vizt 2½ for Sails & [illegible] for Returns

[Endorsed] Ben. Comstocks Orders –

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1. Nicholas Brown Papers, JCBL.

JOURNAL OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO BUILD TWO CONTINENTAL FRIGATES IN RHODE ISLAND [1]

[Providence] Jany 31st 1776

Meeting in being according to Adjournment

Voted. That Mr John I. Clarke engage Twenty Tons of Hemp at Salem provided it may be Deliver'd here for 54/ P C

Voted. That this Committee approve of Mr Nicholas Brown's Advancing thirty pounds LMy to Mr Ethanah Palmer to enable him to procure the Masts for the S[h]ips. –

Reckoning 21/ paid by Col Nightingale

Meeting adjourned to Fryday Evening 6 o'clock [2]

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1. Journal R.I. Frigates, RIHS.
2. The meeting on February 2, 1776 showed no business transacted.

BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM WEST TO THE NEWPORT TOWN COUNCIL [1]

Gentlemen,– Head Quarters 31st January 1776 –

Yesterday, from undouted authority, I was made fully acquainted with the Distressed situation of the Town of Newport, from which Consideration am Induced to permit the Ferry, wood & Markett Boats or any other Vessell with Provision or Fuel for the Town of Newport, to Pass & repass as usual, on Conditions that the Town Council of the Town of Newport obtains sufficient Assurances from Capn [James] Wallace that the said Boats & Vessells pass & repass without being molested – And Mr John Malborne is hereby permited to go on board Capn Wallace and make the best Bargin he can in behalf of the Town which may not be Detrimental to the Cause of Liberty – Any Treaty, between the Town of Newport & Capn Wallace I expect to be made acquainted with as soon as may be The three Gentlemen mentioned in your Letter of Yesterday, Viz, Messrs Jno Collins, William Ellery & George Sears to be a Committee to Inspect into the small Stores &c I approve, and they are hereby permited to act in that Capacity 'till further Orders – I am Gentn [&c.]

W^{m} West

N B. Suffer no News Papers by any means to go on board any of the Ships. –

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1. Letters to the Governor, 1776, vol. 8, R.I. Arch.

DEPOSITION OF JOHN BROWN [1]

New London County
Stonington Jany 31st 1776

Personally Appeared Mr John Brown of Fishers Island, of Lawful age (& being duly Sworn) Testifieth and saith that he lived with his father Mr Benjamin Brown the Year past, and that in the morning of the 7th of August last, Capt Wallace of the Ship *Rose,* and Some other Ships of War & Transports under his Command, came to Anchor at the west end of Sd Island, soon after which – Capt Wallace with a Number of armed men, came on shore, and Applyd to his father for a Number of fat Cattle & Sheep, That Capt Wallace said if he would let them have 'em at Such price as this Deponant & One Colonel Willard should agree for all was well; But if that did not Sute the Deponant & his father, he Wallace – said he would have them Notwithstanding; and Commanded them emediately to have said Stock brought up & Yarded, upon which this Deponant with others (knowing themselves & the Stock of Sd Island to be in the power of Sd Wallace) went after the Cattle & Sheep & brought them up, & yarded them, That this deponant & Col Willard Valued the 1100 sheep & 30 Cattle at £432..15..0 Sterling; that the sheep was put on bord the Transports the 7th of August, and the Cattle the day following, and that he Expected Capt Wallace would pay his Father for Sd stock, and that this Deponant went on board the *Spy* Transport with the Account, to receive the money thereon, that when on Bord, the Captain of the *Spy*, [H.] Evans gave him an Order on his Excellency General Gage for the Amount of Sd Cattle & Sheep, and that he received no other Consideration whatever, and that no part of Sd Order hath ever been paid, And this Deponant further Testifieth, that the Within Account of Expence for removing the Sheep, Cows, &c, to the main, & the keeping them is a True & Just Account, and that he thinks the Damage his father Sustains by the removing the Stock from Sd Island (Not being permitted to return them again) is as Great as it is here Estemated at, and that his father's Damage is dayly Increasing both by the Expence of keeping the Stock, & in his not being permitted to feed & Improve the Island as Usual,[2]

John Brown

Sworn Before me, Nathaniel Minor Justice of Peace

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1. Papers CC (Connecticut State Papers), 66, I, 137–38, NA.
2. *Ibid.*, "Account of Stock Taken from Mr Benjamin Brown, of Fishers Island in the Province of New York – By Capt Jas Wallace of the Ship *Rose,* and other Ships of war & Transports under his Command, on the 7th & 8th of August, A D. 1775. Vizt

"1100 Sheep a 6/Sterling pr head	£330.. 0..–
"30 head of cattle at scale prices	102..15..–
	£432..15..–
"Reduc'd to Lawful Mony is	£587. 13. 4

"1775 Augt 19th – Expence for Removing Sd Brown's Stock from Fishers Island, by Advice of New London County Committee of Correspondence & Safety Vizt

"Boating of 28 Cows a 3/p head	£4.. 4..0
"Do 8. 2 Year old Cattle a 2/6	1.. 0..0
"Do 30 Yearling Cattle a 2/	3.. 0..0
"Do 562 Sheep at 2d	4..13..8
	£12..17: 8

"Account of Expence, & Damage Sd Brown Sustained, by keeping his Stock on the Main, and in not Improving the Island – Vizt	
"keeping 28 Cows from the first of November 1775, when they seas'd to pay their keeping, to the 31st of Jany 1776 a 1/6 p week, being 13 weeks each is	£27.. 6..–
"To keeping 62 Sheep from 19th of Augt 1775, to Jany 31st 1776, being 23 & ½ weeks Each a 1d pr week (the Rest being Sold at fetching of)	6.. 0..5
"To keeping 28 Yearling Cattle 23½ weeks Each at 7d	18..15..8
"To Damage Sustaind, by not Improving the 28 Cows on the Island, loss of feed and what they sufferd by being Carried of at 20/	28.. –..–
"To damage by loss of feed, and in not being permitted to keep 500 Sheep on the Island, being the Usual quantity for Increase &c, 1/ p head	25.. –..–
	£705..13..1"

MINUTES OF THE CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

At a meeting of the Governor and Council of Safety,
[Lebanon] Wednesday, 31 January, A.M.

Capt. Uriah Hayden, present, being sent for &c. to conclude about building the ship for defence &c., and have and do agree, that he shall and he undertakes to build said ship, to be 80 feet keel, 27 feet beam, and 12 feet hold, to have 6s. per day for and finding himself, and that he shall employ good and faithful workmen and on the best and easiest terms he possibly can, and discharge every part of the duty with the greatest fidelity, care and dispatch, and is to advise and consult Cap. [Seth] Harding who is sent for that purpose, or any other person or persons who may be appointed by this Board, and to attend every direction he may receive from the Governor and this Council about the moulding and manner of building and finishing the same, and keep and render careful and exact accounts of his doings in the premises.

The foregoing agreed to, Signed Uriah Hayden.

Copy given him of the same.

Agreed with Benja. Williams, Esqr, of Saybrook, that he be employed to do and work all the necessary iron-work for the warship Capt Hayden is employed to build, that is to say, all the smith work larger and smaller as low and including deck nails, and the same deliver at said Hayden's ship-yard, at the rate of twenty shillings per hundred weight, and to do the same in good and workmanlike manner, and in good and due season as fast [as] it shall be wanted for its proper use and uses, and to do and perform the whole in good, faithful and upright manner, to be done and wrought of iron to be found and delivered at his shop at or near said yard.

Said Williams agrees to the above, Signed Benj^{n} Williams.

Copy given him.

On further consideration voted, that the dead rising for the row-gallies ordered to be built by Capts. [Jonathan] Lester and [Job] Winslow be about 7 inches instead of four as before agreed.

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1. Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut Records,* XV, 229, 230.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

[New York] Die Mercurii, 10 HO. A.M.
Jany. 31st, 1776.

Mr. Nichs. Low applied for a permit to lade the Brigantine *New-York,* on account of Mr. Isaac Governeur. Thereupon a permit was delivered to him in the words following, to wit:

In Committee of Safety,
New-York, Jany. 31st, 1776.

The Brigantine *New-York*, Capt. John Walker master, is hereby permitted to lade at this port with provisions and lumber.

3 ho. P.M. January 31st, 1776.

Whereas, The Provincial Congress of this Colony appointed Messrs. Jacobus Van Zandt, John Van Derbilt and Comfort Sands, to load certain vessels on

Provincial account, and despatch them in order to obtain articles necessary for the defence of the Colonies, and Mr. John Van Derbilt having undertaken and nearly compleated the loading of one of the said vessels, so that she will be speedily ready to sail, informs the committee that he has advanced a large sum of money and stands in need of cash, as well to reimburse the cash he has already advanced as to complete the lading of the said vessel, and requests an order on the Treasurer for £1,800 on account. Thereupon,

Ordered, That Peter V. B. Livingston, Esqr. as Treasurer of the Provincial Congress of this Colony, advance to Mr. John Van Derbilt the sum of £1,800 on account, and take Mr. Van Derbilt's receipt for the same,

1. *New York Provincial Congress,* I, 274, 276.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS [1]

[Philadelphia] Wednesday, January 31, 1776

The committee, to whom sundry letters were referred, on the 27th instant, from General Washington and others, brought in their report; Whereupon,

Resolved, That Mr. [Peter] Barbarie, owner of the sloop and cargo said to have been taken by the enemy, and retaken by one of the continental vessels of war, ought to make and prosecute his claim to the same, before the court appointed, or to be appointed, by the government of the colony to which the said sloop and cargo were carried, to hear and determine causes civil and maritime, where a process ought to be instituted to confirm the re-capture, and adjudge the salvage.[2]

The Congress, taking into consideration the letter from Lord Stirling,[3]

Resolved, That the private adventures of the captain and mates of the transport *Blue Mountain Valley*, be delivered up to them, and that they be permitted to return to England.

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[1] Ford, ed., *JCC,* IV, 104–06.

[2] The sloop was the *Sally,* seventy tons, with a cargo of 153 quarter casks of Lisbon wine. She had been taken by H.M.S. *Niger,* retaken on Christmas Eve 1775, and carried into Marblehead by Washington's armed schooner *Warren,* Captain Winborn Adams. Barbarie, her owner, was from Perth Amboy, N.J.

[3] Stirling's letter was dated January 27, 1776.

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH [1]

[Philadelphia] Wednesday Jany 31. Capt [James Hamilton] Dempster of the *Blue Mountain Valley* lately taken by Ld Stirling having a private Property on Board, the same was now restored to Him by Congress at the Request of his Lordship, Quere Whether the Mates Adventure was not also allowed to Him –

[1] Richard Smith's Diary, LC.

PETITION OF THE CAPTAINS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA ARMED VESSELS TO COMMODORE ANDREW CALDWELL, [1]

Sir, Philadelphia, January 31st, 1776.

We, the Captains of the Pennsylvania Arm'd Vessels, Beg leave to inform you, That the Fifteenth Article of the Regulations, made for the Government of the

Province Fleet, has appeared to be a principal objection to many mens entering into the Service, as well as disscouraging to the Officers, and beg you to lay the same before the Honble the Committee of Safety.[2]

We likewise beg that you apply to the Board for an Order to mount our Guns on Truck Carriage, being perfectly sensible of the great disadvantage we shall otherwise labour under (in time of action) mounted in the manner they are at present.

We are, Sir [&c.]

John Rice,
Charles Alexander,
Jn. Hamilton,
James Montgomery,
James Blair,
Rich'd Eyers,
Alex'r Henderson,
James Montgomery, for
Capts Moore & Boyse.

To Andrew Caldwell, Esqr, Commodore and Commander in Chief of the Pennsylvania Fleet, &c. &c. Philadelphia.

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[1] Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives,* 1st series, IV, 706–07.

[2] The Fifteenth article of the Regulations, adopted October 16, 1775 reads: "No Captain or other officer shall discharge any of the Boat's crew without leave from the Commodore, Committee of Safety, or Assembly, unless he ships an equal number to those discharged immediately." See Minutes of the Pennsylvania Committee of Safety, Volume 2, 482.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

In Committee of Safety.
Philad'a, 31st Jan'y, 1776.

Upon application of Capt. Procter [Thomas Proctor] for a sum of Money for the recruit'g Service; By order of the Board, an order was drawn on Mr. Jno. Max'l Nesbitt, for fifty pounds for said purpose.

The Memorial of the Captains & Lieutenants of the armed Boats was this day read, and refer'd to Fryday next.

[1] *Pennsylvania Colonial Records,* X, 472.

PETITION OF JOHN HACKETT TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

The Humble Petition of John Hacket

Sheweth.

That your Petr on the promotion of Benjamin Davis Steward of the Arm'd Boat *Dickenson*, was, at the request of Capt John Rice of said Boat employed to do the duty of a Steward on board Said Boat untill a more Suita[ble] person may be found.

That on account of a Trivial difference with Lieutent [John] Christie of the *Ranger* your Petr was tryed by a Court martial, Sentenced to be Broke, forfeit half amonths pay and turn'd over as private to another Boat.

That your Petr has done the duty of a Steward on board the *Dickenson* for near four Months with Care and fidelity: for the truth of which he appeals to his Captain, who on that account, and of the aforesd difference, thought proper to give him his discharge.

That your Petr apprehended the Sentence rather Severe for the Nature of the offence, particularly in that part of it; of compelling him to Serve as private on board an other Boat, having been only employed to do the duty of another man and having Sign'd no articles whatsoever. Especially as his appointment as a private wou'd by no means be Sufficient to Support his Wife and Family and therefore did Refuse to take up Arms as a private in consequence of which he was made a prisoner in the Guard house, which as soon as some of his Creditors Understood he was Taken and Confined in Goal where he now remains.

That his fault (if any) was owing to Inadvertence, and not to a Contempt of Authority, and therefore looks up to you Gentlemen; as the Guardians of Safety, and Liberty, and Humbly prays you will be pleased to examin into the merits of the Case afford Such relief to your Petr as to your Goodness & Wisdom Shall Seem meet by either discharging him from the Fleet or Suffering to act in his former Capacity as his Capt is willing he Shou'd do. And yr Petr will pray –

John Hackett

Phillada Goal Jany 31st 1776

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1. Committee of Safety, Navy Papers, Pa. Arch.

Pennsylvania Gazette, Wednesday, January 31, 1776

Philadelphia, January 31.

A Gentleman arrived here in three weeks from St. Eustatia informs, that the *Pomona* man of war, and the *Argo* and *Lynx* sloops, were cruizing off that island, and had taken seven or eight American vessels, and sent them to Antigua; and that they had advice from Antigua, that 12 or 14 store-ships, bound from London for Boston, were arrived there, having been blown off our Coast, and more were daily arriving.

George Mason and John Galton to the Maryland Council of Safety [1]

Sir. Fairfax County [Virginia] Jany 31st 1776.

Being empowered & directed, by the Committee of Safety for this Colony, to build two row gallies, one to carry a 24, & the other an 18 pounder, & provide three arm'd cutters for the protection of Potomac River, we think it proper to inform your board that this measure will be carryed into execution with all possible expedition, & that we hope to have your co-operation in adopting some similar plan, for the same purpose, we beg the favour of an answer by the first opportunity; and are, with the greatest respect, Sir [&c.]

G. Mason. John Galton

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1. Correspondence of Council of Safety, Md. Arch.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

In the Council of Safety,
[Charleston] Wednesday, Jan. 31st, 1776.

The President laid before the board the following letters which he had written by their order.

Charles-Town, Jan. 30th, 1776.

Gentlemen – Your favour of the 13th instant was delivered to us two days ago, by Mr. Pooler, who has also produced several certificates and resolutions relative to the Brigantine *William* and her cargo from the Council of Safety and general committee at Savannah, which have induced us to

Resolve, That the vessel and so much of the cargo as is, in very fact, the property of himself and other gentlemen resident in Georgia, should be immediately restored to them, but the several parcels under mentioned, to be detained until full proof is made to your satisfaction of the proprietory.

Mr. LeVein has indeed been before this board, and declared, that the indico which is shipped in his name, and that of his partners is actually his and their property, and that Mr Groves is not interested, but we have received such assurances to the contrary, as renders it necessary for the justification of his character and to remove all suspicions which might otherwise remain, that proof should be given of the property of the 122 casks of indico, and 100 barrels of rice consigned to Mr. John Clemson. These proofs we apprehend may be immediately brought up by appealing to the letters, which will show on whose account and risk the shipment was made, and to whose account the net produce of sale is ordered to be placed. No gentleman who has signed the general association in this colony nor any one who means to pay proper obedience to the continental resolves, and ordinances, will have any objection to this mode of test, and although we do not mean, nor did we ever intend to interpose our authority over the property of our friends and neighbours in Georgia, yet we must insist upon our right of restraining the inhabitants of the colony, from committing such acts as we judge will be a breach of common faith and hurt the cause of America; the letters therefore which relate to the goods under mentioned, must be opened in your presence in order to ascertain the property as above mentioned, or the goods and letters remain in your custody until we shall have further discussed the subject with the Congress or Council of Safety in Savannah. Such goods as appear to have been shipped on account of any inhabitant of this colony must be put into store and detained by you until further orders.

The parcels of goods particularly suspected are:

15 casks of indico, shipt by J. Graham and Co. for Kinsly and Lushington.

122 casks of indico, by Peter La Vien & Co., and 100 barrels of rice, consigned to John Clempson.

10 casks by James Lucina, consigned to John Nutt.

5 casks by the same, consigned to Bourdieu and Chollette.

We say these are the articles which have been represented to us as being in the whole or in part suspected to be the property of inhabitants of this colony, but if you shall have good grounds for suspecting any other parcels to be the property of inhabitants of Carolinian subjects, letters which relate to such goods must undergo inspection in like manner as above directed, and let this business be finished with all possible dispatch, and a report made to the Provincial Congress or Council of Safety as the time shall require. We desire you will make further inquiry, and inform this board more particularly of any illicit loading of vessels with rice, indico or other articles by the persons you have mentioned, Mr. P. and Mr. S. or any other of this colony – also that you will continue your watchfulness, and extend your advice, influence and authority both north and south effectually to prevent loading without due licence any vessels in the bays, rivers and creeks on this coast. We have reason to believe that attempts have lately been made to carry on a clandestine trade in certain small vessels which we have ordered to be conducted through Wappoo to Charles-Town, that some have actually been loaded and have sailed, and that others are now endeavouring to elude all applications.

By order of the Council of Safety.

Henry Laurens, President.

Committee for St. Helena, at Beaufort.

In the Council of Safety,
Jan. 30th, 1776.

Sir – Capt. Pindar has complained to us, that the people who went on board his sloop in Stono, and brought her round to Charles-Town, plundered all his liquors and other stock on board the vessel, the damage amounting to upwards of £35. We are persuaded you would give no countenance to such acts of violence and oppression, we have therefore referred Capt. Pindar to you, for a proper inquiry into the matter.

While we indeavour to enforce due subordination to the laws of Congress, it is also our duty to prevent every act of tyranny upon our fellow subjects – even offenders are not to be punished without proper authority.

By order of the Council of Safety.

Henry Laurens, President.

Capt. Brigantine [Benjamin] Stone

Charles-Town, South-Carolina,
30th January 1776.

Gentlemen – We are favored with your letter of the 24th ult., by the hands of Waightstill Avery, esquire, to which we have paid all possible attention and regard, by consenting, out of our very small fund of gunpowder, to supply your Colony with one thousand pounds weight; which, according to Mr. Avery's arrangement, we have ordered to be delivered from George-Town and Camden stores, . . .

We are extremely sorry that we cannot send you the full quantity which you require. Two days before Mr. Avery's arrival we received a most pressing demand from Savannah, in Georgia, for 5000 lb., claimed in return for a loan. We had it not in our power to repay (if it was due) more than 2000 lb. This unexpected demand was made in consequence of menaces from the Commodore of the ships-of-war at Cockspur to burn Savannah, and has proved a bar to further supplies to you. . . .

We wrote you the 2d inst. by a Capt. Wylley, who was going to your Colony in order to claim a scooner with Capt. Tollemache had seized from him; but having heard on his journey that the scooner had foundered in the intended voyage to Cape Fear,[2] he turned back, but assured us he had forwarded our letter by a safe hand.

By order of the Council of Safety.

Henry Laurens, President.

Provincial Council, North Carolina.

The Council took into consideration Capt. Edward Blake's letter of yesterday.

Resolved, That this Council will insure Capt. Edward Blake's scooner called the *Little Thomas,* which sailed last Friday, on the public [account], to and from Bermuda, at the value of two thousand pounds currency; and that he be allowed two hundred and eighty pounds monthly hire for the said scooner, while she continues in the public service.

Ordered, That Capt. Blake's account for the cargo imported by him on the public account in the sloop *Polly*, John Conyers master, be discharged, after deducting the cost of the rice exported; and that a licence be given to Capt. Blake to load the sloop again, upon the public account, on the same terms as are stipulated with Capt. Joseph Darrell – the article of rum to be added among those to be imported.

Capt. [William] Pindar acquainted the Board that their letter to Capt. Benj. Stone, sent by him, had been delivered, but that he had sent no answer; and requested to be permitted to take in sufficient stores for his vessel for the voyage to [New] Providence.

Whereupon the following permit was granted:

In the Council of Safety,
31st January, 1776.

The Sloop *Three Brothers*, William Pindar, master, is permitted to pass Fort Johnson and the battery at Sullivan's Island, to sea, for Providence, having no other goods or merchandize on board than such as shall be indorsed hereon, and signed by the Chairman of the Committee of Observation.

By order of the Council of Safety.

Henry Laurens, President.

To the Commanding Officers for the time being, respectively of Fort Johnson, and of the troops at Sullivan's Island.

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1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society*, III, 234–41.
2. The schooner *George Town* packet, listed on Shuldham's Prize List of April 24, 1776, as "Foundered at Sea." PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

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1 Feb.

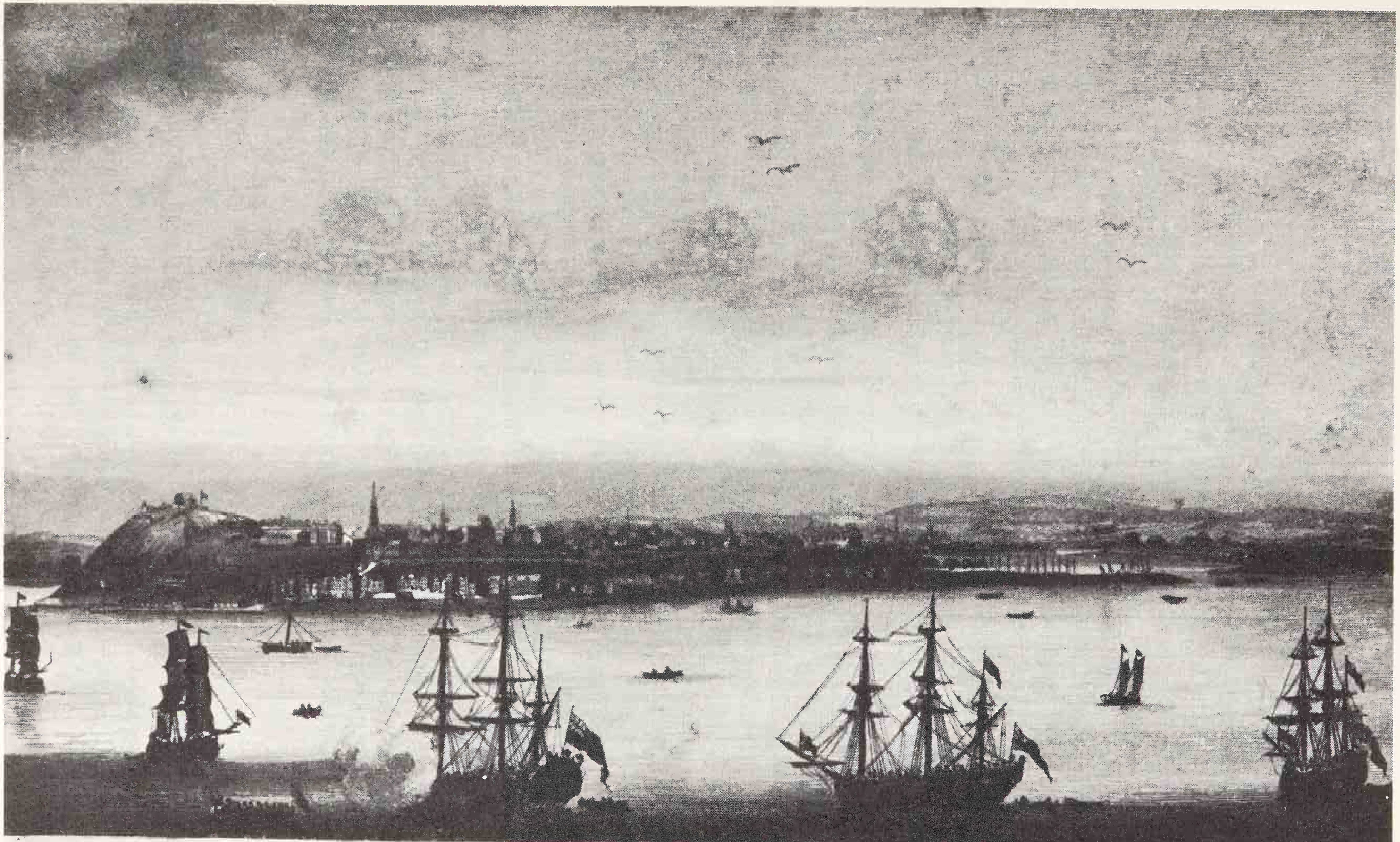
BRIGADIER GENERAL BENEDICT ARNOLD TO JOHN HANCOCK [1]

Dear Sir Camp before Quebec, Febry 1. 1776

I have the pleasure acquainting you, we still hold Our Ground, before Quebec, & keep the enemy closely blockaded, tho' we have received, but a small reinforcement of One hundred & fifty Men from Montreal – The enemy have within this Ten Days, sallied Out twice at Pallace Gate, with abt Four, or five, hundred Men, with a view of seizing two field pieces, we have on that side, Our Men Advanced briskly to Attack them, when they made a precipitate retreat under cover of their Guns. I make no Doubt of holding Our Ground, as we expect a reinforcement daily, which we are anxiously waiting for, as the Duty is very severe. –

I have taken the liberty In former Letters to the Hble. Contl. Congress to give my Opinion in regard to Men and Measures, necessary for the reduction of Quebec the Necessary ways, & means for suporting those Men, I have omitted, as Genl Montgomery in his Life time Transmitted you his sentiments on the Matter, as well as on the necessary measures For forming a lasting union between this Country & the Colonies. – I have only to observe if the Capital is taken, I believe Paper money will soon have a Currency. –

Major John Brown, who Came down with Genl Montgomery, with about One hundred, & Sixty Men, Collected from different Regiments, Now Assumes, and Insists on the Title of Colonel, which he says the General promised him at Montreal, that the General promised him promotion, He told me some time before his death. when Major Brown wrote to remind him of his promise, the General handed me his Letter, & told me at the same time, as Colo [James] Easton and Major Brown were publickly Impeached with plundering the Officers, Baggage taken at Sorell, Contrary to Articles of Capitulation, and to the great scandal of the American Army, He could Not in Conscience or honour, promote him (Majr Brown) untill those, Matters were Cleared up, He then sent for Major Brown & told him his Sentiments on the Matter very freely, after which I heard of no further application for Promotion. This Transaction, Colo [Donald] Campbell, Major Duboys [Lewis Dubois], and Several Gentlemen were knowing to – As Colo Easton, & Major Brown, have doubtless a sufficient Share of Modest Merit to apply to the Honble Continental Congress for promotion, I think it my Duty to say the Charge before mentioned is the Publick Topic of Conversation at



A View of the CITY of QUEBEC, the Capital of CANADA.

Taken partly from Point des Peres, and partly on board the Vanguard Man of War, by Capt. Hervey Smith.

Printed for Carington Bowles, *at his* Map & Print Warehouſe, *Nº69 in St Pauls Church Yard*, London.

Montreal, & among the officers of the Army in General, and as such Conduct, is unbecomeing the Character of Gentlemen or Soldiers, I believe It would give great disgust to the Army in General If those Gentlemen were promoted before those matters were Cleared up. –

This will be Dld you by Mr David Hopkins, a Gentleman who came out a Volunteer wth me, his Spirited Conduct both on Our March and Since Our Arrival in this Country, merit my recommendation to your Notice, of which I think him worthy – I am with great respect & Esteem, Dr Sir [&c.]

Benedict Arnold

P S The Contents of the Inclosed Letter I do not wish to be kept from the Gentlemen mentioned therein, the Publick Interest is my chief motive for writing. I should despise myself was I capable of asserting a thing in prejudice of any Gentlemen without sufficient reason to make it publick.

B. Arnold

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1. Papers CC (Letters from General Officers), 162, I, 58–62, NA.

Certificate of the Committee of Safety for Majabigwaduce [1]

We the Committee of Safty for Majorbigwaduce Being Supplicated by Mr Daniel Wordwell of this District for our assistance to inable him to Make Known unto Mr [Silas] Deane Mr John Adames Mr [George] Wythe Committee appointed By the Honorable Continental Congress to Receive accounts of Losses Sustained by the Ministerial troops this is therefore to Cartify their Honors the Committee and all others to whome it may Concerne that the above said Wordwel Did on the twelveth Day of September 1775 Saile from this place in a Sloop (being his own proppety laden with Cord wood) for piscattaqua with other articals as hides and Cash in order to procure provision for him selfe and Nighbours being on his Returne whome was taken by a man of war belonging to the King and finily Lost Vessel and Effects. the Said Vessel was taken by our Enemy September the 30th 1775 and we the Said Committee having Maid Strict Inquire into the premeses find Said Vessel to be Burdend Sixty three tuns Saven years old two good Cabels and anchers Second Sute of Sals about halfe worne Verey good Standing Rigin Sixty Dollars in Stors being the property of Said Wordwel and the whole dependence the Said Wordwel had for the Support of himselfe and family the whole of the above we Judge to be worth the Sum of two Hundred and fifty Eight pounds Lawfull money on board sd Sloop (belonging to the Distrest Inhabetants) when taken Leather Cash & Nails to the Value of thirty Dollars.

Joseph Young
Mark Hatch } Committee
Joseph Perkins

Majerbigwaduce February the 1st 1776

then Jeremiah Wordwel and Peter Mugrige Came before us the Committee of Safty for sd Majerbigwaduce they being the two hands belonging to daniel Wordwels Sloop when taken by a man of wor and after being Examaned and duly Coshoned to declare the whole truth Seresly and Solomly declard it was in Every Surcomstance as Related by us

Joseph Young
Mark Hatch } Com
Joseph Perkins

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1. James Phinney Baxter, ed., *Documentary History of the State of Maine* (Portland, 1910), XIV, 331–32.

CAPTAIN WILLIAM WOOD TO ROBERT HANSON HARRISON [1]

Dear Sir

Glossceter [Gloucester] Feb th 1st 1776

your Kind Treatment to me in this unhappy Situation makes me make free to Trouble you again for your Kind assistance. when I Saw you Last on my way down to this place I did not know but the Court had given orders that I was to have my parole as the Rest of the Captns but to my great Surprise I am bound to the Bourders of this Town & not to go out of it on any pretence whatever this I think is very hard upon me as I Can assure you had I my Liberty to go even in to Boston I would not accept of it as I would see the determination of the Vessel [2] If it is in your p[owe]r, by represeenting me to the Court to gett me my enlargment further such as going to Cambridge as I want to see you Letting you know my Case, which is in a very Bad situation the Committee in this Town has used me in every respect Like a gentleman & Desired me to write to you on this occassion I am sorry to Trouble you butt depend on it your Kindness at this Time to me shall be paid with Honour & never to be forgott. I make no doubt butt you will do your endeavor for me & shall be glad to hear from you by Captn Nellis & beleive me in the Interim [&c.]

W^m^ Wood

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1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 249, 249a.
2. The ship *Jenny*.

New England Chronicle, THURSDAY, JANUARY 25 TO THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1776

Cambridge, February 1.

Last Monday [January 29] one of the Continental Cruizers got into a harbour to the eastward, having been chased by the *Lively* man of war, who fired about 170 shot at her.[1]

A wood vessel, bound to Boston, was taken by one of our cruizers this week, in the Bay.

Last Thursday morning [January 25], Capt. Manley, being on a cruize in the Bay, discovered a ship a league or two S.E. of Boston light-house. He immediately gave chace to, and took her within sight of the ships in Boston harbour.[2] He then stood for a snow, which he espied off Cohasset; and soon coming up with her, she struck to him without hesitation.[3] Just as Capt. Manly had manned his last prize, a schooner of eight carriage guns, with many swivels, and full of men, convoying two little provision vessels from Halifax, came up, and began an engagement with Capt. Manley; but being soon convinced of her error, she sheered off for Boston. – [4] Capt. Manly would undoubtedly have taken her also, with the two provision vessels, had not his crew, (which was at first much short of the complement) been considerably weakened by manning the two prizes. In the engagement, his gunner was wounded, and his rigging much damaged. We have not heard what loss the enemy sustained. Both of the prizes, which were loaded with coal, from Whitehaven, in England, Capt. Manly got safe into Plymouth the ensuing night.[5]

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1. It was not H.M.S. *Lively* which chased the cruiser; the *Lively* on January 29 was refitting in Boston.
2. The ship *Happy Return*.
3. The ship (not snow) *Norfolk*.
4. The identity of the armed schooner has long been in doubt, but from an entry in the journal of H.M. Brig *Hope*, it apparently was the *General Gage*, a dispatch vessel, coming in from Halifax.
5. The foregoing dispatch was repeated word for word in the *Boston Gazette*, Watertown, February 5, 1776.

STEPHEN MOYLAN TO WILLIAM WATSON [1]

Sir Cambridge first Februa[ry] 1776

Your favor of the 29th ulto is Come to hand there must be an enquirey made into the Conduct of that Comander who So shamefully deserted his Commodore please to Let the General know which of the Schooners it was – the General thinks it will be proper that the Captains of these vessels, prove upon oath their private property,[2] after which you may delive[r] to them all except the beeff & pork, which he thin[ks] most probable belongs to the vessels, if it does not it is clear that they must be meant for Supplying the enemy, upon that principle, he does not think it will be proper to give them unto the Captains –

His Excellency has no objections to these gentleme[n] returning to Plymouth, nor has he any objection to their disposeing of the Bazes & Check at your place if they Chuse it, he is pleased, that the scho[oners are] under way, as many ships are expected I am Sir [&c.]

Stephen Moylan P. T. S.

On the Service of the United Colonies
To William Watson Esqr
Agent for the American Navy, Plymouth
By Capt Hall Capt Grindal

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1. PS.
2. Captains James Hall and Jonathan Grendal, of the *Happy Return* and *Norfolk*.

STEPHEN MOYLAN TO WILLIAM WATSON [1]

Sir Cambridge first Feby 1776

Major Hubbard will want 100 Tons of the Coals taken in the two prizes Sent into your place by Commodore Manly,[2] as it is for the publick Service His Excellency is willing to Let him have them, he paying as much for them as any one else woud his Excellency desires you woud be Careful to prevent waste of this article, as it will be very Much wanting for the publick works, he understands that there has been Some pilfering allready, I am [&c.]

Stephen Moylan P. T. S.

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1. PS.
2. The ships *Norfolk* and *Happy Return*.

OFFICERS OF THE ARMED VESSELS FITTED OUT BY ORDER OF GENERAL WASHINGTON [1]

	Armed Vessels.		
Daniel Waters	of the *Lee*	Captn	20 Jany 1776
Wm Kissick	Do	1 Lieutt	Do
John Gill	Do	2 Lieut	Do
John Diamond	Do	Master	Do
Saml Tucker	of *Fran[k]lyn*	Captn	Do
Ed Phittiplace	Do	1 Lieutt	Do
Fran Salter	Do	2 Lieut	Do
Charles Dyar	of the *Harrison*	Captain	Do
Thomas Doten	1 Lieut Sch *Harrison*		23 Jany 1776
John Wigglesworth	2 Lieutt Do		20 Jany 1776
John Manly	Comodore & Captn (*Hancock*)		1 Jany 1776
Richd Stiles	1 Lieut Schoonr *Hancock*		1 Jany 1776
Nicholas Ogelby	2 Lieut Do Do		1 Jany 1776
John Ayres	Captn of the *Lynch*		1 Feby 1776
John Roche	1 Lieutt Do		1 Feby 1776
John Tiley	2 Lieut Do		1 Feby 1776

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1. US Revolution, LC.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO CAPTAIN WILLIAM BURKE [1]

By his Excellency George Washington, Esqr Commander in chief
of the Army of the United Colonies.

To William Burke, Esqr

By virtue of the powers & authorities to me given by the Honourable Continental Congress, I do hereby constitute & appoint you Captain and Commander of the Schooner *Warren,* now lying at Beverly Port, in the Service of the United Colonies of North America, To have, hold, exercise and enjoy the said office of Captain & Commander of the said Vessell, & to perform & execute all matters & things which to your said Office do or may of right belong or appertain untill farther Order shall be given herein by the Honourable Continental Congress, myself or any future Commander in Chief of said Army, Willing & commanding All Officers, Soldiers & persons whatsoever any way concerned to be obedient & Assisting to you in the due Execution of this Commission. Given under my Hand & Seal at Cambridge thi[s 1st] day of [February,] Anno Domini 1776

By His Excellencys command –

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1. Washington Papers, LC.

Journal of the Massachusetts House of Representatives [1]

[Watertown] Thursday, February 1, 1776.
Afternoon.

Benjamin White, Esq; . . . brought down . . . the Report of the Committee of both Houses, appointed to make an Estimate of the Expence of building and furnishing two Vessels for the Defence of *American* Liberty.

[1] Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch.

Journal of Lieutenant Colonel Stephen Kemble [1]

[Boston] Thursday, Feb. 1st. Admiral Graves sailed for England, the same day Captain [George] Dawson arrived from a Cruise and informs that he had destroyed a Rebel Privateer Schooner near Cohasset Rocks, by running her on Shore; [2] said to be the same that Manley commanded, who has done so much Mischief on the Coast, by taking our Merchant Ships. Capt. Dawson says he went on board her after She was on shore and the People had gutted her.

[1] "The Kemble Papers," *Collections of the New-York Historical Society for the Year 1883* (New York, 1884), I, 66–67.

[2] Washington's schooner *Hancock*.

Narrative of Vice Admiral Samuel Graves [1]

[King's Road, February 1, 1776]

From the 27th of January (the day when Mr. Graves resigned the command of the Fleet to Rear Admiral Shuldham and embarked for England) until the first of February the weather was cold, the Wind little and generally from the East, so that the *Preston* was fain to anchor in Kingroad, with the *Canceaux, Trident* Victualler, and two Vessels bound to the West Indies;

[1] Graves's Conduct, II, 40, BM.

Vice Admiral Samuel Graves to Philip Stephens [1]

Preston Kingroad Boston Harbour
Febry 1, 1776.

Sir

On the 27th of last month I resigned the Command of all his Majesty's Ships and Vessels in and about Boston, and of those stationed to the Northward of it, to Rear Admiral Shuldham, the *Canceaux* armed Ship excepted, who is to proceed to England with the *Preston*: I have furnished Rear Admiral Shuldham with Copies of the General and particular Orders the Commanders of all the Ships and Vessels, stationed as abovementioned were then under, and have also given him every information in my Power (material for him to know) of the State of Affairs in this Country.

During the last three Days we have had little Winds and snow, which have prevented my getting farther than this Place, where I anchored this morning, but hope Tomorrow we shall get clear out. The *Hope* brig anchored last Night in Nantasket, and Leiutt [George] Dawson is this moment come on board to inform me that the day before Yesterday about 10 in the Morning he discovered a Rebel Schooner Privateer at Anchor off Plymouth; that upon his standing towards her she immediately got under way and endeavoured, but in Vain, to get into several Harbours on the Coast, that at two o'Clock the Privateer ran ashore, and Lieutt Dawson anchored as near to her as the Ground would admit and fired at her until seven in the Evening, when the Privateer getting off, and endeavouring to push into North River, sunk: That at day light next Morning Lieutt Dawson attempted to set her on Fire, but such Numbers of People were assembled and firing upon the *Hope*'s Crew, and the Rebel Schooner being then almost full of Water, he thought it best to quit her, and not risque his People further, the Privateer being effectually disabled from ever cruizing again.[2] They brought away one Swivel Gun and an old red Ensign. Lieutt Dawson also acquainted me that the Rebels had in the Night thrown up a Breast Work, and brought down several Pieces of Cannon, which they fired to defend the Wreck of the Vessel. I am &c

Sam^{l} Graves

[1] Graves's Conduct, II, 40–41, BM.

[2] The "Privateer" was the armed schooner *Hancock,* Captain John Manley, which was raised, refitted and cruised again.

COLONEL JOSEPH OTIS TO JAMES OTIS [1]

Hond Sir

By Capt daniel Howes I have the Pleasure to Send to the Councel a Master of a Vessell taken Off our Harboar[2]

The Papers Capt Howes has Will Inform as to the Carcamstances

the hands taken aboard appear to be very honest men and forect into the S[e]rvice and are about Entering Aboard An armed Vessell fixing from here.

Col Elisha Doan [Doane] has Sent two Vessells from Chatham to the West Indies within a fortnight and Capt Soln Davis is fixing 2 from here I hope the Honble Cou[nc]il and House Will Inquire whether these men have Leave If not I hope there Will be Proper Orders about them. I have the Honour to be yrs and the Honble Cou[nc]ells [&c.]

Joseph Otis

Barnstable Febry 1st 1776

[1] Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 236.

[2] The sloop *Betsey,* William Heath, master.

JAMES OTIS TO THE MASSACHUSSETS COUNCIL [1]

Gentm Barnstable February 1th 1776

This Incloses The Examination of One William Heath the Master of the Sloop *Betsey* Taken and Brought Into this Harbour the 31th of January Last By Captn Jonathan Howes & Bound from Nova Scotia to Boston to supply our Enemies and who has Been In that Imploy for a Considerable Time: he appears to me to be a Surley Enemical Fellow to this Country and he Distroyed all his Papers save the Register & shiping Papers and as I am Told that was his orders

If he Was Likely to Be Taken: It is Reported that he Beat one of his foremast men so that his Life is In danger Some other of them frosen that I have had the Examination of But three of Them which I also In case they are also made to Travel as yet & so are Gone a board again to be subsisted there out of the Cargo By Captn Howes Consent untill they are able to Travel to Court or otherwise Mott & Peters Belong to this Countey and Peters has a wife & family at Salem If the Councel Have Occasion for them they shall Be sent to them But it appears to me that they were forced Into the Service But Heath appears to me to be a Bad Man and Ought to have Good Care Taken of him my son Coll Otis has ordered him to your Han[d]s with a Proper Gaurd I am Gentm [&c.]

James Otis

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 237.

AGREEMENT BETWEEN BENJAMIN AND JOSEPH COMSTOCK AND NICHOLAS AND JOHN BROWN [1]

This Agreement made the First Day of February in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Six by and between Benjamin Comstock and Joseph Comstock both of Providence in the Colony of Rhode-Island – Owners of the Sloop called the *Polly* of the one Part and Nicholas Brown and John Brown both of said Providence Merchants who in this Matter act for and in Behalf of the Honorable Continental Congress (in Pursuance of a certain Agreement or Contract entered into between the Committee of Secrecy and the said John Brown) of the other Part Witnesseth That the said Benjamin Comstock and Joseph Comstock have letten to Freight unto the said Nicholas Brown and John Brown for the Use of the United Colonies Seven Eighth Parts of the said Sloop burdened about Thirty Seven Tons more or less (her Tonnage however subject to Mensuration and precise Ascertainment hereafter) for a Voyage from said Providence to the West-Indies and back again And the said Benjamin Comstock and Joseph Comstock do covenant to keep the said Vessel in good and customary Repair and risque her against the Dangers of the Sea during the Voyage. In Consideration the said Nicholas Brown and John Brown in Behalf of the united Colonies shall pay unto the said Benjamin Comstock and Joseph Comstock for the Hire of the said Seven Eighth Parts of said Sloop at and after the Rate of One Dollar a Ton by the Month for the whole Vessel to be computed from the First Day of February for the whole Time she shall be in performing the Voyage and returned back and redelivered to them and shall also risque the said Seven Eighths against all British Captures and in every Case and Loss whatsoever during the Voyage except the Dangers of the Sea above provided to be borne by the said Benjamin Comstock and Joseph Comstock And in Case of Loss by any Means whatsoever saving the Dangers of the Sea the said Nicholas Brown and John Brown shall in Behalf of the said united Colonies pay unto the said Owners for the said Seven eighth Parts at and after the Rate of Eight-Hundred Dollars for the whole Vessel (She being estimated at that Value) but shall not in such Case pay any Hire or Freight Money but shall in Lieu thereof pay the Interest on the principal Sum or Value of the said Seven Eighth

Parts In Witness whereof the Parties to these Presents have hereunto interchangeably set their Hands and Seals the Day and Year first aforewritten.

Benj^{a} Comstock
Joseph Comstock
Nich^{o} Brown
John Brown

Witnesses.
George Benson,
Rufus Hopkins

1. Nicholas Brown Papers, JCBL.

OWNERS' BOND FOR SLOOP *Polly* ON A VOYAGE TO PHILADELPHIA [1]

Know all Men by these Presents That I John Brown of Providence in the County of Providence and Colony of Rhode Island &c. Merchant and John Tillinghast of said Providence Mariner are held and firmly bound unto Joseph Clarke Esquire General Treasurer of the said Colony in the sum of Four Hundred Pounds Lawful Money to be paid to the said Joseph Clarke in his said Capacity or to his Successors in said Office for the Use of the said Colony: To which Payment well and truly to be made We bind ourselves our Heirs Executors and Administrators firmly by these Presents. Sealed with our Seals. Dated this First Day of February in the Year of Our Lord One thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Six.

Whereas the said John Tillinghast Master of the Sloop *Polly* owned by the above named John Brown is bound by Permission of the Honourable Nicholas Cooke Esquire Governor of the said Colony on a Voyage with his said Sloop to Philadelphia in Ballast only. Now the Condition of the above obligation is such That if the said John Tillinghast shall proceed with his said Sloop to Philadelphia and there take on board the Produce of the Country or other Articles under the Direction of the Committee of Inspection of the City Town or County where he shall lade and take in his said Cargo and also bring back proper Certificates both of Exports and Imports from them and lodge the same in the Office of the Secretary of the said Colony within three Days after the Return of said Sloop and further shall not proceed to any Port or Place not being within the United Colonies (the Danger of the Seas and Seizure by an Enemy always excepted) then this Obligation to be void or else in full force.[2]

Sealed and delivered
in the Presence of
Henry Ward Henry Ward jun.

John Brown
John Tillinghast

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1. Maritime Papers, Bonds, Masters of Vessels, R. I. Arch.
2. On the same day, February 1, 1776, bonds were given covering the following vessels and owners:

Sloop *Defiance,* John Chace, master; John Brown, owner, upon a voyage to Philadelphia in ballast.
Sloop *Betsey,* Simon Davis, master; Charles De Wolfe, Charles Davis, Stephen Smith and Simon Davis, owners, of Bristol, upon a voyage to Connecticut in ballast
Schooner *Charlotte,* Thomas Thayer, master; John Brown, John Innis Clarke and Joseph Nightingale, owners, of Providence, upon a voyage to Long Island or Connecticut in ballast.
Sloop *Molly,* John Wanton, master; John Andrews, owner, of Newport, upon a voyage to New York with provisions.
Sloop *Polly,* Benjamin Comstock, master; John Brown, owner, of Providence, upon a voyage to St. Eustatius, to purchase military stores. See Nicholas Brown to Comstock, January 31, 1776.

OWNERS' BOND FOR SLOOP *Mermaid* ON A VOYAGE TO SURINAM [1]

Know all Men by these Presents That we John Innis Clarke and Joseph Nightingale both of Providence in the County of Providence and Colony of Rhode Island &c. Merchants in Company are held and firmly bound unto Joseph Clarke Esqr. General Treasurer of the said Colony in the Sum of Six Hundred Pounds Lawful Money of the said Colony to be paid to the said Joseph Clarke in his said Capacity or to his Successors in said Office for the Use of the said Colony. To which Payment well and truly to be made we bind Ourselves our Heirs Executors and Administrators firmly by these Presents. Sealed with our Seals. Dated this First Day of February in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven hundred and Seventy Six.

Whereas the said John Innis Clarke and Joseph Nightingale have imported into the said Colony a Quantity of Powder and warlike Stores amounting to Eighteen Hundred and Sixty three Pounds 11s/2d and in Consequence of a Resolution of the Continental Congress of the Fifteenth of July last for the Encouragement of the Importation of Powder &c. have equipped the Sloop *Mermaid* Lemuel Bishop Master with a Cargo for Surinam but have put on board Goods to the Amount of Three Hundred and Fifty Nine Pounds 1s/6d more than the Value of the Warlike Stores so imported; and whereas pursuant to said Resolution and of an Act of the General Assembly of the said Colony the said Lemuel Bishop hath received Permission from the Honble Nicholas Cooke Esquire Governor of the said Colony to proceed to Surinam in the said Sloop with the said Cargo. Now the Condition of the above Obligation is such That if the said Lemuel Bishop shall in all Things during his said Voyage conform himself to the Rules of the Continental Congress and shall lay out such a Proportion of the Neat Proceeds of his Cargo as the said Sum of Three Hundred and Fifty Nine Pounds 1/6. bears to the Sum of Five Hundred and Twenty Eight Pounds 6/9. (the whole Amount of his Cargo) in Powder, Saltpetre, Small Arms, Sulphur, Duck, Ozenbriggs or Ticklenburgh, giving the Preference to Powder Saltpetre and Small Arms and import the same into this or some other of the United Colonies & lodging within Three Days after his Arrival in this Colony proper Certificates in the Secretarys Office (the Danger of the Seas and Seizure by an Enemy always excepted) then this Obligation shall be void or else in full Force.

Jos. Nightingale

Sealed & Delivered
in the Presence of
Henry Ward Sam Sanford

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[1] Maritime Papers, Bonds, Masters of Vessels, R.I. Arch.

BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM WEST TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE [1]

Sir Head qurters Febuary the 1: 1776

I Recevid yours of the 29 Jan 1776 in which it is Recommended that I should Suffer the Boats to Pass and repass a Cordingly I have premitted the Boats to pass But would observe to your Honer that Capt [James] wallace will not suffer aney Boat to pass Except men of his Prenciples Sending his Boat on Bord to See if they have his permitt if not Robes them of what they have and so long as the Boats pass and Repass with in hale of wallace fleet he will have Every Intelgance he wants But the Distrased Scituation of the Town of new port is such as you well observe makes it very Difficel and Causes a Compliance to maney Disagreable thing[s] on there a Count I Long for the Time to Come that we have the meterales in oure hands that we Can Bid Defianc[e] to the minsterel fleet –

the Twenty Ninth Instant [*sic*] a Reved at head qurters an Exspres from warter town with an advertesement from the Jeneral Court for taking up one Docter Gilston of nantucket who has proved him Self Inmical to the Liberties of this Country and was in there Custady who By the assistance of one John Brown w[h]o once useed to Drive a Coach from providance to Boston made his ascape to new port Said Exspress aplied to me for asistance I Emeately Sent Capt Bartan [William Barton] with a few men insCarch of Said Dot gilston and in about one oure had the said Docter and Brown in Custody have Sent them Down to the Jeneral Court to Recive there Just Deserts the Doctor gve Brown thirty Dollers and a good horse paid all Exspe[n]ce to Bring him to new port the Dor said Brown agreed with him for the money and horse to Carry him where the Devel would not find him I am [&c.]

W^m^ West

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1. Letters to the Governor, 1776, vol. 8, R.I. Arch.

Brigadier General William West to Lieutenant Colonel Gideon Hoxie [1]

Colo Hoxey Head Quarters [Middletown] 1 February 1776 –

The Ferry Boats are permitted to Pass and repass from Newport to Conanicut every Person passing from Newport to have my Permit, and those coming from Conanicut to Rhode Island to have the Permit of the Commanding Officer there – NB The Boats are likewise permitted to Pass from the Main to Conanicut

P Order
Wm West B. Genl
Benja Ste[e]le Secry –

To Collo Hoxsey and in his absence the Commanding Offr

[Enclosure]

Head Quarters 1 Feby 1776 –

Permit Philip Ackland and Samuel Carrs Ferry Boats to Pass from Newport to Conanicut, the said Ferrymen are strictly forbid carrying any Person in Boats without a special Permit from the Commanding Officer at Head Quarters

P Order Wm West Brig. Genl
Benja Steele Secy

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[1] Letters to the Governor, 1776, vol. 8, R.I. Arch. Hoxie was in William Richmond's militia regiment stationed at Jamestown, R.I.

MINUTES OF THE CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

At a Meeting of the Governor and Council of Safety,

[Lebanon] Thursday, February 1st, 1776.

Voted, That Capt. Isaac Sears be appointed and employed to purchase and procure a suitable quantity and assortment of duck for a ship of about 260 tons, building for the use and defence of this Colony; [2] and also about seven tons of suitable iron for said ship; and send forward in the most prudent and careful manner, and deliver the iron to the care of Cap. Benja. Williams, and the duck to the care of Cap. Uriah Hayden, both of Saybrook in this Colony.

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1. Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut Records,* XV, 230–32.
2. The ship subsequently named the *Oliver Cromwell.*

DR. BENJAMIN GALE TO SILAS DEANE [1]

Killingworth, Feby 1st, 1776.

Dear Sir, — I have to acknowledge the receipt of yours of the 13th ult. I make no doubt of your pressure by the important concerns lying before you, many of which I trust if you had leisure you might not communicate; but with regard to the matter of principal concern, if the Philosopher's Lanthorn may be attained, and will give a better light than what is proposed, should be glad you would get what knowledge you can from Dr. Franklin respecting it. Light is of absolute necessity; not to perform the operation, — that can be effected, if he hits the object right, as well in the dark as at noon day, — but to get free from the object when the operation is performed, — for this, light is absolutely necessary, — what point to steer, and to know whether he rises or sinks deeper, for the personal safety of the operator. You will well understand my meaning, if I am not more explicit. I have lately seen the man, and conversed freely with him. He is no enthusiast; a perfect philosopher, and by no means doubtful of succeeding. I wish Col. Dyer and you were to remain where you are, even altho' the other gentlemen were added. I have no objection to that addition, but if I may judge from what I hear, your countrymen are not suited with your recall.

Let me hear from you on this subject as soon as you can. I may ask, and you may refuse to tell me, — Are we well provided with Warlike Stores? Shall we have, or can we have if desired Foreign Aid? What are French troops to do in the West Indies? Is there a channel of communication open with our friends at home?

By the public accounts there is some prospect of a rupture at hand. Can the British Nation suffer such wicked work, and tamely look on? I am, Dear Sir [&c.]

Benj. Gale.

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1. *Collections of the Connecticut Historical Society,* II, 358–59.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

[New York] Die Jovis, 3 ho. P.M.
February 1st, 1776

Mr. [Comfort] Sands one of the sub-committee appointed by the Provincial Congress to freight a vessel to the West Indies with provision, &c. to purchase arms and ammunition, Reports:

> That in pursuance of said appointment he has freighted the sloop *James Richard,* Pooler, master, for St.Eustatia, belonging to Stephen Thorne, and loaded her with provisions as per invoice, amounting to £777 7s.9d. consigned to Mr. Samuel Curson, merchant there; that the freight of said sloop is as per agreement £3 10s. per ton, merchants' tonnage; and in case said sloop is seized by the ministerial army or navy in consequence of carrying provisions to said island, the Congress are to pay to Stephen Thorne for said sloop the sum of £500, as per agreement annexed. He further Reports:
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> That by order of the Committee of Safety, he has loaded the Schooner *Polly,* Matthew Van Alstyne, master, whereof Abm P. Lott and Matthew Van Alstyne are owners, for Martinico, Guadaloope and St. Eustatia, with provisions as per invoice, amounting to £1,278 2s.10d. consigned to said master to purchase arms and ammunition; that the freight agreed for is £3 10s. per ton, merchants' tonnage; and in case said schooner is seized in consequence of carrying provisions to said islands, the Congress are to pay Abm. P. Lott and H. Van Alstyne, the sum of £500, as per agreement, also annexed. Has also loaded the sloop *Sally,* Wilkie Dodge, master, whereof himself is owner, for Curacoa, with provisions as per invoice, amounting to £1,132 8s.11d. consigned to Mr. Isaac Governeur, merchant there, to purchase duck, flints and ammunition; that the freight of said sloop is as the former, at £3 10s.Od. per ton, merchants' tonnage; and in case said sloop is seized in consequence of carrying provisions to said island, the Congress are to pay for said vessel to said Comfort Sands, the sum of £650. He further Reports:
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> That in order to get said vessels out of this port, he has been obliged to give bonds to the Custom House to land said cargoes in some of the English islands in the West Indies, and requests the Committee of Safety will idemnify him from said bonds.

Mr.Sands delivered in the agreements made by him for the respective vessels above mentioned, and the invoices and bills of lading and papers relating to the said several vessels and cargoes, which are now filed.

The above report being read and fully approved of, the Committee agrees that the said report, and the several agreements therein mentioned, stand confirmed, and be considered as the agreements of the Committee of Safety, made for and on behalf of the Provincial Congress of this Colony, and on their account and risk. And

Resolved, That the said Comfort Sands shall be, and hereby is, fully indemnified by this Committee of Safety and the Provincial Congress of this Colony, for the time being, against any bonds which he has entered into at the Custom House for the said vessels and cargoes, or on account of lading and sending them to sea or either of them and that in case any costs or damages shall accrue or be suffered by the said Comfort Sands or his representatives by means of entering into such bonds or either of them; that all such costs and damages as may arise, happen or accrue by means thereof, shall be borne by this Colony; and the said Comfort Sands having now delivered in the accounts of the cargoes or ladings of the said several vessels amounting in the whole to the sum of three thousand one hundred and eighty-seven pounds eighteen shillings and eleven pence, and therein credited the sum of £2,500 received by virtue of an order of the Provincial Congress of the 19th December last, whereby a balance of £687 18s.11d. is stated as due the said Comfort Sands; the Committee not having hitherto had time to examine and audit the said account, that Mr.Sands may not continue so large a sum in advance for the public service;

Ordered, That Peter V. B. Livingston, Esqr. as Treasurer of the Provincial Congress of this Colony, pay to Comfort Sands on account of the moneys he has advanced for the public service by order of the Provincial Congress and of this Committee of Safety, in purchasing the cargoes for sundry vessels, the sum of £600 on account, and that Mr.Livingston take Mr. Sands receipt for the same.

1. *New York Provincial Congress,* I, 278–79.

New-York Journal, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1776

New-York, February 1.

The store ship mentioned in our last, taken by the people in New-Jersey, is called the *Green* [*sic Blue*] *Mountain Valley*, burden about 400 tons, commanded by Captain [John Hamilton] Dempster (brother to a member of Parliament of that name) her cargo consisted of 120 chaldrons of coal, 100 butts of porter, 300 sacks of potatoes, 10 pipes of sour crout, four four pounders; some powder and arms; and sundry other goods, with 80 hogs, most of which died on the passage.

Wednesday se'nnight [January 24] died of an Apoplectic Fit, George Clepham, Esq; Purser of his Majesty's Ship *Asia*, in this Harbour. His Remains were deposited the next Evening in Trinity Church-Yard, attended by and under the Direction of the Marine Society.

New-York Journal, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1776

Whereas a certain Sloop called the *Polly and Ann,* destined for Boston, and laden with provisions, &c. for the Ministerial Troops there, was lately stranded upon Manasquan Beach, in the Colony of New-Jersey; and whereas the Committee of Safety of said Colony has taken possession of said Sloop and cargo, committing them to the care of the subscribers, and permitting them to deliver to the seamen and passengers, their wearing apparel, bedding, chests, &c. provided they, in a reasonable time, call for the same. This is to give public notice, that there are yet in their possession a number of beds with bedding, and chests, with wearing apparel and other sundries, which will be delivered to the owners, proving property; if they apply personally on or before the 15th day of February next, otherwise they will be sold to pay costs.

Monmouth, New-Jersey, Jan. 17

David Forman,
Nath. Scudder,
Thomas Henderson.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

In Committee of Safety
[Philadelphia] 1st February, 1776.

Resolved, that Samuel Howell be joined to Robert Morris, Thomas Wharton, jun'r., & Robert Whyte, the Committee for importing Fire-arms, Gunpowder, Salt Petre, &ca., from foreign parts, for the use of this Province, to aid and assist them in that service.

Messrs. David Rittenhouse, Daniel Joy, John McNeal & Samuel Morris, jun'r., were by a Resolve of the 22nd ult., appointed and required to make Survey of the Jersey Shore from Billingsport to Newton Creek, and to determine what posts it may be necessary to fortify, to make an Estimate of the expence thereof, and Report the same to this Board; agreeable thereto, they make the following Report:

[Report found in proceedings of Committee on Feb. 2d., 1776.]

To the Honorable the Committee of Safety for the Province of Pennsylvania.

Gentlemen:

According to your request, we proceeded from hence into the Province of New Jersey, to the lower part of Billingsport on the River Delaware, and survey'd the shore from thence to the lowland near Mantau Creek. We determined the bearing and distance of the Upper Pier at the Fort from thence, and likewise the breadth of the channel opposite Billingsport, which was readily done by means of the grounded Ice on each side of it. From Billingsport we went to Red Bank, and there by measuring two stations and taking several bearings, we ascertained its distance from the upper Pier aforesaid. From Red Bank we returned to Gloucester, where we took several bearings, which served to compleat the Draught which accompanies this, in which you will see the particular bearings and distances, laid down with as much accuracy as the time would admit. If we may presume to give our judgment with regard to fortifying any part of the Jersey Shore, we are unanimous in our opinion, that it is not adviseable, because any part of Billingsport or Red Bank is at too great a distance from the Chevaux de Frize, for either Friends or enemys to annoy with certainty any Boats,

&c., that may be stationed at them. And if a Fort were built at either of those places, the Enemy could land above or below it, without any difficulty, (unless a superior army could be collected before, on the spot to oppose them,) and oblige our people to spike their Cannon and quit the Fort, or submit to be made prisoners, & the very means of our defence be made to operate against us, or at least, be dismantled; To obviate which, we humbly offer a different manner of defence and annoyance to your Consideration, which is to have a number of Guns, 12 or 18 lb'rs, mounted on strong Traveling Carriages, and previous to the enemy's approach, to raise Breast works at the most convenient places at Billingsport, Manus Hellem's, and other places, from whence those Guns, thus mounted, and well ply'd with Star and Cross Barr'd Shot, &c., will annoy the Enemy much; and if they should land and press hard, our people can retreat, and make a fresh stand at suitable places.

If the Enemy should land their whole force in the Jerseys, with an intent (as we may suppose) to Bombard this City, in such case the Bridges, after our Cannon are retreated over them, should be destroyed, with Houses, Barns, Fences, &c., which would assist them in crossing. And thus, if our cannon are well supported with Musquetry, every Inch of Ground may be disputed, with great inconveniency and loss to the Enemy.

Daniel Joy, Dav'd Rittenhouse, John McNeal.

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1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records,* X, 473–75.

Pennsylvania Evening Post, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1776

Philadelphia, February 1.

Last Monday Brigadier Gen. Prescot was removed from his apartments in the city tavern, to the new jail, by order of the Hon. Continental Congress. – It is said he was guilty of cruelly treating the prisoners taken from the Continental army in Canada, particularly Col. [Ethan] Allen, lately sent home to England, in irons.

NARRATIVE OF CHARLES BULKELEY [1]

[Off Reedy Island, February 1] [2]

I was ordered on bourd of the *Alfred* [3]

The fleet consisted of the Ship *Alfred,* Commodore E[sek] Hopkins, Capt Dudley Saltonstall, John Paul Jones 1st Lt. *Columbus,* Capt [Abraham] Whipple of Providence, Brig *Cabot* Capt John Hopkins of Providence, Brig *Anduria* [*sic Andrew Doria*] Capt [Nicholas] Biddle of Philadelphia, Sloop *Providence,* Capt Harzen [John Hazard] & one small Sloop [*Fly*] Capt [Hoysteed] Hack[er] –

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1. NLCHS.
2. The date is approximated at about the time that the contingent from Connecticut, under Lieutenant Elisha Hinman, had reached the fleet.
3. Bulkeley was entered in the muster roll of the *Alfred* as a midshipman.

JOHN D. THOMPSON TO BENJAMIN RUMSEY, ANNAPOLIS [1]

Cecil County [Maryland] February 1st 1776.

Dear Sir. By Capt Craig [2] I inform you Mr Nathl Rumsey is arrived, I called on him yesterday, he tells me he has (in Partnership with a gentleman of Philadelphia) about eight Tons of gun Powder and five tons of Saltpetre, he has engaged to supply this County with one ton of powder, at the same price the Committee of Philadelphia will give provided the money will be immediatly advanced, this County has very little powder, I am sure not more than sixty pounds, the people are very uneasy on that head and seem much distressed, I most earnestly beg that you will represent this matter to the Council of Safety, and request of them to advance to the Committee of this County such a sum of money as will purchase one ton at the rate of twenty five pounds pr hundred Capt Craig, if the Council pleases to advance the money will receive it and deliver it to Collo John Veazey Chairman of the Committee. I am Dr Sir [&c.]

Jn° D. Thompson.

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1. Correspondence of Council of Safety, Md. Arch.
2. Robert Craig; see Maryland Council of Safety to Colonel John Veazey, February 15, 1776, and Council Minutes of February 14.

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

[Annapolis] Thursday 1st February 1776.

Ordered That the following Agreement be entered & a Copy of the same delivered to the Committee of Observation for Baltimore County.

Messrs Lux & Bowley have agreed with the Council of Safety to take one Hundred Barrels of Flour on Board the pilot Boat *Chatham* on Account and Risk of this Province. You are therefore not to stop her intended Voyage by Reason of that Quantity of provisions being laden on Board said Vessel

Resolved That the Rations for the Marines in the Service of this Province be according as is expressed in the following Table, to wit.

	Bread	Beef	pork	peas	Rice	Butter	Cheese	Turnips	Potatoes	Onions
Sunday	1 lb	1 lb						1 lb	1 lb	1 lb per Week
Monday	1 lb		1 lb	h. pint			4 oz.			
Tuesday	1 lb	1 lb								pudding
Wednesday	1 lb		1 lb		h. pint	2 oz.	4 oz.			
Thursday	1 lb		1 lb	h. pint						
Friday	1 lb	1 lb								pudding
Saturday	1 lb		1 lb	h. pint			4 oz.			

Half a pint of Rum per Man per Day, and discretionary Allowance for particular Occasions, such as Action, extra Duty, and the like: Three pints of Vinegar for six Men per Week.

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1. Council of Safety Journal, 29 August 1775 to 20 March 1777, Md. Arch.

LIEUTENANT JAMES CAMPBELL TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

[Annapolis, February 1, 1776] [2]

Lieutenant James Campbell begs leave to present your honourable Council with a Map of part of the Eastern shore of this province, which he presumes has never been traced by the hand of any Geographer before, he thinks that the Sound within the Tangier Islands will aford our own Vessels a secure retreat when overmatch'd in force or pursued by our enemies, there being several outlets into the Bay, altogether Unknown to Strangers;

Lieut Campbell thinks that an arm'd Vessel mounting eight or ten guns Stationed in the Sound aforesaid, would aford more protection to the persons and properties of the Neighbouring inhabitants, than is in the power of the Militia or independent Companies,

Your honble Council will perceive by the Map that many Islands (abounding in cattle and provisions) are not accessible to land forces, and may easily be plunder'd by the Smalest tender,

Your honble Council will perceive that such an Arm'd Vessel would command and Overlook all that tract of Country lying between Accomack County in Virginia, and Hooper Streights, in Dorchester County in this province, would keep off that Swarm of Tenders which he thinks will be employed in the Spring; and alarm the Country on the approach of any larger force,

he begs leave to point out to your honble Council the Necessity of having Such an Arm'd Vessell, on the Station aforesaid, in as much as he thinks the Islanders being by their Situation in a manner secluded from the Converse of their Countrymen have not entered so fully into their Sentiments as could be wish'd, and Consequently are willing to trade with our enemies,

he is Apprehensive that Lord Dunmore has drawn Supplies from thence already; it is reported that some people from Annamesseck has sent pork and Sheep to Norfolk for which they were very liberaly paid, an information was very lately lodged with the Committee of Sommerset County against some of the Islanders for Correspondence and dealings with his Lordship, all which may be prevented in future by such an Arm'd Vessel, – Lieut Campbell would wish to be employ'd in such a Vessell, his immediate friends and Acquaintance lying expos'd thro' that Channel, he would be happy in being instrumental in afording them some protection and defence, in Return for many publick instances of confidence Reposed in him, Should he be thought an improper person he still recommends the Station aforesaid for an Arm'd Vessel under the command of any vigilant and honest man

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1. Revolutionary Papers, Box 10, Md. Arch.
2. The date is approximated. Campbell was appointed on January 14, 1776, captain of the eighth company in Smallwood's Maryland battalion. On January 20, James Murray introduced him to the Council to present his plan of cannon placement. Unfortunately the journals of the Council show no receipt of Campbell's communication, nor any indication that his map and plan were accepted.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO THE MARYLAND DELEGATES IN THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS [1]

No. 7. [Annapolis] 1st Feby 1776

To the Deputies of Maryland in Congress

Gentn The inclosed Memorandum was intended to be delivered personally to Mr [Samuel] Chase whilst in Baltimore Town, but his going sooner than we expected, prevented it's being done. – we should be obliged to you to advert to the Contents thereof, as if addressed to all the Deputies – & be pleased to give us an Answer, as soon as you can with Convenience to yourselves –

We find that Blankets Strouds, Camp-Equipage & Cannon, to say Nothing of Powder, will be much wanted & we doubt are not to be procured in this Province –

When any Thing occurs in the News-Way, we should be glad to have a Line from you and are Yr [&c.]

(The following is a Copy of the inclosed Memorandum above mentioned)

Mr Chase is requested by the Council of Safety to furnish them with the Price and Demensions of the Chivaux de frize lately made at Philadelphia. –

To inform them, whether any Thing and what has been done in Congress, in Consequence of a Resolve of the late Convention relative to the Canvass imported into this Province by Mr Juge a Foreigner. –

Whether Messrs Willing and Morris have received a Letter from Messrs Chamberlaine, Hooe & Ringgold, or either of them, advising them, that this Province would receive 5 Tons of the Salt-Petre imported by said Willing & Morris, manufactured into Gun-Powder, in Part-discharge of the Powder to be furnished by them and whether they have taken any Measures in Consequence of it.

Whether there are any Match coat Blanket[s] or Stroud to be got in Philadelphia or New-York and to transmit the Plates and Paper directed by the Money Bill to be procured at Philadelphia, as soon as possible. –

Also To inform them, whether there be any Probability of getting Knapsacks, Haversacks and Canteens for the Soldiers – and at what Prices respectively and in what Time they can be furnished. –

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1. Council of Safety Letter Book, No. 1, 1776, Md. Arch.

JOURNAL OF H.M.SLOOP *Kingsfisher*, CAPTAIN JAMES MONTAGU [1]

Feby 1776 At Anchor under Newport News

Thursday 1st At 9 AM Sent the Long Bt Man'd & Armed after A Boat At 10 Saw 2 Hampton Arm'd Vessels standing out the Harbour Weighed & Chaced them ½ past they Tkd & Stood into the Harbr fired 2 Guns At them At 12 Anchored in Hampton Rd in 10 fm as Before At Noon the Long Boat Retd

At 2 PM Weighed & run up under Newport News At ½ past 3 Anchored in 6 fm veered to 1/3d of A Cable

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1. PRO, Admiralty 51/506.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Liverpool,* CAPTAIN HENRY BELLEW [1]

Febuary 1776 Off Norfolk in Virginia

Thursday 1st AM the Lieut went on Shore with a party of Arm'd men in conjunction with some men belonging to the *Otter,* and Brought off 9 Bullocks and some Pigs, fir'd several Shot at a party Rebels, who fir'd on a party of Volunteers that were bringing off some Tobacco belonging to merchants here.

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 51/548.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Otter,* CAPTAIN MATTHEW SQUIRE [1]

February 1776 At an Anchor in Norfolk Road Virginia

Thursday 1 At 9 A M the Rebels from the Shore fired on the *Friendship* a Merchant Ship loaded with Tobacco for Great Britain, do fired on them from the Ship, when they dispersed, sent a party of Marines & Seamen on foraging parties.

First part mode & cloudy middle & latter strong Gales & squally with Hail, Snow & Sleet. P M the foraging party returned with different kinds of Provisions, distributed the same to the Squadron, Struck Yards & Topmasts,

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

In the Council of Safety,
[Charleston] Thursday, 1st Feb., 1776.

Mr. President . . . laid before them the following letters which had been written by their order:

Charles-Town, Jan. 31st, 1776.

> Gentlemen – We beg leave to refer you to our last under the 27th instant, which accompanied 2003¾ lb. gunpowder, sent by way of Beaufort, for the use of your colony.
>
> Mr. Pooler, a merchant of Savannah, on behalf of himself and others, has laid in a claim to the Brigantine *William* and her cargo, which were lately seized at Tybee and conducted to Beaufort, upon an information that the whole cargo had been loaden contrary to the resolution of the Continental Congress, and particularly that the most considerable part of the cargo and the whole of the vessel were the property of persons resident in this colony – among divers papers which were preferred [proferred] to us upon this occasion, there appeared a copy of a resolution by your late Council of Safety, dated the 8th instant, certified by E. Longworth, Secretary, in which it is
>
> *Resolved,* That the President do write to the Council of Safety, in Carolina, and the faith of the province is pledged, that the vessel with her cargo shall not sail contrary to the laws of Congress.

As we have not heard from the Council of Safety, nor from you, on this momentous affair; and as Mr. Pooler himself has given us such information, as confirms our belief, that a considerable part of the indico on board the *William,* is in very fact the property or was shipped by order of persons resident on this side of Savannah, we have ordered the vessel to be detained until we shall learn your further determination, and Mr. Pooler has very willingly acquiesced in this measure.

We would not presume to dictate nor to intermeddle in matters within your jurisdiction, yet we cannot refrain from offering our opinion that the whole loading of the *William*'s cargo is contrary to the plain meaning of the laws of Congress. The owner of that vessel candidly confesses his belief, that much of the indico now on board, was growing in the field on the day on which the clearance is dated.

Whatever your deliberations and further resolutions may be, we trust will in no wise oppose our present order, to the committee at Beaufort, to unlade and detain such parts of the cargo as do now, or shall upon further investigation appear to be the property of Carolina. In order to ascertain facts, we have directed that it be proposed to the claimants of such parts of the cargo as are upon good grounds suspected to be under cover, that their letters should be opened and perused in presence of the committee, and the goods to be held or returned according as the truth shall appear, perhaps you may order all the letters to undergo such examination.

As we are struggling in the same great cause, and that a strict observance of the laws established by our common representatives is essential to our success, we cannot doubt of your concurrence in the measure which we have taken upon this occasion.

We impatiently wait to hear further from you on the state of your town, and the welfare of our friends in Georgia.

By order of the Council of Safety.

Henry Laurens, President.

The Provincial Congress, or Council
of Safety, Georgia.

P. S. To the letter written the 30th ultimo, to the Committee for St. Helena.

The Brigantine is to be detained until we hear again from the Provincial Congress, or Council of Safety, at Savannah.

The indico shipped by Mr. Le Vien, if not the property of Mr. Grove, or if his property therein shall be so covered as not to be visible – we are informed Mr. Cane a resident in Beaufort, is certainly interested therein as one of the partners.

By order of the Council of Safety.

Henry Laurens, President.

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1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society,* III, 241–46.

HENRY LAURENS TO CAPTAIN EDWARD BLAKE [1]

Sir – Charles-Town, 1st Feb., 1776.

When your sloop *Polly,* John Conyers, master, is fully loaded, she may proceed on her voyage, by virtue of the permit here inclosed. In the mean time you will lay before us an invoice of the cost and charges of the cargo, and you shall be paid the amount. You will give your master or other agent, orders to sell the cargo, on public account, at any foreign market where the highest price for rice, and where gunpowder and fire-arms are most likely to be obtained; and to invest the net produce of the sale in those articles in preference to every other. By fire-arms, we mean, such muskets only as are really good, with bayonets fixed. You will give a particular caution against purchasing slight ordinary pieces. Next to gunpowder and muskets, prefer saltpetre. If it shall be impossible to procure these articles for the whole of the net proceed, so much thereof as shall remain, must be disposed of in the purchase of steel, wool and cotton cards, coarse foreign cloths, blankets, coarse linens, sail cloths, Russia canvas, writing and printing paper, nails of all sorts, spades, good musket locks, pins, needles, whip-saw, handsaw and gunsmith's files; a thousand tin plates, and lastly, rum. If none of these articles are to obtained, or not in sufficient quantity, returns are to be made, in whole or in part, as the case may require, in gold, or gold and silver, and the vessel to proceed with all possible dispatch, and get into one of the inlets on this coast, which the master, from his own knowledge, and from advices which he may receive, shall judge best, and immediately after his arrival, give notice to the Council of Safety.

If gunpowder and good muskets, with bayonets fixed, and saltpetre are purchased for the proceeds of the cargo, the public will insure the vessel the voyage out and home, at the computed value of two thousand pounds currency, and allow fifty per cent. upon the net proceed of the sale or money employed in purchasing as aforesaid, which is to be in full satisfaction of all freight, commission and other charges whatsoever, except such as are incidental to the bare loading and delivery, as wharfage and porterage and unavoidable duties; and so in proportion as any part may be laid out for gunpowder, muskets and saltpetre. For other goods above enumerated, (gold and silver excepted) you will be allowed, in lieu of all freight commission and charges as above mentioned, sixty per cent.; but the vessel will not be insured by the public.

If your agent is obliged to resort to gold and silver for returns, in such case you are to be allowed a freight on the rice at four pounds Barbadoes money, per ton of 3000 lbs. net, together with commission on the invoice of rice, and the sale and incidental petit charges, and no more.

We are so very confident of your best endeavors to promote the public interest, which you understand perfectly well, as renders it unnecessary to enlarge. You will give your agent such further instructions as shall appear proper for securing a fair prospect of a prosperous voyage.

By order of the Council of Safety.

Henry Laurens, President.

Capt. Edward Blake, Charles-Town.

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[1] *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society,* III, 247–48.

2 Feb.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M. SLOOP *Nautilus*[1]

Feby 1776	Cape Ann Harbour N½Wt 3 or 4 Miles
Friday 2d	[8 A. M.] saw 2 sail in the N Wt Quar out 2d reef Tops gave Chace, at Noon bore a way in Chace of 2 Sail in the SWt Modt: and Clear Wr: [2 P. M.] Fresh Breezes and Clear Wr in chace of a Schooner Do Wr at ½ pt [4] Tkd the above schooner run a shore shorted sail & Brot too, sent out boat & sett her on fire, at 7: the Boat return'd, at ½ pt made sail

[1] PRO, Admiralty 52/1884.

PETITION OF JEREMIAH O'BRIEN TO THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT[1]

The Petition of Jeremiah O'Brian Humbly Sheweth –

that your Petitioner has been in the Colony Service since the Twenty first Day of August last as Commr in Chief of the Sloop *Machias Liberty* & Schooner *Diligent* [*Diligence*] which two Vessels [now at] Newbury compleatly Equipt for Sea, with about fifty Men on board them Ready for any Service the Honorable Court shall think fit to employ them in, one Vessel has four Carriage Guns Ten Swivels the other has five Carriage Guns & Twenty Swivels, has Ports for Eight Carriages, has Accomodations for Sixty five Men each, We are all waiting the Determination of the Honl Court wheither we are to be Discharged or to be further Employd in the Colony Service your Petitioner can Recommend to the Honl Court the under Officers & Gunn[ers] to be men well skild in the Bussness

As in Duty bound shall Ever Pray
Jeremiah O'Bri[en]

To the Honl Council & House of Representatives
In Council Feby 2d 1776 Read & sent down – Perez Morton Dpy Secry

[1] Mass. Arch., vol. 208, 168.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES[1]

[Watertown] Friday, February 2, 1776.
Afternoon.

On a Motion, *Ordered,* That Col. [Jerathmeel] Bowers, Major [Stephen] Cross and Col. [Azor] Orne, be a Committee to make an Estimate of the Expence of fitting out Ten armed Sloops, to carry 16 Carriage Guns each.

[1] Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO COMMODORE MARRIOT ARBUTHNOT, HALIFAX [1]

Preston Boston Harbour
2 Feby 1776

Sir

I have received your Letters of the 5th 9th 15th and 16th of last Month and have delivered them to Rear Admiral Shuldham my Successor in the Command of his Majesty's Squadron on this Station, who will consequently soon send you his Directions. I have only to desire that the Ship *Nicholas,* laden with Hemp and other Naval Stores, may be libelled in the Admiralty Court for not unlading in some port of Great Britain according to Act of Parliament before she Sailed for America. The Vessel and Cargo is the property of a known Rebel (Mr [James] Bowdoin) and must be detained until the Kings Pleasure is known, altho' she may not be condemned in the Admiralty Court. The *Bob and Joan* is of course a prize under the restraining Act. We have authentic Intelligence of the Rebels being defeated in their Attempt to take the Town of Quebec by Escalade, General Montgomery and his Aid de Camp killed and about 300 taken Prisoners.

I am &c
Sam^{l} Graves.

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[1] Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 119, BM.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES [1]

[*Preston,* at Sea, February 2, 1776]

By a Letter . . . he [Graves] gave Notice to Mr Arbuthnot of the Change in the supreme Command on that Station, answered some Questions concerning Seizures, and sent him the good News of the Defeat of the Rebels Attempt against Quebec, with the Slaughter of their General Montgomery and his Aid de Camp and the Capture of 300 of their Forces. The Wind being now favourable and fresh the Vice Admiral got out to Sea, and pushed for the English Channel with all the Sail he could carry, . . .

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[1] Graves's Conduct, II, 41, BM.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M. ARMED VESSEL *Canceaux* [1]

Febr 76 [Northwest of] Long Island [Boston harbor]

Friday 2d at 8 A M weighd and came to Sail as did the *Preston* Admiral Graves with three mercht vessels ½ Past 9 Anchord in Nantasket Road where we found his Majestys ships viz. *Renown, Centurion* and *Hope* Brigg with a Number of Transports at Noon the Admiral made the Sigl to weigh do Weighd and Came to Sail leaft the above mintiond vessels in the Road –[2]
fresh breezes at Noon and clear Wear

at 2 PM the Light House WbN 2 Leagus at 4 the Et Point of Cape Ann No about 4 Leagus the Light House WSW 7 Leagus [3]

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1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1637.
2. The *Canceaux,* having been found unfit for service, was ordered to return to England "carrying Dispatches & Letters from the Commanders in chief representing Captain Mowat's Services and Usefulness on that Coast, and at the same time a request from them, that he might therefore be returned to America without loss of time in a Ship fit to do Justice to his Experience of the Station," *Collections and Proceedings of the Maine Historical Society,* 2nd series (Portland, 1891), II, 357–60.
3. According to the log, the *Canceaux* lost sight of the *Preston* on February 5, and proceeded alone and without incident, save the loss of "the head of the Companing and Logg Board" washed overboard in a gale on February 17. She arrived at Spithead, after a remarkably short passage, on February 23, 1776.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Preston*, CAPTAIN JOHN ROBINSON [1]

Febry [1776] Remarks Boston Harbour

Friday 2d At 8 AM Weighd & Came to Sail At 9 Anchord in Nantasket Road with the Bt Br in 6 faths and veerd to ½ Cable
First and Middle parts Fresh Breezes and Clear Wr
At 5 PM Weighd and Came to Sail In Co with H M Armd Ship *Canceaux Trident* and *friendship* Transports –

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1. PRO, Admiralty 51/720.

FRANCIS HUTCHESON TO MAJOR GENERAL FREDERICK HALDIMAND [1]

Dear Sir Boston February 2d 1776

Admiral Graves with the Ships for England went down Yesterday Morning but the Wind coming to the Eastward obliged them to come too in Nantasket Road, which gives me an oppertunity of sending you last Nights News paper, and acquainting you that a Deserter who came in Early this Morning tells, that the News of the Rebell defeat at Quebec has put the people without in great Confusion

Two days ago Lieutt [George] Dawson who Commands a fine Brig in the Kings Service has distroyed a Rebell privateer Schooner off Plymouth and killed a Number of her people the Remainder got on shore in their boats – [2]

You may depend the Phil[a]delpheans have a therty two Gun frigate, and two Ships of twenty Guns Each lying at Redica [*sic* Reedy] Island in the River Deliwar ready for Sea to be Commanded by a Commodore [Esek] Hopkins – Its said they are to go to the Southward to assist the Virginians

You cannot Imagine how Anxious I am for the pleasure of hearing from you, Your Letter of the 2d Septr is the only one I have yet Received; I have the Satisfaction to see your name often Respectfully mention in News papers, and wish some of the good appointments assigned you may prove true I am with the greatest Respect Dr Sir [&c.]

Fran^s^ Hutcheson

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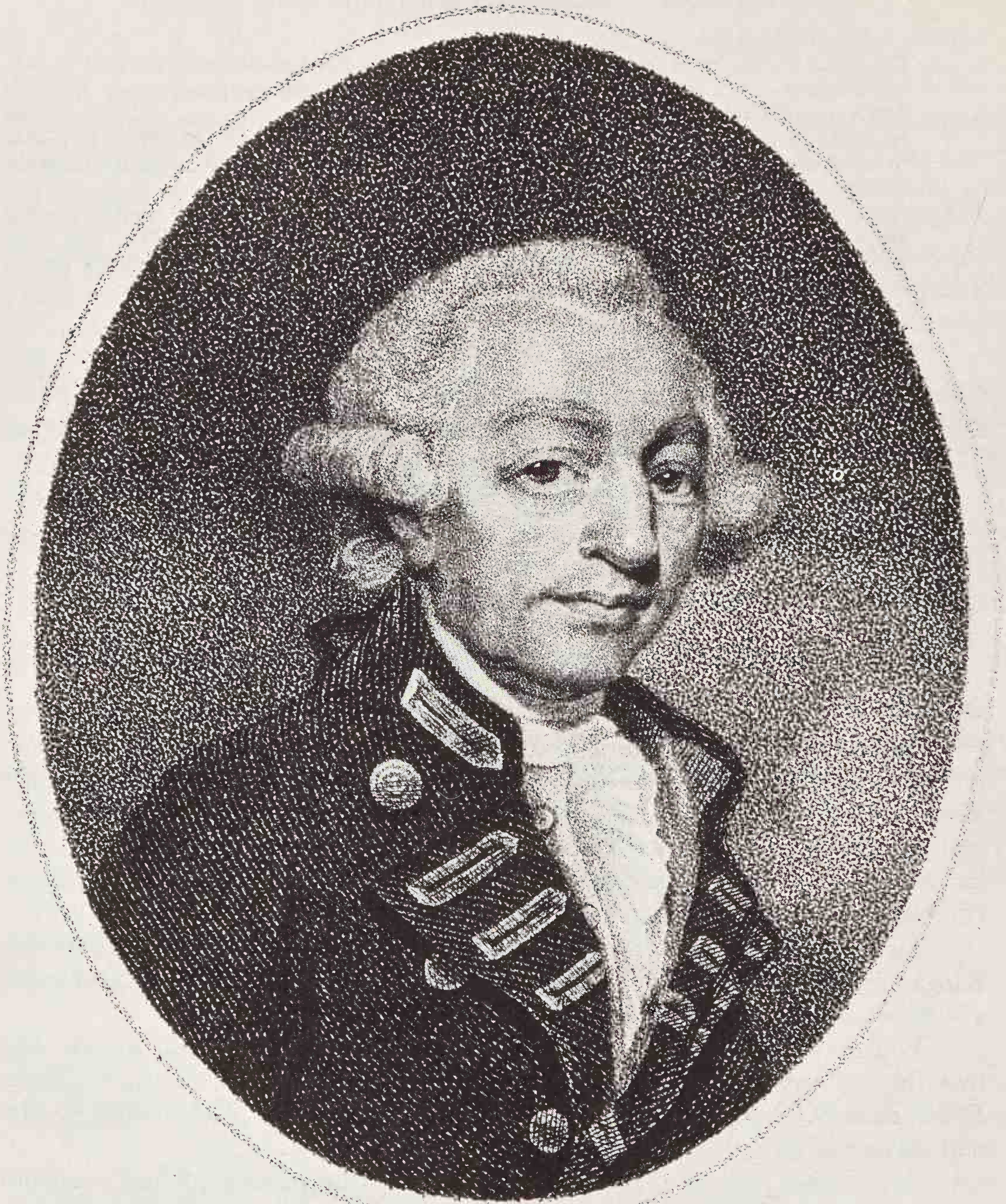
1. Haldimand Papers, BM.
2. The engagement between H.M. Brig *Hope,* and the armed schooner *Hancock.* British belief that the *Hancock* had been destroyed was erroneous.



Orme Junr. sculpt.

THE Rt. HONble. LORD SHULDHAM.

VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO CAPTAIN FRANCIS BANKS, H.M.S. *Renown* [1]

Whereas the Distance of this place from the Mouth of the Harbour is to far for my Observation of the constant Occurrences that pass there, and His Majesty's Ship under your Command lyes at Nantasket Road:

You are hereby required and directed to Superintend the Publick Buisiness at that place, and to give such Orders & Directions to the Captains of all His Majesty's Ships & Vessells which arrive there, as you may judge best for His Majesty's Service, sending me by all oppertunity's an Account of your proceedings therein; And you are to Hoist a Distinguishing Broad Pendant, at the Main Topmast head of the Ship you Command, which you are to wear except in the presence of a Senior Officer.

Given under my hand on board His Majesty's Ship *Chatham* off
Boston the 2nd February 1776. Signed. M: Shuldham
By Command of the Adml Edw^{d} Bragg

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 1/1497, 12.

NICHOLAS BROWN TO BRIGADIER GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE [1]

Sir Providence Febry 2nd 1776 –

Having the Cause of Our Bleeding Country much at Hart and being Confirm'd that we Cannot Any way better Serve it, than by Dis[t]res[s]ing our Unnatural Enemi[e]s by every Means in Our Power to prevent there geting the necessary supplys &c, We have with the Bearer Capt Zachariah [Allin] & others Determened to fit the Arm'd Sloop call'd the *Washington* a very fast Sa[i]ler, & is the same lately Dismiss'd from this Colony servis – Shes to Crews in & about Boston Bay, & will be ready by Capt Allins return who tho' a man of Interest a Stranger in that Govermt he now waits on the Council Bord of the Massachusets for a Commissn for Capt Gid Crafferd Comdr sd Vessell we have now to Desire of you to Assist Capt Allen if needed in standg With him in [giving] Bond – Our Govermt have the Matter of Makg a Law for this purpose under Consideration & have Appotd a Comte whose report cannot be made before the last of this month, we have thought best to pursue Our Intentions before –

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[1] Nicholas Brown Papers, JCBL.

NICHOLAS BROWN TO JOSEPH PALMER [1]

Sr Providence Febry 2. 1776

Having the Cause of Our Bleeding Country Much at Hart, and being Confirm'd, that we cannot any way better Serve it, Than by Distres[s]ing our Unnatural Enemies by every Means in Our Power to prevent there getg the Necessary Supplys &c We have with the Bearer Capt Zach. Allin & others Determen'd to fit an armed Sloop called the *Washington* a very fast sailer to Crues in and About your Bay She will be ready to sail by Capt Allins return who (tho' a Man of Interest Amongst Us,) is a Stranger to your Honbl bord he now waits upon you for a Commissn for Capt Gideon Crawford Comdr of Sd Vessel, as we know of no friend we Can better Apply to than you sir we request you to Assist In giving him all possable Dispach. If no more Suteable person nearer at hand should appear for a bonds man we have requested Brigad[ie]r General [Nathanael] Green[e] to Stand with Capt Allin As This Govement have the Matter of Making a Law for this purpose under Consid[e]ration & have Appotd a Comte who's report cannot be made before the last of this Month, we Have tho't best to persue Our Intentions before.

[Endorsed] Copy a Letter to Jos Palmer Esqr at Water Town Sent by Capt Z. Allin Feby 2. 1776 –

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1. Nicholas Brown Papers, JCBL.

OWNERS' BOND FOR THE SCHOONER *Success* FOR A VOYAGE TO THE WEST INDIES [1]

Know all Men by these Presents That we Ambrose Page, Joseph Russell and William Russell all of Providence in the County of Providence in the Colony of Rhode Island &c Merchants, are held and do stand firmly bound unto Joseph Clarke Esqr General Treasurer of the said Colony in the Sum of Six Hundred Pounds lawful Money of the said Colony to be paid said Joseph Clarke in his said Capacity or to his Successors in said Office for the Use of the said Colony: To which Payment well and truly to be made we bind ourselves our Heirs Executors and Administrators firmly by these Presents. Sealed with our Seals. Dated this Second Day of February in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy six.

Whereas the said Ambrose Page, Joseph Russell, and William Russell have equipped the Schooner *Success* burthened about Thirty Tons and navigated with Five Men whereof William Sowle is Master and have obtained Permission of the Honorable Nicholas Cooke Esqr Governor of the said Colony for him the said William Sowle to proceed with the said Schooner and her Cargo to any of the foreign Islands in the West Indies to purchase Powder and other military Stores.

Now therefore the Condition of this Obligation is such that if the said William Sowle shall in all Things during his said Voyage conform himself to the Rules of the Continental Congress, and shall lay out the whole Proceeds of the Cargo on board said Schooner in Powder, Saltpetre Gun Locks, Small Arms Sulphur Duck Ozenbrigs or Ticklenburgh, giving the Preference to Powder Saltpetre and small Arms and import the same into this or some other of the United Colonies, and lodging within Three Days after his Arrivel in this Colony proper Certificates in the Secretary's Office (the Danger of the Seas and Seizure by an Enemy always excepted) then this Obligation to be void or else in full Force

Sealed and delivered
in the Presence of
Cromel Child
Will^{m} Russell Junr

Ambrose Page
Jos Russell
W^{m} Russell

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1. Maritime Papers, Bonds, Masters of Vessels, R.I. Arch.

BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM WEST TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL GIDEON HOXIE, JAMESTOWN, R.I. [1]

Head Quarters [Middletown] February 2d 1776 –

Collo Hoxsey

These are to acquaint you that the Ferry Boats are to Pass as usual 'till further Orders from me

W^m West

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1. Letters to the Governor, 1776, vol. 8, R.I. Arch.

MINUTES OF THE CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

At a meeting of the Governor and Council of Safety,
[Lebanon] Friday, 2d February, A.M.

Mr. [David] Bushnell was here, by request of the Governor and Council, and gave an account of his machine contrived to blow ships &c., and was asked many questions about it &c. &c., and being retired, on consideration, voted, that we hold ourselves under obligations of secrecy about it. And his Honor the D. Governor is desired to reward him for his trouble and expence in coming here, and signifie to him that we approve of his plan and that [it] will be agreeable to have him proceed to make every necessary preparation and experiment about it, with expectation of proper public notice and reward.

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1. Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut Records,* XV, 232, 233–34.

LORD STIRLING TO JOHN HANCOCK [1]

Sir Elizabeth Town [February 2]

The Cargoe of the Ship *Blue Mountain Valley* is now Cheifly unladen and brought up to this Town except the Coal which it will be best to take out as it is disposed of. I have as yet received no orders from Congress relateing [to] this Ship, nor no answer to the three Letters to you relateing her since her Capture and of which it was impossible for me to keep Copies. Capt [John Hamilton] Dempster is very desireous of returning to England, two of his Mates & the foremast Men would be glad of working their passage home or thro' the West Indies. It will perhaps be best to send them to Philadelphia for that purpose, in preference to any of the ports to the Eastward. I am told that the Congress, has established some Rules with regard to prizes, and Also some Admiralty Jurisdiction, but as I have not seen them, I cannot tell whether this Ship is Comprehended within them, and shall be glad to be instructed with regard to that point. I now enclose a Copy of the orders I gave to Capt [William] Rogers, when I put the ship in his Charge. this Capt Rogers was well recommended to me by the New York Committee of Safety, he is I believe as fit a Man as any to Command a Ship of force; or if it should be thought proper to keep three or four small Sloops to run in & out of Sandy Hook & the Inlets of Egg Harbour, Barnegat, &c, I believe he would be a very proper person to Command them.

Some Attempts have been made in this province, to break thro' the prohibitions ordered by Congress, to the Shipping of Lumber & provisions I have taken every step in my power to prevent it; and have laid the whole proceedings before the Convention of this province which is now Setting at Brunswick; Inclosed is Copy of a letter to them on that Subject; as Also Copy of my letter to them on the Subject of Arms, and I hope they will Come into the Measure I have recommended to them. I now also inclose Copies of the Orders I sent to Colonel [William] Maxwell with regard to preparing his Regiment for Marching to Albany and his Answer thereto, these would have been transmitted Sooner to you but my Absence a few days from this place on the little Naval Excursion, and my Illness in Consequence of it for a day or two More, has thrown me behind in my Correspondence, which I find swells to such a Size that it will be impossible for me to get thro' it with any regularity without the help of one or two good Clerks.

I just hear that 700 Men, from New England arrived in New York this Afternoon and that General [Charles] Lee is at Kings Bridge with a like Number.

I have the Honour to be [&c.]

Stirling.

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1. Papers CC (Letters from General Officers), 162, II, 398, NA.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW JERSEY PROVINCIAL CONGRESS [1]

[New Brunswick] Friday, February 2, 1776.

Ordered, That Mr. [John] Hart, Mr. [John] Mehelm, Mr. [Lewis] Ogden and Mr. [Abijah] Brown be a Committee to prepare a draught of an ordinance for erecting a Court of Admiralty in this Province.

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1. *New Jersey Provincial Congress,* 344.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS [1]

[Philadelphia] Friday, February 2, 1776

The committee to whom the memorial of Matthias Aspden was referred, brought in their report: which being taken into consideration,

Resolved, That Mr. Aspden, be permitted to export in the sloop *Tryal,* consigned to him from Port-au-Prince, the produce or manufactures of these colonies, (horned cattle, sheep, hogs, and poultry, and lumber for making casks, excepted) to Port-au-Prince, to the amount of 1800 pounds Pensylvania currency:

That the above permission be not drawn into precedent, and that Mr. Aspden take every possible precaution to avoid all British men of war, and cutters on the voyage.[2]

The committee to whom the memorial of H.Keppele and John Steinmetz was referred, brought in their report: Whereupon,

Resolved, That the memorialists have no just claim to satisfaction or reparation for the loss of their ship and cargo, seized by one of the king's ships of war, and detained by Admiral Graves and General Howe, either out of the continental treasury, or out of the value of the cloathing sent hither to supply the British troops at Boston, and intercepted and disposed of to the use of the American army.[3]

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1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 107–09.
2. There is no previous reference to Aspden's memorial or a committee appointed by Congress to consider it.
3. Kepple and Steinmetz were owners of the ship *Charming Peggy*, which was taken by H.M.S. *Glasgow* and sent into Boston in August, 1775. The ship was bound from Philadelphia for Lisbon, with a cargo of flour and staves. The owners' memorial was laid before Congress on January 27, 1776, and a committee of three, Samuel Ward, Robert Alexander and George Wythe, was appointed to consider it and report, Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 94, 96.

Diary of Richard Smith [1]

[Philadelphia] Friday 2 [February]. Capt [John Hamilton] Dempster ordered to be discharged – [Francis] Lewis informs of Several Vessels returned to New York from unsuccessful Voyages for Arms & Ammunn . . . [Samuel] Ward from a Comee reported that the Petn of Keppele [Henry Kepple] and [John] Steinmetz prayg Compensation for their Ship and Cargo detained by Gen. [William] Howe, ought not to be granted.

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1. Richard Smith's Diary, LC.

Journal of Captain Thomas Mason [1]

Octob 24,1775–February 2,1776

. . . and after a passage of 35 Days we arived safe at the Capes of Delaware the 2d of February 1776 [2]

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1. Papers of Robert Morris, LC.
2. See Autobiography of Charles Biddle, October 30, 1775–January 15, 1776.

John Bayard to Daniel Roberdeau [1]

Dr Colln

I herewith send you a rough Sketch of the heads of an Agreament made with the Committee of Congress. Should your Committee [2] incline to send for any Arms, We would contract with them for the same Amot on the same terms, with only this difference, that we would purchase or Freight a Vessel there, which may readily be done for about £500 to £700 St'g purchase, or if freighted, as low as could agree; in either case we would expect the Committee to take the Risque of Seizure, &c.

Mr. [Nathan] Rumsey, a very capable young Gentn, who is concerned with us, goes in the ship to transact the Business; with respect to Medicine, I am of Opinion most kinds may be had at Dunkirk, where the Ship will stop, but on looking over a price Current sent me, I find no kind mentioned but Rhubarb & Liquorice. I am Dr Colln [&c.]

Jno. Bayard.

Rhubarb from 2 to 4–6.
Liquorice 52–6 p Ct.

To Colln Roberdeau, Esqr, Present.

[Enclosure]

Heads of an Agreement made between the Committee of Congress & Hodge & Bayard & Co., 1776, Feb'y 2.

The Committee of Congress to advance £5000 St'g, either in Bills of Excha or Specie, wt wch H. & B. are to dispatch their Ship, now lying at the Capes, to a Certain Port in Europe, & there purchase & Ship on board the Amot in good Arms for this Port, the Congress to Insure the Ship against Seizure, Valued at £900 St'g.

Should the Vessel arrive safe at this Port, H. & B. to be allowd the full price the Arms may be Valued at, deducting a Reasonable allowance for the advance of money & the risque of Insurance thereon.

Should the Vessel be taken on her return, then the Congress to pay H. & B. the sum she is valued at & £400 St'g, in lieu of her outward bound freight.

If, contrary to Expectation, H. & B. are disappointed in the purchasing Arms, by the Prohibition of the State, or any other unforseen Accident, then the money sent to be laid out in Powder &c. &c., or whatever the Congress may direct, in that Case H. & B. to be allowd the Frt outwd, as before-mentioned, also a freight on the Goods purchased Inwds, & a Commissn, Exclusive of what may be charg'd by the Factor there, & the Goods to be on acct of Congress.

1. Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives,* 1st, IV, 707–08.
2. The Pennsylvania Committee of Safety.

PROTEST OF THE LOSS BY CAPTURE OF THE BRIGANTINE *Sea Nymph* [1]

Messrs [Silas] Deane, [John] Adams & [George] Wythe.[2]
Gentlemen

Agreeable to the Resolve of the Honorable the Continental Congress of the 18th October 1775, We in behalf of Messrs Daniel & Isaac Bourdeaux of Charlestown in South Carolina Merchants And ourselves, as Owners of the Brigantine *Sea Nymph,* Joseph Bradford Mastr Do herewith deliver in the Protest of the Said Master, William Pyles, Mate, & John Farr one of the Sailors, Against Allexander Gragham [Graeme] Commander of his Majesties Ship *Mercury,* for having Seized the Said Brig when Prosecuting her Intended Voyage from this Place to Jamaica, and Carryed her into the Port of Boston, As also the Said Joseph Bradford Protest against Vice Admiral Graves, for dispossesing of and taking from him the Command of Said Brig, against his the Said Masters Consent, Giving no reasons other than she being for his Majesties Use,[3] Neither did the Said Admiral or any other Person, offer any Satisfaction to the Master for Said Brig
Gentlemen

Before we State our Account for the Value of this Vessel we would beg leave to Premiss, That in the Building & fitting her Out, no Expence was Spared by her Owners, to have the Materials of which she was Built & Fitted out the first Quallity they having Particularly intended her for a Passenger Vessel and for the Genteelest People, in a Trade between this & South Carolina, fitted her with Extraordinary Accommodations & at a great Expence for the Purpose, And in which Situation she was taken the Possession off by the *Mercury,* And at which time we would Not have taken less than what we now Charge her in our Account herewith Delivered,[4] & to which we beg leave to Refer you. If you should want any Further Information, than what these Papers herewith delivere'd will furnish you with, Capn Bradford And the Saylor John Farr are bouth now in this City & if Necessary will at any time wate on you,

Joseph Blewer Daniel Robinson

Philadelphia 2d February 1776

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1. Papers CC (Letters of John Hancock and Miscellaneous), 58, 437, NA.
2. The committee appointed to gather a just and well authenticated account of the hostilities committed by the enemy since March, 1775.
3. The *Sea Nymph* was condemned, purchased by Admiral Graves for the Corwn and commissioned as H.M. Brig *Hope*.
4. Not enclosed.

MARYLAND DELEGATES IN THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

[Extract] Phila 2d Feby 1776.

Mr [Samuel] Purviance [Jr.] inclosed us affidavits of two skippers who had been taken by Ld Dunmore, mentg that a pilot boat with a Clergyman from Maryld had arrived at Norfolk, who gave information of the outfit of store & the provision vessels, if you have heard of this business, be pleased to advise us, We are desirous of knowing the truth, a difficult task at present.

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1. Correspondence of Council of Safety, Md. Arch.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Liverpool*, CAPTAIN HENRY BELLEW [1]

Febuary 1776 Off Norfolk in Virginia

Friday 2d Strong Gales and hazey. A M arrivd here out Tender with a Schooner Taken from the Rebels[2] — Saild our Tender on a Cruize

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1. PRO, Admiralty 51/548.
2. The schooner *Polly*, Samuel Nichols, master, William West, owner, from Salem for the Potomac, in ballast. She was taken off Cape Henry on January 31, 1776. Shuldham's Prize List, April 24, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

South-Carolina and American General Gazette, FRIDAY, JANUARY 26 to FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1776

Charlestown, February 2.

We hear that the *Sandwich Packet* was one of the Georgia Fleet, and that she sailed from Tybee last Week; that the armed Schooner *St. Lawrence* was arrived at Tybee; that the *Syren*, Capt. [Tobias] Furneaux, is now cruising on the Coast, and that a Duel has been fought between a Lieutenant of the *Syren* and an Officer of Marines, in which the former was killed.[1]

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1. Lieutenant Joseph Pennington, R.N., killed in a duel with Lieutenant Cummings of the Royal Marines.

Thomas Sherman to William Henry Drayton [1]

Sir Savannah 2sd February 1776 –

At Ten days sight Pleas to pay to Mr Mordecai Sheftall or order Forty Eight pounds and two pence half penny sterling, it being for cash advanced by him to me, for recruiting of Men for the ship of Warr Called the *prosper,* in the South Carolina service, your self Commander, which sum pleas to place to account of said ship *p[r]osper* – And Youl oblidge Sir [&c.]

Thos Sherman

To the Honorable William Henry Drayton Esqr
In Charles Town South Carolina

[Endorsements] Wm Hy Drayton Accepted Feb. 16. 1776
pay the Contents to Myer Moses or order Value
received
Mordecai Sheftall
Recd the within Contents in full for M Moses
Maurice Carr

[Memorandum on wrapper]
Mr Gray [the messenger] in attempting to cross Mr Zublys swamp was near drowning & obliged to return –

[1] A. S. Salley, Jr., ed. *Documents Relating to the History of South Carolina During the Revolutionary War* (Columbia, 1908), 11. Drayton was president of the South Carolina Provincial Congress.

Journal of H.M.S. *Maidstone,* Captain Alan Gardner [1]

February 1776 At 7 [A.M.] the Cape Nicola SW 10 or 11 Leagues.

Thursday 1 Saw a sail in the NE Quarter. Out 2 reefs and gave Chace. Light Airs and Clear.
Squirrel join'd us. At 4 pm Hook a Point SW½S 6 or 7 Leags. In 2d reefs. at 11 *Squirrel* made the Sigl for a Schooner to Windwd Gave Chace. –

Friday 2 at 6 AM Fired a Gun and brot her to. – a Schooner from Cape Nichola to Nantucket [2] Sent a petty Officer and 4 Men to take Charge of her. Gave Chace to 2 Sail in the NW
Moderate and fair.
Sent the Pinnace Mann'd and Arm'd in Chace of 2 Sloops at 4 pm the NW end of Henango E½N 6 or 7 Miles
At 9 the Pinnace returned Saw one of the Sloops bear down to the *Squirrel* which her Boat had Boarded. In Boat and made Sail, *Squirrel* and Sloop in Compy. –

[1] PRO, Admiralty 51/572.

[2] The schooner *Nancy,* Will Clark, master, with a cargo of molasses and rum, Gayton's Prize List, PRO, Admiralty 1/240.

3 Feb.

RICHARD BULKELEY TO CAPTAIN WILLIAM DUDDINGSTON, H.M.S. *Senegal* [1]

Secys Office Halifax 3d February 1776.

Sir. As it may be for the Good of His Majestys Service that you shoud be in the Commission of the Peace, for that part of the Province where you are now Stationd, The Governor has thought proper to appoint you one of the Justices of the Peace, for Queen's County, the Commission for which is enclos'd, also the Power to Swear you directed to Mr Johnson. I am &c

Sign'd Rich^{d} Bulkeley

William Duddingston Esqr Liverpool [Nova Scotia].

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[1] Council Letter Book, N.S. Arch. Bulkeley was secretary of the Nova Scotia Royal Council.

DIARY OF SIMEON PERKINS, LIVERPOOL, NOVA SCOTIA [1]

Thursday, Feb. 1st — Capt. [Benjamin] Cole, in the brig *Liberty* arrives from the Straits with a cargo of salt. The ship *"Senegal"* took her into custody,[2] and took all the hands except the mate, and a negro.

Friday, Feb. 2d, — The *Senegal* keeps the brig in custody, and the hands on board, and has also detained the master on suspicion that contraband goods are on board, tho I cannot learn there is any.

Saturday, Feb. 3d, — The brig in custody still. Cold weather. A small schooner comes in and goes along side the man of war. Proves to be from Port Roseway, Abraham Knowlton, master. The *Senegal* took one man out of her. He came from the West Indies passenger with Capt. David Smith, of Barrington, who has been taken by a man of war in the West Indies, and lost some considerable, and his people had the small pox.

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[1] Innis, ed., *Perkins' Diary,* 110.

[2] Journal of H.M. Sloop *Senegal*: "Herring Cove [Liverpool] Thursday, Feby 1, 1776, Anchored here the Brigg *Liberty* from Barcelona with Salt sent an officer on board to take Charge of her." PRO, Admiralty 51/885.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Fowey,* CAPTAIN GEORGE MONTAGU [1]

February 1776	At Single Anchor Beverly NWbW Salem W½S off Shore ½ a Mile
Friday 2.	A M read the Articles of War And abstract to the ships Company, people employed Making Points, Gaskets &c Moderate gales & Clear fired 5 Guns & several swivells, at some rebel schooners At 10 took a sloop laden with Wood for Salem & Anchored her near us,
Saturday 3.	at 6 A M sent one of the Mates & 5 Men to take her to Boston [2]

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 51/375.

[2] The schooner *Rainbow.* See Clark, *Washington's Navy,* 115, 116.

WILLIAM BARTLETT TO COLONEL STEPHEN MOYLAN [1]

Sir Beverly 3 Feby 1776

As I am in Grate Need of Some Money I herewith Send William Leech the Young man which Lives with me for it if you Can any ways Send him Back to Day it would much Oblige Sir [&c.]

William Bartlett

[1] Washington Papers, LC.

JONATHAN GLOVER TO CAPTAIN SAMUEL TUCKER [1]

Sir, Marblehead, February 3, 1776

This will acknowledge the receipt of your esteemed favor per Mr. Gould, and note contents. I heartily congratulate you, Captain [Daniel] Waters, and your officers, on the success of your last cruise, and I hope your next will prove as successful.[2] I should have set off for Cape Ann with Mr. Gould, but the indisposition of my bodily health is such as will not permit of it to-day, but I am in hopes by Monday shall be able to be at Cape Ann; if my disorder should not return, I will immediately attend. Capta. [Winthrop] Sargent, who is appointed agent for the continent will, you may depend, take all the care that man can do, as he will be accountable for any embezzlement. So that you have nothing to fear on that count. The sloop you mention you took within four leagues of the lighthouse, I hope that agent has taken the master and sent him forward to headquarters. If he has not, I would recommend to you that you send him immediately. I am informed that there is a large transport ship, that was fitted out at Boston, mounting sixteen guns. She yesterday got between the land and one of our fishing schooners, Skipper Dixey, and was chasing her off Cape Cod when last seen. I mention this, because I would have you keep a good look out for her, as I would have you avoid falling into her hands. You may depend upon her being strong manned. I do not mean to direct you, only mention it, as I would be fond of giving you (and the gentlemen) that are concerned in the armed vessels all the intelligence I am able. I have this moment, since writing the above, been acquainted by Captain Joseph Hibbart, who is from Cape Ann, that the sloop you took came up from Cape Ann, run right to the man of war, who has taken her into custody, and she is now gone by between the point of neck and Catt Island for Boston. By his account I fear the agent has let him go. I would hope still it is not the sloop.

Sir, I am informed that Captain Waters has not employed any person as agent for him and his officers; if that should be the case, shall esteem it a favor if you make mention of me to them; as I am agent for Captain Manly, Captain Burke, yourself, all the officers of them, I should be glad to serve them likewise, if not engaged, and it should be agreeable; on your mentioning the matter to Captain Waters and his officers, desire him to give me a line by way of desire that

I would act as their agent, he and his officers sign it. Your interest in the matter will much oblige [&c.]

Jonathan Glover

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1. John H. Sheppard, *The Life of Samuel Tucker* (Boston, 1868), 337–38.
2. Referring to the capture on January 29, 1776 of the transport brig *Henry and Esther,* and the coastwise sloop *Rainbow.*

MAJOR GENERAL ARTEMAS WARD TO JOHN HANCOCK [1]

[Extract] Roxbury February 3. 1776

Capt Manley took two Prizes last week & to save himself was obliged to run his Vessel a shore at North River & left her; the enemy boarded her, but Manly gave them such a heavy fire, that they were obliged to quit her, taking nothing, save one Swivel gun which gun he some time before borrowed of them.

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1. Papers CC (Letters from Generals Putnam, Mercer, Lewis, Thompson, Ward, Weedon, Hand, Conway, and Howe), 159, 352, NA.

GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE AND JOHN JENCKES TO CAPTAIN NATHANIEL PACKARD [1]

Sir Providence February 3rd 1776

You being Appointed master of the Sloop *Sally,* fitted out and Loaded on Account of the Colony of Rhode Island, and are hereby Ordered to Embrace the first good wind and weather, and proceed to St Eustasias, and when you Arrive there, if the marketts Sutes Sell your Cargo. for Cash, and Lay out the net proceeds of your Cargo. in Gun Powder, Small Arms, Lead, Duck, Salt petre, Sulphur, Twine, writeing Paper, Jesuitts Bark [illegible], & Flints, procure as much Powder as Possable, and take Care that your Small Arms be Servicable and Good, If you Should have an Oppertunity of Shipping your Powder &c. from St Eustasias, or where ever you purchase it, in any Sutable Vessell for this Colony, Conneticutt or the Massachusetts Bay, you Are to do it, and in that Case purchase a Load of Salt, and Come home as Soon as Possable, if the marketts d'ont Sute, at St Eustasia, you are Directed to go to any Other port, Always takeing Care to Lay out the neet proceeds of your Cargo in the above Articles, Upon the whole we Leive the Voyage to your good Judgement & prudence not Doubting but you will use your Best Endeavours for the Interest of the Colony. We Wish you a good Voyage and Safe Return Home to your Friends &c and are Sir [&c.]

Nich^{s} Cooke } Colony
John Jenckes } Committee

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1. Misc. Mss., CL.

RECEIPT FOR CUTTING TIMBER FOR THE RHODE ISLAND FRIGATES [1]

Dr

Navel Commite to oliver & Constant Luther
to 18½ days work Cuting timber for the ships at 4/6 £4. 3. 3
february 3 1776

To mr Nichalos Brown
from pr fo[r us] Barnard Eddy
[Endorsed by Nicholas Brown]
Mr Benton pay the Above & Charge the Ships

N B

[Second endorsement]
Feby 5. 1776 Recd The Contents Of Nichs Brown

Oliver Luther

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[1] Nicholas Brown Papers, JCBL.

OWNERS' BOND OF THE SLOOP *Victory* FOR A VOYAGE TO CONNECTICUT [1]

Know all Men by these Presents That we Zephaniah Brown of Providence in the County of Providence and Colony of Rhode Island &c. Merchant and William Rhodes of Providence aforsesaid Mariner are held and firmly bound unto Joseph Clarke Esquire General Treasurer of the said Colony in the sum of Three Hundred Pounds Lawful Money to be paid to the said Joseph Clarke in his said Capacity or to his Successors in said Office for the Use of the said Colony; to which Payment well and truly to be made we bind Ourselves Our Heirs Executors and Administrators firmly by these Presents. Sealed with Our Seals. Dated the third Day of February in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Six.

Whereas the abovenamed William Rhodes Master of the Sloop *Victory* burthened about Twenty Tons is bound by Permission of the Honorable Nicholas Cooke Esquire Governor of the said Colony on a Voyage with his said Sloop to the Colony of Connecticutt with Ten Hogsheads of Lime. Now the Condition of the above Obligation is such that if the said William Rhodes shall proceed with his said Sloop to the Colony of Connecticutt and there land his said Cargo and take on board the Produce of the Country or other Articles under the Direction of the Committee of Inspection of the City Town or County where he shall lade and take in his said Cargo and also bring back proper Certificates both of the Exports and Imports from them and lodge the same in the Office of the Secretary of the said Colony within Three Days after the Return of said Sloop, and further shall not proceed to any Port or Place not being within the United Colonies (the Danger of the Sea and Seizure by an Enemy always excepted) then this Obligation shall be void or else in full Force.

Zephaniah Brown
William Rhodes

Sealed and delivered } Nicho Power
in the Presence of } Henry Ward

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[1] Maritime Papers, Bonds, Masters of Vessels, R.I. Arch.

Providence Gazette, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1776

Providence, February 3.

We hear that a Vessel from England, with a Quantity of Medicines on board for the ministerial Troops, is taken at the Eastward by one of our Privateers.[1]

Capt. Manly, of the *Lee* Privateer, of 10 Guns, last Week took two valuable Prizes, and carried them to Plymouth. –[2] On Tuesday, as he was again putting out to Sea, he was attacked by two armed Vessels, which he engaged about an Hour, when one of them struck, but before he could take Possession of the Prize, another armed Vessel of 16 Guns engaged him, and his Vessel being much damaged, and the Enemy greatly superior in Strength, he was obliged to row her into Marshfield.[3]

Capt. Brown [*sic* James Barron] in a small Privateer, has carried two Prizes into Virginia; one a Vessel from Cork, deep laden with Pork, Potatoes, Eggs, Wine, Porter, Cheese and drief Beef, supposed to be worth 5000 l. Sterling; the other from the Grenades, loaded with Rum, Sugar and several other Necessaries.[4]

1. No record has been found of such a capture.
2. The ships *Happy Return* and *Norfolk.*
3. A garbled account of John Manley's encounter with H.M. Brig *Hope.*
4. See Pinkney's *Virginia Gazette,* January 6, 1776.

MINUTES OF THE CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY[1]

At a Meeting of the Governor and Council of Safety,
[Lebanon] Saturday, 3d February, 1776.

Moved by the Governor by motion to him from [Deputy] Gov. [Matthew] Griswold that some encouragement should be given to enable Mr. [David] Bushnell to pay expences incurred in preparing his machine for the design projected &c., and to carry forward the plan &c.&c., it appearing to be a work of great ingenuity &c., and a prospect that it may be attended with success, and being undertaken merely to serve the public, and of considerable expense to labour &c., its tho't reasonable that something should be done &c.

Voted and ordered, That the Treasurer pay and deliver to his Honor the Deputy Governor the sum of sixty pounds, to be by him improved for the use of the Colony and the public according to instructions from this Board.

Pass'd an account of Capt. [Seth] Harding, for service in going round the sea coast, to see about buying or building a ship for defence &c., at 6s. per day and expences, £2 17 0

1. Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut Records,* XV, 235–36.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. TO GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL[1]

Sir, New London Feb 3d 1776

Last evening the Sloop *Macaroni,* Capt. Packwood arrived in thirty days from Martinico after a very tedious passage, was over sett and lost his boom and bowsprit, mate and one hand, and most of his people froze, he has on board about eight thousand weight of Powder, Swivells, Musketts, Pistols, he had been to all the Islands and could not get any more. The Vessels that arrive from Europe are allowed to bring but very small quantities (according to the number of Cannon they have mounted) and after they have the powder on board, they land the Cannon in the night, so that I believe it will be difficult to obtain any large quantities soon, Capt. Packwood has left Two thousand pounds in the West Indies, part at St Eustatia and part at Martinico to be laid out in Powder, soon as it arrives. In short I am convinced he has done every thing in his power to obtain it, and would have proceeded to France but was assured it would have been fruitless as the Inhabitants cannot effect it. The Dutch have continued the Embargo for six months longer. Packwood says an English Man of War, has taken a ship loaded with flour and some cash that was sent out by the Continent to get Powder and was carried into Antigua, that there is a great many cruising Vessels out of the English Islands to take our Vessels. At the time Capt. Packwood Sailed Major Thompson of the Massachusetts gave Packwood £1400 L. Money to lay out in Powder for their account, and as he has not been able to lay out the whole, whether he must have his proportion, or only what remains after our money was laid out, you'l please to direct. I sent out £1700 and what he is to have may be of that at Providence – If any news from our friends to the Northward pray be so kind as to let me know. I am, Sir [&c.]

Nathan^{l} Shaw Jun.

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1. Shaw Mss., Misc. Corres., Force Transcripts, LC.

Memoirs of William Smith [1]

[New York] 2 & 3 Feby

The City has been in danger of Conflagration as I find upon conversing with Mr. Seymour the Connecticut Atty General & Capt Hugh Ledlie of Hartford.

When General Lee reach'd that Town in his Route from Cambridge he published a Call upon the People of that Neighbourhood to join his Colours for a Month to suppress a dangerous Conspiracy – These Gentlemen listed with 54 Light Horse in this unknown Service. – At that Time a Report prevailed there that there was a Trade driven at New York by Goods from England to the *Asia* and *Phoenix* & Returns of Provisions for the Army at Boston – That the Principal People in and out of Congress were privy to it, and only wore a Mask of Union with the other Colonies till Troops should arrive in the Spring And these Persons supposed this was what General Lee alluded to and that New York was to be burnt to cut off the Communication between us and the Army at Boston. – As they advanced Westward they were confirmed in the Report and their own Conjectures concerning the Services they had ingaged in – At Standford they were surprised to find from General Lee that the Continental Congress were uninformed of this Expedition – At Rye [Andrew] Ward's regiment turned back on a Call from General Washington – Lee halted at Standford ill of the Gout – [David] Waterbury's Regiment with the Light Horse came to Kingsbridge – Here he opened Dispatches from the Continental Congress to Lee in Answer to his Letter on that from our Committee of Safety diswading his Approach. Waterbury was so directed by General Lee and finding that the Congress approved of the Sentiments of the New York Committee he dismissed the Light Horse – Now it was that Seymour and Ledlie thought that Govr. Trumbull and General Lee had been abused respecting New York: They resolved with four others of the Light Horse to visit the Town and make further Enquiries – At their Entrance the 1 Feby they were confirmed in their Suspicions by the Election of three Continental Delegates ([Philip] Livingston [John] Jay & [John] Alsop) with Colo. McDougal [Alexander McDougall] for the City Representatives in Assembly without the least Opposition. – If General Lee had entered the Town before the Continental Delegates arrived the Committee of Safety being deemed to be conspirators we should have been wrapped in Flames.

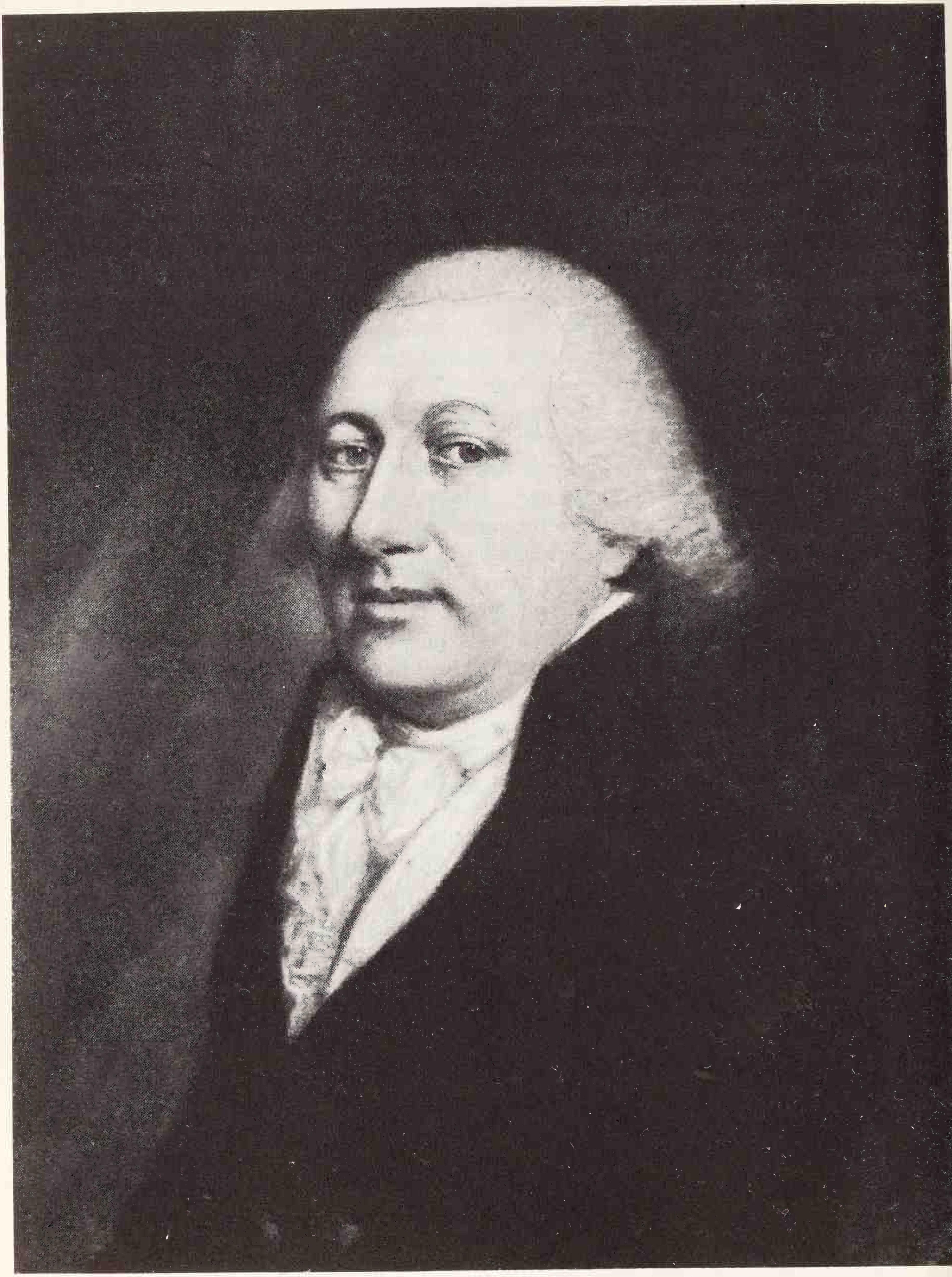
Sundry Persons in New England requested their Friends here to abandon the Town before the Troops arrived – Mr.Tennent the Minister of Greenfield came to assist Doctor [John] Rodgers his Father in Law in the Flight of that Family – Sloss Hobart on his Arrival from Fairfield averred that the Reports given by Seymour and Ledlie were true respecting the Propagation of the Scandal in Connecticut of New York and they were imputed to Capt. [Isaac] Sears Samuel Broome and one Woodward Citizens of our own who had removed their Effects to New England and were of that Party who some time since came down on Horseback and carried off [James] Rivington's Types *manu forti* at Noon Day and it was supposed they were prompted to it by Revenge the New York Congress resenting the Incursion & Landing about 12 Decr penned a sharp Letter to Govr.Trumbull asserting their exclusive Right to punish their own Delinquents and demanding Restitution. Mr.Trumbul laid the Letter before his Assembly, and the Parties accused seemed to have no way of supporting their own Consequence but by calumniating the Accusers. Capt.Ledlie tells me that Seymour went Home highly inraged at the Cheat which had put their Colony to vast Expence & with a Resolution to prevent Sears from having the Command of a Frigate building for the Continental Service, believing him to be the Author of the Lie, for that when conversing at Stanford with Lee about burning the Town in his Presence he said he should not regard his own House tho' it was worth several thousand Pounds when he had learnt that he had none there nor an Ounce of any moveable Property. From this Moment Sears who was before in Esteem for his Zeal as a Patriot was neglected. He remained with Lee at Stanford in the Station of a Lt.Colo. with Mr.Trumbul's Promise of a Commission to be obtained as is said when he meets his Assembly.

1. Sabine, ed., *Memoirs of William Smith,* 260–61.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

[New York] Die Sabbati, 3 ho. P.M.
Feby. 3d, 1776.

Samuel Isleton, the pilot, returned from the Hook, and informs that he is just landed from the Hook; that about 11 o'clock the day before yesterday, vizt. on Thursday last, he saw a large ship off, about E.S.E. from the light-house, 12 or 14 leagues from the Hook; appeared so large that he took her for a man of war; that yesterday morning she lay at anchor without the outward middle; that yesterday afternoon about 3 or 4 o'clock Francis James' pilot boat came near said ship and beat round under her lee, and as he supposes put a pilot



John Langdon.

on board; that the said pilot boat beat round her several times, and about 4 o'clock the ship got under way and came up within the middle, and came to an anchor about 8 o'clock last night within the middle; that they saw a second large ship this morning, off about 8 or 9 leagues from the Hook, as he imagined; that the ship he left at anchor has bright sides and quarter pieces; no head; has a mizen-top-gallant yard across; does not appear deep loaded; that James' boat took the pilot out of the *Pennsylvania Farmer* and proceeded to the ship; that James' boat came up yesterday and went down today; that the schooner Tender went down this morning with a pennant hoisted, and jack at bowsprit end; when the schooner came within a mile of the ship he hove her ensign out, and the ship hove her ensign out; that the schooner proceeded and anchored near the ship, and was there when he came away; that he met James' boat near the buoy at the west bank this day as she was going down; that they heard one gun fired on their way up; Killigrove, or one of his company, carried out the *Farmer*; Jack Squillion was also taken out of Mr.Lowther's sloop by James' boat.

1. *New York Provincial Congress,* I, 281.

DIARY OF CHRISTOPHER MARSHALL [1]

[Philadelphia] Febry 3d 1776

this morning Capt [Thomas] Mason arrived in town, having left his Brigg [2] Loaded with arms Ammunition Salt Peter of the Cape:

1. Diary of Christopher Marshall, HSP.
2. The brig *Chance,* Captain John Craig.

JOSIAH BARTLETT TO JOHN LANGDON [1]

[Extract] Philadelphia Feby 3d 1776.

I have not been able to procure the draft of the ship till last night, shall send it as soon as possible and shall enclose in this letter some directions about building. I enquired of the Committee concerning the bigness of the masts; they say they know of no stated rule so it must be left to your and the carpenter's discretion. I sent you a contract with the Secret Committee for ten thousand dollars for importing sail cloth, blanks &c which I hope you have rec'd. . . .

Our men of war fell down the river the fore part of last month but stopping about 30 miles down to take in supplies were stopped by the ice and have not yet sailed.

Col Gadsen [Christopher Gadsden] is returned home. The draft is so big, I cannot send it by the post. Mr. Hancock will send it with those for their Province in a few days. The dimension for the *Pallas* frigate is sent by Govr [Stephen] Hopkins desire; he says it may be of some advantage.

1. William Whipple Papers, Force Transcripts, LC.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY[1]

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a, 3rd Feb'y, 1776.

In consequence of a Petition from John Hackett, late Steward on board the *Dickinson*, The Commodore was this day directed to discharge him from the Fleet.

Resolved, That the pay of the Captains of the Armed Boats be encreased to ten pounds p month, or 26⅔ Dollars; & the Pay of the first Lieutenants be Seventeen Dollars p month; that the pay of the Second Lieutenants be fourteen dollars p month; to commence the first instant.

Resolved, That all ships or vessels of War, with their Boats, Guns, Tackle, Furniture, and goods on Board, that shall be taken and made prize of in the River Delaware by any of the Vessels or Armed Boats fitted, or fitting out for this Province, and be condemned as lawful Prize, shall be two third parts thereof for the use of the Captors, and the remaining one-third part thereof to be applied by the Assembly, or Committee of Safety of this Province, for the maintenance and support of such officers, soldiers, and Seamen, as shall be maim'd or disabled in the said service, and of the widows and children of such as may be kill'd in the same, in such manner as the said assembly or Committee shall think proper.

Resolved, That all other Ships or Vessels, Goods, Wares, and Merchandize, that shall be taken by any of the Vessels or armed Boats fitted, or fitting out by this Province, and condemned as lawful prize, shall be distributed according to the Resolves of the [Continental] Congress.

[1] *Pennsylvania Colonial Records,* X, 475, 476.

THOMAS RODNEY TO CAESAR RODNEY[1]

[Extract] Dover Feby 3d 1776 –

. . . The Council is to meet on Tuesday next to determine with respect to one part of Mr [David] Bevriges Terms Vizt that the Counsil should risk a proportional part of the vessel, which I believe they wont do, as they have an offer of better terms at Wilmington by a Vessel just going – but if Mr Bevrige does not insist on their risking the vessel I believe they will prefer sending by his vessel; and the Comm. for that purpose will send him an answer next week – and it seems likely that I shall be Obliged to go to Wilmington to Contract for the flower as [Thomas] Collins can't go up till the week after. –

[1] Rodney Collection, HSD. Ceasar Rodney was a Delaware delegate in the Continental Congress.

PLANS FOR DEFENSE OF BALTIMORE[1]

[February 3, 1776][2]

The Committee appointed to consider of the most proper Plans of Defence for Baltimore Town, having examin'd a Variety of Schemes for that Purpose; Beg. leave to offer the following for the Consideration of the Honourable Council of Safety. –

A Truble Boom, which according to the Plan now agreed on will require 7500 Feet of Logs at 1s/p Foot includg Wormanshp	375..0..0
16 Tons of Iron at £26 p Ton	416..0..0
The Smiths Work of Ditto being 35840lb @ 4d p lb	597..6..8
Piers to fix the Boom, Anchors & Blocks	320..–..–
An Iron Chain To Secure the Passage at One End	65..–..–
	£1773..6..8
The Expence of the Fort for all the different Batteries Breast Works, Platforms, Covered Ways, Iron Work Spades, Shovels, Axes, Wheel & Hand barrows estimated at	2500..0..0
Barracks for 200 Men & Officers, Sufficient to take in a 100 Men extraordinary on Emergency	1000..0..0
Stores for the Implements belonging to the Artillery, & Stores for Provisions &c for the Garrison	250..0..0
A Magazine Bomb Proof	400..0..0
A Floating Battery of Ten 18 Pounders	1000..0..0
10 Whale Boats with 6 Oars each to be ready to transport Men to any Part of the River on any Emergency or to pursue Plundering Parties, & each to Carry 10 Men, the Cost abt £14 each	140..0..0
	£7063..0..0 [*Sic*]

For Carrying into Execution the Several Plans here offer'd, (If approvd by the Council) We woud beg leave with all Deference to offer as follows. – That the Direction Planning & Execution of all the Defences that may be thought proper, may be committed to the management of a Committee of Seven Person, who shall conduct the same as nearly agreeable as possible to the Order of the Council. – That Said Committee shall contract with such Persons as may be thought proper to execute any particular parts of said Bussins & appoint proper Persons to Superintend & direct such parts thereof as may require constant Oversight. – That One of the said Seven may be appointed to keep the Accots of the whole Expenditure, & pay the Workmen &c employed in the Execution thereof & receive the Money from the Council as wanted.

That as the present time is highly proper for providing Timber for the Boomb, in Order to compleat that Defence as soon as possible, We apprehend it woud be proper to undertake that part of the Bussiness immediately, and also to be preparing Timber for building at least some part of the Barracks to accommodate the People as soon as they can be ready to begin on the Batteries &c –

That a discretionary Power be invested in the Trustee[s] or Committee to alter the present Plans of Defence proposed, & to adopt any others that on mature Deliberation may appear better calculated for the same general Design, provided they can be executed for the same or nearly the same Expence

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1. Revolutionary Papers, Box 10, Md. Arch.
2. Date established by Minutes of the Baltimore Committee, February 5, 1776.

Minutes of the Maryland Council of Safety[1]

[Annapolis] Saturday 3d Feby 1776.

Resolved That the Gentlemen of the Committee of Observation for Baltimore County who reside in Baltimore Town, or any three of them, be and are hereby requested to examine the Cannon lying at Fell's Point and elsewhere in and near Baltimore Town and cause such of them as may be found fit for Service, not intended for the Ship *Defence,* to be lodged in some Place of Security mounted on proper Carriages as soon as they conveniently can, and make a Report of the State of the Cannon and the Expence of Carriages to the Council of Safety. . . .

Whereas Samuel Purviance Junr John Moale, Jeremiah Townley Chase, James Calhoun, Andrew Buchanan, Thomas Harrison, Benjamin Griffith Isaac Griest, John Smith, John Boyd, William Aisquith and William Buchanan, acting Members of the Committee of Observation for Baltimore County residing in and near Baltimore Town have delivered in to the Council of Safety Proposals for fortifying the Town of Baltimore and placing Obstructions in the Channel of the River so as to prevent the Approach of Men of War to the said Town agreeable to the Resolve of the late Convention and have offered to undertake the Business and compleat the same with all convenient speed for the Sum of six thousand two hundred Pounds, or so much thereof as may be necessary for the Purposes aforesaid, and are willing to give Bond with Condition for the due performance of their Agreement, therefore

Resolved, That the proposition made by the said Gentlemen of the Committee of Observation be accepted, and that Bond be taken with Condition, that if the said Samuel Purviance Junr William Lux, John Moale, Jeremiah Townley Chase, James Calhoun, Andrew Buchanan, Thomas Harrison, Benjamin Griffith, Isaac Griest, John Smith, John Boyd, Wm Aisquith and William Buchanan, or the Survivors of them, their Heirs, Executors or Administrators do & shall in all Things fulfill the Resolve of said Convention and their the said Obligers Agreement with the Council of Safety and do and shall well and truly lay out and expend the aforesaid Sum of six thousand two hundred Pounds Currency or so much thereof as may be necessary in fortifying said Town, and placing Obstructions in the Channel of the River so as in all human probability will prevent men of war approaching said Town, and do from Time to Time render a full and fair Account of their Expences and other Transactions in the Management of the Business aforesaid and also do and shall well and faithfully and in a proper manner compleat the same Fortifications and Obstructions with all convenient Speed so as in all human Probability to prevent the Men of War approaching said Town, then the Bond to be void otherwise to be and remain in full Force & Virtue in Law. Which Bond was taken accordingly [and filed].

Instructions and sailing Orders are given to Joseph Oakman Captain of the Sloop *Two Sisters.*

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[1] William Hand Browne, ed., *Archives of Maryland* (Baltimore, 1892), XI, 135–37. Hereafter cited as Browne, ed., *Arch. of Md.*

Dixon and Hunter's *Virginia Gazette,* Saturday, February 3, 1776

Williamsburg, Feb. 3.

We hear that Lord Dunmore is under terrible apprehensions lest the inhabitants on the sea coasts and rivers, should move off with their stocks and grain; and that he has endeavoured to prevent this by an artful proclamation, encouraging them to stay where they are.

Yesterday arrived here William Robinson, Esq; and Captain Thomas Matthews.[1]

A few days ago a schooner from Hingham, New England, bound in here for a load of corn, was taken by a tender, and carried into Norfolk.[2]

A new brig, the property of Mr. Michael Christian of Northampton, just arrived from the West Indies with 3000 bushels of salt, &c. was drove ashore off the mouth of Cherristones, and burnt by the people of the *Liverpool*'s tender, after stripping her of all sails, rigging, &c.[3] They have likewise taken a quantity of stock off Hog Island, on the Eastern Shore; and on the same day possessed themselves of a brig belonging to Mr. Cornelius Calvert, arrived from Glasgow in ballast, with 200 guineas on board.[4]

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[1] Robinson and Matthews had been sent to Boston in the sloop *Betsey,* which was taken in December 1775, by Captain John Manley in the armed schooner *Lee.*

[2] Schooner *Polly,* Samuel Nichols, master, William West, owner, from Salem for the Potomac, in ballast, taken January 31, 1776 off Cape Charles by a tender from the *Liverpool.* Shuldham's Prize List, April 24, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

[3] *Ibid.,* brig *Susannah,* Francis Bright, master, Christie & Gilmore, owners, Antigua for Baltimore, with salt, taken January 23, 1776 off Cape Charles by a tender from the *Liverpool.*

[4] *Ibid.,* brig *Betsey & Molly,* James Calvert, master, Cornelius Calvert, owner, Glasgow for Norfolk in ballast, taken January 25 off Cape Charles by a tender from the *Liverpool.*

Minutes of the South Carolina Council of Safety[1]

In the Council of Safety,
[Charleston] Saturday evening, Feb. 3d, 1776.

The Council issued orders on the treasury, for the following payments:

To George Gab. Powell, bounties to seamen for the brigt. *Comet,*	78	11	6
To John Russel, for work on the ship *Prosper,*	99	10	0

Read a letter from Capt. Edwd. Blake, of this date.

Ordered, That Capt. Blake may discharge the monthly pay due to the seamen belonging to the brigantine *Comet.*

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[1] *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society,* III, 247–49.

Journal of the South Carolina Provincial Congress[1]

[Charleston] Saturday, February 3, 1776.

Col. Laurens, President of the Council of Safety, reported, That a packet of very interesting intelligence, had this morning been received by that Board, by express from Philadelphia, which they were ready to lay before the Congress, if it should be their pleasure.

Ordered, That the contents of the said packet be immediately laid before the Congress and read.

The following were accordingly read, viz.

Letter from the Delegates of this colony in the Continental Congress, dated Philadelphia, January 2, 1776 – inclosing the following copies of intercepted letters, certified by Charles Thomson, Secretary to the said Congress:

From Lord William Campbell, Governor of this colony, to General Gage, in Boston, dated Rebellion-Road, September 20, 1775:

From John Moultrie, Esq; Lieutenant-Governor of East-Florida, to Col. James Grant, in Boston, dated St. Augustine, October 4, 1775.

From Frederick-George Mulcaster, Esq; Engineer at St. Augustine, to Col. Grant, containing a draught of this harbour, and plan of this town, with references and remarks, dated St. Augustine, October 3, 1775.

Two from John Stuart, Esq; the King's Superintendent of Indian affairs in the Southern District of North-America, both addressed to General Gage, and dated St. Augustine, October 3, 1775 – one of them inclosing copy of a talk from the Cherokee Indians, to Alexander Cameron, Esq; one of Mr. Stuart's Deputies, delivered at Chote, August 8, 1775.

From Major Jonathan Furlong, to General Gage, dated St. Augustine, October 5, 1775.

Extract from Patrick Tonyn, Esq; Governour of East-Florida, to General Gage, dated St. Augustine, Sept. 14, 1775.

Extract from Frederick-George Mulcaster, Esq; to Colonel Grant, dated St. Augustine, Sept. 29, 1775.

The originals having been taken, by Captain Manley, of the Continental armed scooner *Lee,* within a few hours sail of Boston, in a sloop that was, at the same time, conveying Moses Kirkland to General Gage, after having first carried him to Lord Dunmore, in Virginia.

Resolved, That it is expedient and necessary that the lady and daughter of John Stuart, Esq; be restrained from absenting themselves from his house in Charles-Town.

Ordered, That proper guards be immediately placed, and continued, about the house of the said John Stuart, to prevent such absenting; and that Col. [William] Moultrie do place guards accordingly.

Ordered, That Capt. William Cattell and Capt. Benjamin Huger, two members of this Congress, do wait on Mrs. Stuart, previous to the placing guards as aforesaid, and acquaint her of the order.

Resolved, That no property whatever of the Hon. John Stuart, the King's Superintendant of Indian Affairs for the Southern district of North-America, or of his brother Henry Stuart, lying or being in any parish or district within this colony, be removed from thence upon any pretence.

Ordered, That the Committees in such parishes or districts, respectively, where such property may be, do take the most effectual measures to prevent any removal thereof.

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1. *Extracts from the Journals of the Provincial Congress of South-Carolina. Held at Charles-Town, February 1st, 1776* (Charleston, 1776), 5–9. Hereafter cited as *Provincial Congress of South Carolina* (copy in Rare Book Division, LC). The *Extracts* were published in 1960 by the South Carolina Archives Department under the editorship of William Edwin Hemphill.

CAPTAIN ALAN GARDNER, R.N., TO REAR ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON [1]

Maidstone off Cape Maize, Febry 3d 1776

Sir My last letter was dated the 28th of Janry by the Schooner *Dolphin,* which I hope You have received, I now have the honor of writing to you by Mr William Culmer, who I send into Port Royal in an American Schooner call'd the *Nancy,* William Clarke Master, who I seized Yesterday morning; he saild from Cape Nichola the Evening before I took him, bound to Nantucket, his loading consists of 63. Hhds: Molosses, 18 Cask of Coffee and 16. Tierces of Rum.

As Captain [Stair] Douglas intends to return [in]to Port in a few days, I shall apply to him to give the Masters of the American [ve]ssels that I have on board, a passage down to Jamaica, as they are very desirous to be present at the trial of their several Vessels [an]d Cargo's – I shall desire Captain Douglas to send them on board the *Antelope* on His arrival in Port, to remain there till Your further Order concerning them –

Inclosed I send You the state and Condition of His Majesty's Ship under my Command.

I am very much in want of Petty Officers and in case I shou'd meet with three or four More American Vessels, I shall be at a loss to find Captains for them – The Master of the Schooner *Nancy,* informs me, that the two French Frigates (mention'd in my last letter) are sail'd from the Mole for Cape Francois, that 800 Soldiers where very lately landed at the Mole from Old France, and that three more Regmts were dayly expected there. I hope You continue to enjoy a good State of Health – I remain Sir [&c.]

A: Gardner

[1] PRO, Admiralty 1/240.

DIXON AND HUNTER'S *Virginia Gazette,* SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 1776

St. John's, (Antigua,) Feb. 3.

Yesterday the following vessels were condemned at a Court of Vice-Admiralty, held at the courthouse in the town of St. John, viz. – Ship *Two Brothers,* loaded with flour, bread, spermeceti candles, staves, beeswax &c.&c. taken by his Majesty's ship *Experiment,* Robert Keeler, Esq; – Brigantine *Greyhound,* with flour, pork, herrings, staves, heading, bricks, bar-iron, a negro woman, &c.&c. taken by the *Argo,* William Garnier, Esq. – Sloop *Two Brothers,* with live stock, cheese, onions, beef, pork, bread, bullion, &c. &c. taken by the *Viper,* Samuel Graves, Esq.[1]

[1] The ship *Two Brothers* was from Rhode Island, and the sloop of the same name from Connecticut.

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4 Feb. (Sunday)

STEPHEN MOYLAN TO WINTHROP SARGENT [1]

To Winthrop Sargent
Cape Ann

Cambridge, 4th Feby 1776.

Acknowledged Receipt of his Letter of the 2nd Ins giving an Acct of the Brig *Henry & Esther,* laden with 62 Cord of Wood, 150 Butts with Water, 40

Suits of Soldiers Bedding, taken by Captain [Daniel] Waters & Captain [Samuel] Tucker[2] & sent into Swan [Squam] Harbour – ordered the private Property to be given up, after Captain Nelles proves the same on Oath, to libel her immediately. If the Harbour is unsafe, to remove her to a Place more secure.

If the Sailors will engage on Board of any of our armed Vessels for 12 Month they will be entitled to one Month's Pay Advance; but they must be dispersed so that many of them may not be on Board any one Vessel.

[1] Washington Papers, Varick Transcripts, LC.

[2] Captains respectively of Washington's schooners *Lee* and *Franklin.*

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO JOHN HANCOCK[1]

[Extract] Albany Feby 4th 1776

I think small Quantitys of provisions should be stored in different places near Hudson's River between this and the Highlands as an immediate Supply in Case there should be a Necessity to call out the Force of the Country.

So long a March as that from pennsylvania and Jersey into Canada will disable many of our Men. I have offered if this County will push them on twenty or thirty Miles beyond Crown point in Sleds to pay for each Sled four shillings a Day to enable the Sledmen to find Forage. All the Stores that were here are already gone to Fort George and I have sent off a Number of Carpenters to procure the Timber for the Batteaus.

Such is the Scarcity of Forage that I am at my Wits End to procure what will be necessary for the Spring Work at Ticonderoga.

[1] Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, I, 503, 504, NA.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY[1]

[New York] Die Solis, 3 ho. P.M.
Feby. 4th, 1776.

The Committee met on the account of the transport that came up into the harbour, and the report that the *Mercury* and two other transports are below.

A request in the words following, was sent to the Honble. Hugh Wallace:[2]

> 3 ho. P.M., February 4th, 1776.
>
> Sir – The Committee of Safety, now met in the Assembly Chamber at the City Hall, present their compliments to the Honble. Hugh Wallace, and request the favour of him to call on the Committee as soon as possible.

A like request, *mutatis mutandis,* was sent to his worship, Mr. Mayor.

Ordered, That John Atherton, the pilot who was taken up by some of the inhabitants this morning, and sent to the guard house, be brought down for examination.

John Atherton being examined says, in substance, that he went on board of his boat to lodge; that some persons came on board of his boat and took him on board of Gov. Tryon's ship, and from thence on board of the armed schooner

Tender; that he could not avoid piloting her down and up again; that he did not pilot the ship *Sally*, or the transport Brigantine.

William Frundan of the city of New-York, branch pilot, says, that two or three days [since] he desired John Atherton and Nichs. James, to draw their boat to the shore and haul her up; and that he also desired Wm Marriner and Robt Cocks to speak to them and give them the same advice; that they said the man of war had her in possession, and that they would not do any thing with her; that he has very frequently seen the said John Atherton and Nichs. James going on board of the *Phoenix,* and that they keep passing and repassing from the boat to the *Phoenix* every day. That this morning he charged John Atherton that he went down with the schooner Tender; that Atherton at first denied it: that he, the examinant, said to Atherton that he could prove it; that after some time Atherton acknowledged that he had gone down with the schooner, and asked him what could he do, he would starve in the city without employ, and attempted to justify his conduct; that Francis James came and took his cloths off the wharf and has got his boat off, and told his sons there were 200 men on board the brig, but that he, Fundran, thinks there are no troops on board; that the other day after Atherton was sent to this Committee, after he returned Fundran asked him how he had settled with the Committee, and Atherton said he had clubbed with the Committee and settled the account.

Mr. Jacobus Van Zandt came to visit the Committee; he then informed them that Atherton goes frequently on board of the *Phoenix*; that he told him the other day he would not lose business for any Committee, &c.&c. The substance of further particulars of Mr.Van Zandt's testimony could not be reduced to writing.

Ordered, That Atherton be sent back to the guard house.

The Honble. Hugh Wallace attended, says he has not heard any thing but what he has heard on shore, as to any transports being below. That a midshipman, who came with Capt. [Hyde] Parker [Jr.] on board of the Governor's ship, told him the *Mercury* is below and from Boston, in about a fortnight, and had letters on board for him. That a gentleman came on board the *Dutches* with Capt. Parker; the Governor was called out into Harvey's dining room, and that he, Mr. Wallace, was informed that when that gentleman's cloak opened he had red lapels; that he believes this brig is from Boston and a transport; that he heard the address of the House of Commons read, that it re-echoes the King's speech; that he intends to go on board of the Governor's ship this afternoon, and has promised some gentlemen on the bridge that if he hears any thing of importance to the city will inform of it.

Mr. Mayor says that he has not heard any thing but what he heard on the bridge. That he should have waited on the Governor but that the Governor has sent him a card requesting him to wait on him to-morrow. That if he hears of any thing necessary for the safety of the city he will make the best use of it.

William Fundran is directed to proceed immediately to the Narrows, and to take a trusty person with him who can ride, and with a good spy glass; that he stay at Cortelyou's, and that on sight of any fleet he immediately despatch his rider with information to this Committee; and a proper signal to be made in the day, and also a proper signal to be made in the night, in case the weather should not permit to cross the ferry immediately, were fixed on with the said Fundran.

Samuel Isleton the pilot was also called in and directed to proceed immediately with the whale boat and his oarsmen to the Hook, and to keep the best lookout if any fleet is approaching, and to examine, if any fleet appears, whether there are any troops on board, and to give the most immedaite notice of his discoveries to this Committee.

Saml Iselton is to tarry one week, if no fleet appears sooner; is to have the same pay as before, to wit, 10s. a day for himself, and 8s. a day for each of his men. They are to find their own provisions and bear their own expense.

Col. [Alexander] McDougall went to wait on Genl. [Charles] Lee, and to form an arrangement of duty for the night.

Mr. Jacobus Van Zandt came into the Committee and informed them that he has good information and to be relied on, that Genl. [Henry] Clinton has come; but whether it was Genl. Clinton, or his aid-de-camp, who came on board of the Governor's ship he has not yet discovered.

Mr. Mayor came into the Committee and informed that the Governor had sent for him; that he waited on the Governor and saw Genl. Clinton there; that he is authorized by the Governor to assure the inhabitants that no troops are coming here; Genl. Clinton declared the same; that the Governor said Genl. Clinton called to pay him a short visit; that if any transports with troops should by accident or stress of weather put in here, they are not intended to remain here.

Colonel [Abraham] Brasher was despatched to inform Genl. Lee and the gentlemen there assembled, of the information received from his Worship the Mayor.

The Committee conceive it necessary to inform the Continental Congress, through the New-York Delegates, of Genl. Lee's arrival, and of the arrival of the transports and Genl. Clinton of the ministerial troops.

Thereupon a draft of a letter to the Delegates of the Colony of New-York, was read and approved, and is in the words following, to wit:

> Gentlemen – We think it our duty to inform the Continental Congress through you, that Genl. Clinton of the ministerial troops, and one transport, are this day arrived here; but we do not know that she contains any troops. That the *Mercury* ship of war is near Nutten [*sic* Staten] island coming into port. We are well informed that those vessels left Boston not more than 14 days ago.
>
> The mayor has this evening declared to us that he was then come from Govr. Tryon, and is authorized by the Governor to assure the inhabitants that no troops are coming here; that Genl. Clinton was present, and said that no troops are coming here; that Govr. Tryon farther told him, that Genl. Clinton had only called to pay him a short visit; that if any transport with troops should by accident or stress of weather put in here, they are not intended to remain here. We do not rely on this information; but if it be true, we conceive that the most natural conclusion is, that he is going to the southward.

Major-Genl. Lee is arrived here this day, (ill with the gout.) He has about 700 men now here, and has sent over for Lord Stirling's regiment. We are, most Respectfully, Gentlemen [&c.]

By order. [3]

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1. *New York Provincial Congress,* I, 282–83.
2. Wallace, one of the Governor's Council, was privileged to go on board the *Dutchess of Gordon,* where Tryon had set up home and office.
3. The letter was signed by Joseph Halle, chairman of the Committee, and copies were in turn dispatched to all the southern colonies by order of Congress.

MEMOIRS OF WILLIAM SMITH [1]

[New York] Sunday 4th Feby 1776

In the Afternoon of the same Day (4 Feby) General Clinton arrived from Boston which he left the 20 Jany and General Lee from Stanford. It was reported that Transports were at the Hook and the Multitude in the highest Ferment till the Mayor towards Evening brought a Message from the Governor intimating that Mr. Clinton was only on a Visit, expected no Troops besides a single Transport that parted from him, and that even these were not to land but sail away in a few Days. –

The Committee of Safety nevertheless calld upon the surrounding Country for Aid & sent particularly for Lord Stirlings Regiment from Jersey.

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1. Sabine, ed., *Memoirs of William Smith,* 261, 263.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Phoenix,* CAPTAIN HYDE PARKER, JR.[1]

February 1776	Moor'd in the East River Abreast the Town of New York.
Saturday 3d	Modr Breezes and Clear Frosty Wr with much Ice in the River. P M our Schooner [2] brought up a Ship from the Hook Named the *Sally* loaded with Salt moor'd her under our Quarter and put a Midshipman & 10 Men onboard her [3]
Sunday 4th	A. M. Anchor'd here a Brig from Boston. Came up in the Schooner General Clinton P M at 6 Anchord here the *Mercury*

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1. PRO, Admiralty 51/693.
2. The schooner *James,* which had been taken by the *Asia* on January 20, and converted into a tender for the *Phoenix.* The schooner, when seized, was loading in New York with provisions and dry goods for "the Rebel camp," Shuldham's Prize List, April 24, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.
3. *Ibid.,* the ship *Sally,* John Bagley, master, and Samuel Franklin, owner, was entering New York from Alicante, Spain, with a cargo of salt.

CAESAR RODNEY TO THOMAS RODNEY [1]

[Extract] Phila Sunday. Feb. the 4th 1776.

The letter you wrote to [Thomas] Collins & the copy of the Council's order I delivered, & conversed with him on the subject – Mr. Collins was of opinion with me, that it would be more prudent to employ some person in Phila who had been accustomed to that kind of trade than to join with the New-Castle

Co. people in the expedition they then had on foot. The applying to a proper person here was lost to me before this, as soon as I got to town, I spoke to David Beveridge, who immediately told me he would undertake it provided he & the contractors could agree, which he had no doubt of & on Tuesday last, I provided an express to go to Collins at Wilmington & return on the next day, which he did – By this express Beveridge wrote Collins the out-lines of the bargain but that they might confer more particularly desired Collins would meet him as on Thursday last at Chester. When the express returned, he showed me Collins' answer which was that he was obliged to set out on that day for Kent – that he should be up again in 10 or 12 days – would then endeavor to fix the matter & that from the appearance of the weather, he thought it would then be time enough. This is all I now know of the matter except that several other very good hands have since been with me to get the contract – so that you & Collins or either of you may have a contract whenever you set about it. The night before last Capt. Nason [Thomas Mason] (who went to France in the service of the Congress) came to town. He says he came in a brig commanded by Capt. [John] Craig. That they had 7 weeks passage from Bell-isle to the coast off Egg-Harbor – that he then came on shore & crossed the Jersey[s] to town – That the brig stood for our Capes, that she has on board, on account of the Congress 15 tons of gunpowder, 60 tons of salt-petre & 1300 stand of excellent fire-arms – & he supposes she is now safe within the Capes.[2]

1. George Herbert Ryden, ed., *Letters to and from Caesar Rodney, 1756–1784* (Philadelphia, 1933), 70–71.
2. See Thomas Mason's journal, February 2, 1776.

THOMAS JEFFERSON TO THOMAS NELSON, JR.[1]

[Extract] Philadelphia. [Fe]by 4th. 1776.

We have late advices from England, which you will see in the inclos'd papers. I had rather send you a dozen Ledgers and Evening Posts,[2] than transcribe three paragraphs out of them. But I have good News for you, which neither of these papers contains. A Vessel arriv'd two nights ago with 60 Tons of Salt Petre, 13 Tons of Gunpowder and 2000 Stands of Arms and we are in daily expectation of 25 Tons more of Gun powder.

Troops are marching every day from hence to support the remains of our Army before Quebec. The Eastern Governments are raising Men for the same purpose. One Battalion has already march[ed] from Connecticut, so that We are still in hopes of reducing the Garrison before it can be reliev'd in the Spring.

General Washington has sent Major General [Charles] Lee [to] New York at the head of 1200 Volunteers from Connecticut to defend that Province against a detachment sent from Boston, which the General was informed by a deserter, was certainly intended for that place. The Deserter, I fancy, was mistaken, sufficient time having elaps'd since they sail'd for their arriving there, and we have no account of them. The Committee of safety of New York however sent a remonstra[nce] to Lee setting forth the extreme danger the City would be in from the Men of War, should he ente[r] it, and especially as they were apprehensive he intended to make an attack upon the Ships. Lee sent the remonstrance to Congress and wrote the President that he thought it his Duty to carry his Orders into execution, which he was preparing to do with the first division, the rest of the Troops being ready to support him. The Letter and remonstrance being read, a violent debate arose on one side as to the propriety of an armed force from one province, entering another without permission of the civil power of that province, or without express orders of Congress. It was alledged that this was setting up the Military above the Civil. On the other side was urged the absolute necessity of securing that province, the loss of which would cut off all communication between the Northern and Southern Colonies and which if effected would ruin America. The debate ended in the appointment of a Committee of Congress to confer with Lee and the Committee of Safety. [Benjamin] Harrison, [Thomas] Lynch and [William] Allen were the Committee and they sat out the next day upon their Ambassy, but what the result has been we are not inform'd, not having heard from them since they went.

1. Boyd, ed., *Jefferson Papers,* I, 285–86.
2. Humphreys' *Pennsylvania Ledger,* and Towne's *Pennsylvania Evening Post,* both printed in Philadelphia.

Stephen West to the Maryland Council of Safety [1]

Woodyard Sunday [February 4, 1776] [2] 10 oClock –

Gentlemen An Express is this Moment arrived here from Mr R H Lee of Virginia I think it my duty to Send it instantly to our Committee of Correspondence – to give them notice & to forward immediately to you – I have no Answers to the Letters of last week – about Money &c. – . – . When you have Copied a[nd] done with Mr Lees Lr I shall be glad to have a Copy – am with great Respect and Regard Gentlemen [&c.]

Stephen West.

As this express came across at Laselars a topsail Schooner was going down laden with flower bound out for Arms & Ammunition & another it is said is at Alexandria going on the same Errand – . I shall endeavour to inform this last – .[3]

1. Red Book, XXIV, Md. Arch.
2. The date established by that of the previous letter, January 30, 1776.
3. To inform the vessel that escort to the Virginia Capes was being provided by the Continental sloop *Hornet* and schooner *Wasp.*

Adam Stephen to Richard Henry Lee [1]

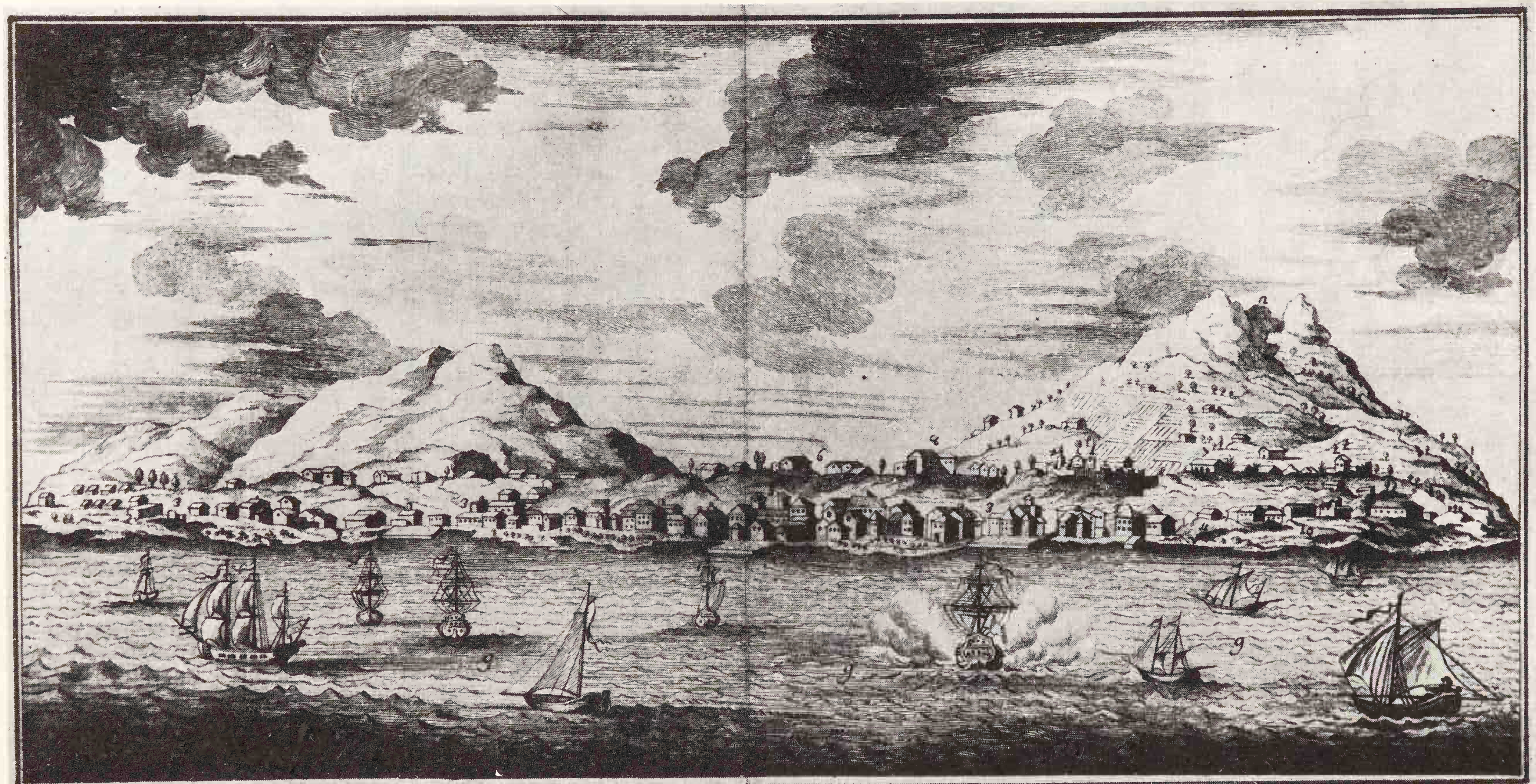
[Extract] Berkeley [Virginia] Feb 4th '76

I think the Congress should apply for foreign Assistance, as the Bloody Violence of K—g & Ministry & the Apathy of the people of Britain, seem incurabl[e] Every Sinew must be Exerted!

P. S.

. . . I would want No men from France, but agree to ta[ke] what goods & manufactures we wanted of them, for a certain term of years & that they should furnish a Navy Sufficient to protect our Exports, & Convoy them to the best Markets in Europe &c

1. Lee Papers, UVL.



N. Matraini del.

J. Ottaviani inc.

VEDUTA DI S. EUSTACHIO

1 Il Forte
2 Spaccatura con un Lago d'Acqua
3 Borgo
4 Piazza con Dogana
5 La Chiesa Romana Privata

6 Abitazione del Governatore
7 Chiesa Olandese
8 Chiesa Inglese
9 La Rada
10 Scalo per lo Scarico delle Mercanzie

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Syren*, CAPTAIN TOBIAS FURNEAUX [1]

January 1776	Latde in 32° 28′ No
Tuesday 30	AM at 1 taken aback, at 8 saw a Sail on the Wear bow, Stood for her, at 9 fired a Shot & bro't too a Snow from Bristol bound to Charles Town So Carolina, which we detained — [2] First part Mode & Cloudy, latter Squally with Lighng & Rain P M at 1 sent a Mn & 5 Men on board the Prize, made Sail,
Wednesday 31	various Soundings, at 12 Dble Reeft Tpsls at Noon the Snow in Co — Mode & Hazy Wear P:M at 5 TKd at 8 saw a Sail, fired a Shot & spoke the *Lady Willm* Schooner, having on board Lord Wm Campbell. –
February 1776 Thursday 1st	A M at 3 Tkd made Sail stood to 14 Fms shortn'd Sail for the Snow & Schooner, Sounded, Various Soundings, at 6 SSE Swell Mode Wear P M at 11 the Snow parted Co
Friday 2d	A M at 1 dble reeft Tsls & shortened sail for the Schooner, at 4 wore Ship & bro't too, at 7 Wore & struck Top Gallt Yards. – First part fresh Gales latter fresh breezes; P M at 7 wore Ship. –
Saturday 3	AM at 5 out 2d reefs TPsls at 6 saw a Schooner steering SWbW, – at 8 got Top Gallt Yards across; fired a Shot bro't too the *Scarborough*'s Tender, from Boston bound to Georgia – Light Airs – P. M at 4 the Extreams of the Land from No½Wt to W S W
Sunday 4th	AM at 4 TKd at 9 payed the lower Masts – Light Airs & Cloudy with Calms, P:M at 2 out Reefs.

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1. PRO, Admiralty 51/930.
2. The snow from Bristol does not appear on any prize lists.

CAPTAIN MATTHEW VAN ALSTYNE TO ABRAHAM VAN ALSTYNE, NEW YORK MERCHANT [1]

Dear Brother – St Eustatia, February 4th, 1776.

I this moment heard of an opportunity, and thought proper to acquaint you that I am this night going to St. Cristophers' to take charge of Capt. Sanderses brig, to go to Cork, rather than come home, for the sea is full of all kind of cruizers: there is not one in ten that escapes, going or coming. On my arrival here, I wrote up to my friends at St. Christophers, and related my misfortune of being taken, and they immediately sent word down to me to take charge of this brig. Thank God, I am not in want of friends in this part of the world. Mrs. Van Alstyne is well, and likewise myself; we both join in our best respects to my beloved mother, &c. I am [&c.]

Matthew Van Alstyne.

N.B. This morning I heard that two privateers is fitting out at the island of Dominica; therefore you can relate &c.

1. *New York Provincial Congress,* II, 170.

5 Feb.

BILLS FOR HIRING WASHINGTON'S SCHOONERS *Hancock* AND *Warren* [1]

The United Colonies of America To Thomas Grant Dr

1775.	To the Hire of my Schooner [the *Hancock*] in the Service beginning The Seventh day of October to the Last day of December following – Two months & Twenty five Days at 72 Dollars p month	204 Dollars

Marblehead February 5th 1776.

Errors Excepted p Thomas Grant

The united Colonies Dr to John Twisden

1775.	To The hier of The Schooner *Waring* [*Warren*] from The 13th Day of october to The Last Day of Decmber at one Dollar p ton p month being 66 Tons	50.16.0

Errors Excepted p me John Twisden

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1. Bartlett Papers, Nos. 5482, 5483, BHS. Original names of these vessels at the time they entered Washington's service were *Speedwell* and *Hawk.*

ESTIMATE OF THE LOSS SUSTAINED BY JOSHUA ORNE [1]

An Estimate of the Loss sustained by Joshua Orne of Marblehead from the Piratticall Seizure and detention of a Brig & Cargo by the Ministeriall Navy at Boston, one third of which was sd Orne's Property. –

The Cargo produc'd by sales 2000 Lawf Money as by Information of the person who sold it	
The Vessell Worth 600 L Money Money	600
	2600

One third of Which is – to 866 . . 13 . . 4 L Money

[Endorsed]

We the Subscribers beleive the Above Estimate to be a True one of sd Ornes Loss as Witness Our hands

M[arble]head Feby 5th 1776

Stephen Phillips
Edw^d Fettyplace
Joseph Homan
John Reed
William Knight
W^m Doliber
Committee of Correspondence

[Second endorsement]

Colony of Massachusetts Bay,

Essex ss March 29, 1776 Then Joshua Orne within named did swear that the estimate of the loss he sustained by the Navy of Great Britain, as within written, is just & true, being eight hundred & sixty six pounds thirteen shillings & four pence lawful money of the Massachusetts Bay.

Before Timothy Pickering junr Justice of the Peace

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1. Mass. Arch., vol. 139, 413A.

ESTIMATE OF THE LOSS SUSTAINED BY JOSEPH HOMAN [1]

An Account of a Loss Sustain'd by Joseph Homan of Marblehead from an Exchange of property with Capt George Dodge of Salem, Whose Vessell was taken by the Ministeriall Navy & Carried to Boston

Loss is one hundred pounds	100..0..0
Deduct for premium stipulated	12..–..
	£88..0..0

[Endorsed]

Mhead Feby 5: 1776

The Subscribers believe the above to be a True account

Joshua Orne	Edw^d^ Fettyplace	Committee of Correspondence
Stephen Phillips	William Knight	
John Reed	W^m^ Doliber	

[Second endorsement]

Colony of Massachusetts Bay

Essex ss March 29. 1776. Then Joseph Homan within named did swear that he sustained a loss by the British Navy, in the manner within mentioned, amounting to eighty eight pounds lawful money of the Massachusetts Bay.

Before Timothy Pickering junr Justice of the Peace

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1. Mass. Arch., vol. 139, 413.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES [1]

[Watertown] Monday, February 5, 1776.
Afternoon.

A Petition of Benjamin Foster and others of Machias, praying the Court to purchase several Vessels, &c. which they took last Summer.

Read, and the Petitioners had Leave to withdraw their Petition.

A Petition of Benjamin Foster and James Noble Shannon, in Behalf of the Committee of Safety of Machias, praying that the Court would Authorise some Persons to take Charge of a Number of armed Vessels which were taken from our Enemies the Summer past, by the Inhabitants of said Machias, together with some valuable Articles which were in the Vessels; and also praying that the doings of said Committee may be established.

Read, and committed to Mr.[Daniel] Davis, Deacon [Jonas] Stone, and Mr.[Amos] Knowles.

Another Petition of the said Foster and Shannon, representing that Capt. John Coulson sail'd from Machias about the first of December last for St.Croix, and agreed with the Committee of Safety at said Machias to bring from thence Fifteen Hundred Weight of Powder, and praying the Directions of the Court.

Read and committed to the same Committee.

Another Petition of said Foster and Shannon, sign'd also by James Lord, representing that one Ebenezer Beal was wounded in taking the Schooner *Margaretta* on the 12th June last, and is now in this Place in a languishing Condition, and praying that the Court would order him to be receiv'd into some Hospital.

Read and committed to the same Committee.

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1. Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch.

JOSEPH PALMER TO NICHOLAS AND JOHN BROWN [1]

Dear Sirs Watertown, Febry, 5th 1776.

Your favr of the 2d Inst is now before me; I have not had the Pleasure of seeing Capt Allen, but the business upon which he came has been laid before the Board, & they find themselves vested with no power to commissionate any Vessels, but only Such as are owned within this Colony. I believe that every one of the Council, wou'd rejoice in meeting your wish, could they do it with propriety: I will inclose you, if I can, that Paragraph of the Law which restricts their conduct in this matter.

There is one method of doing it, which, in my opinion is very plain & easy to you, who have such large acquaintance in this Colony, vizt. Transferr the property to some friend here, whom you can confide in; then that Friend may apply to the Board, who will, doubtless, give all the dispatch you can wish.

I hope you will excuse my voluntary Opinion, & believe me to remain, dear Sirs [&c.]

J: Palmer

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1. Nicholas Brown Papers, JCBL.

Boston Gazette, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1776

Watertown, February 5.

Last Thursday morning, 7 night [January 25], Capt. Manly being on a cruise in the Bay, discovered a ship a league or two S.E. of Boston light house. He immediately gave chase to and took her within sight of the ships in Boston harbour.[1] He then stood for a snow which he espied off Cohasset; and soon coming up with her, she struck to him without hestitation.[2] Just as Capt. Manly had manned his last prize, a schooner of eight carriage guns, with many swivels and full of men, convoying two little provision vessels from Halifax, came up, and began an engagement with Capt. Manly; but being soon convinced of her error, she steered off for Boston.[3] – Capt. Manly would undoubtedly have taken her also, with the two provision vessels, had not his crew, (which was at first much short of the complement) been considerably weakened by manning the two prizes. In the engagement his gunner was wounded, and his rigging something damaged. We have not heard what loss the enemy sustained. Both of the prizes which were loaded with coal, from Whitehaven, in England, Capt. Manly got safe into Plymouth with the ensuing night.

A wood vessel, bound to Boston, was taken by one of our cruizers, this week in the Bay.

Last week one of the continental cruizers got into a harbour at the Eastward, after having been chased by the *Lively* man of war, who fired about 170 shot at her.[4]

On the 25th of December last, was taken by a Plymouth Privateer, and carried in there, a small Sloop [5] from New York, Moses Weyman, Master, laden with Provisions for the Ministerial Army in Boston, consisting of 35 fresh Hogs, 100 Barrels of Pork, 50 Barrels fine New York Pippins, 20 Firkins Hogs Fat, some Quarters of Beef, Turkeys, Geese, &c.&c.

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1. The *Happy Return*
2. The *Norfolk.*
3. The *General Gage* tender.
4. H.M.S. *Lively* was anchored in Boston harbor during all of January and early February. The pursuit may have been by H.M.S. *Fowey, Nautilus* or *Halifax,* all of which were cruising south of the Cape Ann peninsula during that period.
5. The *Lively Locust.*

JOURNAL OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO BUILD TWO CONTINENTAL FRIGATES IN RHODE ISLAND [1]

[Providence] Feby 5th 1776

Meeting in being according to Adjournment

Gave a Draught to Mr John Brown on Stepn Hopkins Esqr for five thousand Dollars

Also gave a draught to Welcome Arnold Esqr on Stephen Hopkins Esqr for one thousand Dollars.

Agreed with Cromwell Childs for 8000 feet of 2½ Inch plank to be dd here on Demand for twenty five Dollars P thousand. –

Voted. That Messrs Clarke & Nightingale write to Mr Frank Brindly to engage Twenty Tons of Riging of him on the Terms he offer'd it for, that is Ten Dollars P Hundred at the Rope walk to be made up as soon as possible and of such sizes as the Committee shall Direct

Reckoning 18/ paid by Col Nightingale

Meeting Adjourned to Wednesday Evening 6 o'clock

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1. Journal R.I. Frigates, RIHS.

Newport Mercury, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1776

Newport, February 5.

Capt Manly, of the *Lee* privateer of 10 guns, the week before last took two valuable prizes, & carried them to Plymouth. – On Tuesday, as he was again putting out to sea, he was attacked by two armed vessels, which he engaged about an hour, when one of them struck, but before he could take possession of the prize, another vessel of 16 guns engaged him, and his vessel being much damaged, and the enemy greatly superior in strength, he was obliged to row her into Marshfield.[1] Yesterday morning the whole ministerial fleet stationed here, went out of the harbour, with the wind W. N. W. stretched off near Block Island, then stood in under the east side of Point-Judah [Judith] Point, where they anchored. This morning they went up our Bay, toward Prudence.

[1] This is a garbled account of the capture of the *Happy Return* and *Norfolk,* the brief engagement with the *General Gage* armed schooner, and the subsequent unhappy encounter with H.M. Brig *Hope.*

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Glasgow,* CAPTAIN TYRINGHAM HOWE[1]

1776 February	A Breast of Mackrell Cove
Sunday 4	at 10 AM weigh'd & came to Sail in Compy the *Rose, Swan* & Hospital Ship working out of the harbour Fresh breezes & fair standing for Point Judith at 3 PM . . . sent the boats on shore arm'd to assist in taking the Hay At a single Anchor on the East side of Cananicutt Gold Island N N E[2]
Monday 5	at 7 AM weigh'd & came to Sail & stood up the Harbour at 11 Came too in 13 fathm split the Foretopsl Do unbent it & bent a new one –

[1] PRO, Admiralty 51/398.

[2] See *Providence Gazette,* February 10, 1776.

GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.[1]

Sir Lebanon 5th Feb. 1776.

I just now received your favr of this Day,[2] & note the contents. I regret the misfortune of the Vessell & the loss of Lives of any of our Friends, but rejoice to hear she has safely arrived with so much of an article of such importance for our Defence. have no reason to doubt of Cap Packwood's fidelity & utmost Endeavour to procure larger supplys. the base & cowardly arts of our Enemies to deprive us of the necessary means of Self Defence, have unhappily for us too far succeeded, but hope in Divine Providence which can save by means or without for all needed Protection.

I am not certain by your Letter how much Maj Thompson ought to have, or whether any, but if any it may be best He sho'd take it at Providence, but that may be better determined by Knowing how much if any of his money went into the purchase. & for the present I wod have it all delivered to Coll [Jabez]

Huntington of Norwich or his order to be deposited there judging it more safe than to be Stored at New London & have wrote Him to send for it, & you will please to deliver accordingly, the muskets & other articles you mention, you will deposit in a Safe & proper Manner at N London, with the advice of Coll [Eliphalet] Dyer & Mr. [blank] who will be with you tomorrow, to remain till further orders I have little or nothing of News which you are not possessed of, Cap [blank] can inform of anything I have had. this moment hear that Genl [Charles] Lee ([stricken] by the Gout) was carried into New York in a Litter, & that three members of the general Congress have [gone] to meet him there to advise on proper measures to be taken I am sir [&c.]

Jonth Trumbull

P.S. please to confer with Messrs. Dyar & [blank] on the propriety of sharing the powder with Maj Thompson & in what proportions

1. Shaw Mss., Misc. Corres., Force Transcripts, LC.
2. Shaw's letter to Trumbull is dated February 3, 1776.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM NEW-YORK DATED THE 5TH INST. [FEBRUARY 5, 1776]" [1]

Yesterday about the same time Generals Lee and Clinton arrived. The Committee of Safety met immediately, and we expected something like a commencement of hostilities to day. The Mayor went on board, and the Governor and General both assured him not a man was to be landed here. A twenty gun ship, said to be the *Mercury,* and a transport, came into the harbour yesterday. Clinton came in the frigate, and is going to the southward, I believe to Virginia. A Dr. Gilson has been taken into custody at Newport, and sent to head quarters, for treasonable practices at Rhode-Island. Lee says, he will send word on board the men of war, that if they set a house on fire in consequence of his coming, he will chain one hundred of their friends together by the neck, and make the house their funeral pile.

1. *Pennsylvania Evening Post,* February 6, 1776.

LORD JAMES DRUMMOND TO BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES ROBERTSON, BOSTON [1]

My dear Sir, New York Feby 5th 1776

Just as I was sitting down to write to you, I recd yours by Genl Clinton, but have not as yet had an opportunity of seeing him.

During the very few Moments I was with you at Boston, I expressed my Wish of being able to make known at Philada the Disposition in England towards an Accomodation, upon liberal Terms, and such as were founded in Equity and Candour.

You then concurred with me in thinking that however much those Gentlemen, whose Province is now to think for the Public, might be held up as aiming at a total Seperation, they had as their sole Object such a Reconciliation as would give a constitutional Security to their Children.

In this opinion I think we were not deceived. From all the Conversation I had at Philada with those Gentlemen who allow me, I hope, to rank myself among the Number of their Friends, I have every Reason to think them most seriously disposed towards Reconciliation. From a Conviction of this, I have pressed the setting on Foot a Negotiation, nor am I without Hopes of Success.

Should such an Event take Place it is not impossible but a Deputation from hence may be found expedient, and in that Case a Passport requisite for a Security agt English Cruisers. – Such a Passport must be left blank for filling up Names, and sent by the same Conveyance that this passes through. It will be needless to caution you against Delay.

My slight Acquaintance with Genl [William] Howe & Admiral Shuldham, will furnish you with an Apology for my not making a more direct Application. I continue my dear Friend Your, &c

Drummond.

Let me guard you agt letting this go to the Public, till we see how far my Hopes are well grounded.

1. John Hancock Papers, III, 154–55, LC; enclosed in Washington to Hancock, February 14, 1776.

MAJOR GENERAL HENRY CLINTON TO R. REEVE [1]

Sir As I think it is probable that a considerable Sum of money will be wanted for His Majestys Service under my Command in the Southern Colonies – and having received no information whether a pay master will accompany the Troops which are expected to arrive from Ireland I would recommend it to you to supply the Kings Chest with a further Sum of £5000 at this place, that we may in all events be prepared for any exigencies that may hereafter arise I am &c.

Mercury off New York 5th Febry 1776

H Clinton M. G

R Reeve acting for the Paymaster of His Majestys Forces

1. Sir Henry Clinton Papers (Miscellaneous Letter Books), CL.

JOHN HERRING TO ABRAHAM LOTT [1]

Sir– *Mercury* [New York Harbor], Feb. 5th, 1776.

Please to supply His Majesty's ship *Mercury,* with the following provisions, to complete her to three months, viz.

Bread, 2000 pounds; spirits, 200 pounds; flour, 3000 pounds; butter, 200 pounds; cheese, 400 pounds; peas 11 bushels; oatmeal, 11 bushels.

The above to be sent on board as soon as possible. From, sir [&c.]

Jno. Herring.

1. *New York Provincial Congress,* II, 193–94. Herring was purser on board H.M.S. *Mercury.*

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Mercury,* CAPTAIN ALEXANDER GRAEME [1]

1776 Feby Moored in New York River

Monday 5 at 9 A M weighed & stood further up the Harbour ½ past came to wth the B B in 10 fm veered away & moored a Cable each way Recd on Board 844 lbs fresh Beef & Some Provisions from the *Phoenix*

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 51/600.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Asia,* CAPTAIN GEORGE VANDEPUT [1]

February '776 Moor'd in the East River

Sunday 4 Arriv'd the *James* Schooner with a Ship & a Transport Brig

Monday 5 Arrived H.M. Ship *Mercury* from Boston

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 51/67.

LORD STIRLING TO JOHN HANCOCK [1]

Sir Elizabeth Town Feby 5:1776

I have this Moment received General Lee's Command to Join him with five hundred Men of my Regiment at New York. I propose setting out to Morrow Morning with about half that Number, and Now send Orders for the remainder to follow me from Brunswick & Amboy. we have as yet received No powder. I was obliged to Borrow for the two last Excursions, and will now try to do the best we can on this Occasion. I am [&c.]

Stirling.

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[1] Papers CC (Letters from General Officers), 162, II, 408, NA.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS [1]

[Philadelphia] Monday, February 5, 1776

The committee to whom General Schuyler's letters were referred, brought in their report, which being taken into consideration: thereupon,

[*Resolved*] That the resolution of Congress of the 8th day of last month, for sending shipwrights from the cities of New York and Philadelphia, to build batteaus at Ticonderoga, be superseded; and that General Schuyler be desired to employ any such artificers, as he shall think proper, in that business:

That General Schuyler be desired to procure skilful persons to assist General Wooster in exploring the river St.Lawrence, and to construct the armed boats to be kept there, according to a former resolution of Congress:

That General Schuyler be desired to employ such batteau men as are in and near Albany, instead of those it was recommended to the convention of New York to procure, upon the best terms he can, and to acquaint Congress for what wages they will serve.

That Captain —— [Jacobus] Wyncoop be employed under Commodore [William] Douglass, in the naval department.

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[1] Ford, ed., *JCC,* IV, 109–12.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a, 5th Feb'y, 1776.

Resolved, That the officers and Soldiers of the Batteries belonging to this Province, shall be intitled to a proportionable share of all Prizes that shall be taken within sight of the same, or after having been engaged with such Battery.

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[1] *Pennsylvania Colonial Records,* X, 476, 477.

Pennsylvania Packet, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1776

Philadelphia [February 5].

By a vessel from St.Eustatia we learn, that three English frigates are cruizing off that island; we also learn, that 14 English ships, with live stock and other provisions for the troops at Boston, being blown off the coast are put into Antigua, from whence no doubt, in the spring, they will carry their stock in good order, for the relief of the troops.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE [1]

Monday 5 Feby 1776 – The Committee Met –

Capt William Chase of the Sloop *John* applied for Permission to load said Sloop for Rhode Island or Dartmouth Bay, which was granted him on William Spear, and Benjamin Griffith becoming Security –

Capt William Johnson of the Schooner [blank] applied for Liberty to load said Vessel with Flour for Northampton County in Virginia, which was refused as he brought no Certificate from their Committee, and it does not appear, that any Troops are ordered to that County, which was the Reason assigned in a Letter to Lux & Bowly for sending for the Flour, but as it appears, that he has bought half a Ton of Iron, he is permitted to carry it down, on reporting his Cargo, as heretofore agreed on –

Upon Motion Resolved, That the Permission granted to Messrs Robt & Alexandr McKim on the 22d Ulto be cancelled, as it appears to this Committee, that they have not concluded any Bargain with Captn [Seth] Paddock – A Copy of this Resolve is ordered to be delivered to Messrs McKims by the Secretary –

Messrs Lux & Bowly having produced a Certificate from the Convention to export the Produce of this Province to the Amot of £168.15 – & requested Liberty to export the same in Lumber in the Schooner *Resolution* William Waud Master, which was granted – They also produced an Order from the Come of Safety for Shipping 100 Bbls supe Flour in the Pilot Boat *Chatham* on Account of the Province, for which they obtained Permission from the Committee –

Whereas the Committee appointed at the last Meeting to devise and point out the most eligible Modes for fortifying and defending this Town did on Saturday last report to Messrs Saml Purviance Junr, Wm Lux, John Moale, John Smith, Wm Buchanan, Is. Griest, John Boyd, Benja Griffith, Wm Asquith, Thomas Harrison, and James Calhoun (Members of this Comme and collected together for this Purpose) that in their Opinion, the Sum of £7063 . . 6 . . 8 was requisite for carrying their Plan properly into Execution, and the same being referred to the

Council of Safety, they declared, that they were only permitted to expend the Sum of £6200..0..0 in placing Obstructions in the Channel & putting Baltimore Town in a Posture of Defence, if such a Scheme should appear to them practicable for such a Sum – As it is of the utmost consequence, that this Town should be fortified assoon as possible, Messrs S. Purviance, W. Lux, And Buchanan, John Moale, Jereh Towny Chase, Jas Calhoun, Thos Harrison, Benja Griffith, Isaac Griest, John Smith, John Boyd, William Asquith, & William Buchanan, Acting Members of this Committee, did at the same Time enter into Bond with The Honl Danl of St Thos Jenifer, Chas Carroll Barrister, Jas Tilghman, & John Hall Esqrs Acting Members of the Council of Safety of this Province for the Purposes therein mentioned –

This Committee do therefore heartily approve of the Conduct of the above named Gentlemen, and will, if the next Convention does not allow a further Sum for fortifying the Town, chearfully assist & contribute all in their Power for so laudable an End, but the Gentlemen, who entered into Bond, are considered as solely invested with the Power of Directing and conducting the Purposes, for which said Money was granted –

1. Baltimore Committee, LC.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Liverpool,* CAPTAIN HENRY BELLEW [1]

Febuary 1776 Off Norfolk in Virginia

Monday 5 The Rebels Set fire to Several houses in Norfolk and about the Country Received onboard Wood and Water.
Modr and fair arriv'd here our Tender with the loss of one man who was kill'd by the Shot of a musquet from the Rebels on the Banks of a river,[2] The Rebels left Norfolk, the Houses still burning –

[1] PRO, Admiralty 51/548.

[2] This was the third cruise of the *Edward* tender.

DIXON AND HUNTER'S *Virginia Gazette,* SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1776

Nansemond, February 5.

Saturday night last [February 3] we received intelligence of six tenders sailing from Norfolk the day before, and that three of them were on their way up this river, which was confirmed about 9 o'clock, by three vessels anchoring, one near Sleepy Hole ferry, and two more two or three miles higher up, having come as far as the flood tide served. Their boats were moving about the remainder part of the night, one up the river, since supposed as high as [John] Goodrich's, five miles higher up, and just within the narrows, but returned a little before day. They attempted nothing till the morning, when a boat full of armed men approached the shore within half a mile of the tenders, and were fired upon by four men from the bank, at one hundred yards distance; they returned the fire, and rowed wide of the place, when the four men were honoured with a salute of well directed cannon, but without any bad consequence. This first effort seemed of singular service, as they never attempted landing after, except at one desolate place, which they effected in the night, and burnt a house with some corn in it belonging to Mr. Cowper. It appears, by indubitable proof, that this incursion was partly intended, with the concurrence of Goodrich and sons, to get possession of two vessels loaded with pork, bacon, and other provisions, which, to the discredit of his neighbourhood, these avaricious, false men have been suffered to collect and put on board, and with all expedition put themselves under the protection of the tenders. Though it was with a good deal of difficulty the last of them effected it, (from the fire of our men, and the tenders' boats being repulsed,) they weighed, ran up, and took possession, under a heavy fire of our brave men, who had nothing but small arms, and a scanty portion of ammunition, to oppose their cannon and musketry. There was one occurrence happened, which, had we forseen, a tender and her prize would have fallen into our hands: The wind being a-head on their return, they were obliged to come within sixty yards of a high bank; fifty men, with a plenty of ammunition, could have drove them below decks, and prevented them from tending the sheets, by which, they must have come ashore. A few regulars, with the help of ammunition to our own men, would secure us in such a manner, that the fertile lands on this river may be cultivated to the no small advantage of the community; whereas, if we are drove back, the lands are so indifferent for near one hundred miles, that a famine must be the inevitable consequence.

MINUTES OF THE WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

Monday, Feby 5th 1776

Col [James] Moore having informed this Committee that the Men of War lying at Fort Johnston had committed hostilities on the Continental Troops under his command by firing on them at the Said Fort; And as the Committee of Safety passed a Resolve that the *Cruiser* Sloop of War might be supplied with provision from time to time, so long as She did not Committ hostilities on the persons or properties of the good people of this Province –

Resolved that the Ships of War now lying in this River have Actually committed hostilities against the Inhabitants of this Province,

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[1] Secretary of State Papers (Committees of Safety 1774–1776), NCDAH.

HENRY LAURENS TO CAPTAIN SIMON TUFTS [1]

Sir –

Charles Town 5th ffebruary 1776

Your long absence together with your silence which we cannot reconcile with your usual attention to business occasions some apprehensions for your safety – especially as we are told that a Man of War & a Schooner Tender have been seen cruising off the southern Inlets within five days past & particularly were seen yesterday –

We send this Canoe as well to bring us intelligence of your situation & safety as to take on board the Gun powder intended for the Battery on Sullivant's Island which we desire you will cause to be packed in one or two right Hogsds. which the bearer hereof will take with him for that purpose & send it in the Canoe We also desire that you will use every means in your power to conduct the *Defence* & the Schooner *Hawke* safely into this Harbour, if you perceive or apprehend danger on the Coast come opposite to New Cut or Wappoo, employ proper Vessels lighten the *Defence* & come through without delay – We further desire you will attend to any Vessels [ ] of intention to load in any of the Inlets without proper permits from this Board which you will carefully inspect to avoid imposition by Counterfeits –

By order of the Council of Safety –

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1. *South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine,* IV, 85.

Journal of the South Carolina Provincial Congress[1]

[Charleston] Monday, February 5, 1776.

Capt. Benjamin Huger reported, that he, with Capt. [William] Cattell, had on Saturday, agreeable to order, waited on Mrs. [John] Stuart, and her daughter Mrs. Fenwicke, and acquainted them with the order of Congress respecting their persons. That Mr. [Edward] Fenwicke requested, it might be represented to the Congress, that as his wife was in an ill state of health, and required air and exercise, he might have permission to remove her into the country: and that he would be answerable for her appearance at any time, agreeable to the order of Congress or Council of Safety: And that Mrs. Stuart also requested of the Congress, permission to accompany her daughter to John's Island.

Resolved, That Mr. Fenwicke have leave to take his wife into the country; he being answerable, that she shall not depart the colony, and for her appearance at any time, agreeable to the order of Congress or Council of Safety.

Ordered, That no person whatever be suffered to visit Mrs. Stuart, without leave from Col. Moultrie, or the commanding officer for the time being, signified by an introduction by an officer appointed by him for that purpose: And that if Mrs. Stuart shall at any time have occasion to go abroad, with the permission of Col. Moultrie, or the commanding officer for the time being, she shall do so, attended by an officer to be appointed for that purpose.

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1. *Provincial Congress of South Carolina,* 9–10.

Journal of H.M.S. *Scarborough*, Captain Andrew Barkley[1]

Feby '76 Mouth of Coarse [Coosah] River West distant 3 or 4 Leags
Saturdy 3d at 6 AM out all reefs soundings from 12 to 8 fms water Shingly Bottom, at 9 Got up Top Gallt yards & set the sails, ½ past 11 sent the Pinnace & Cutter manned & armed after 2 Vessels at an Anchor in Shore, one of which fired 6 shott at the Boats. at noon fired a Gun & made the Signal for the boats to return,

Modte & fair at 1 PM the Boats returned, hoisted them in & made sail, the Schooner in Company[2] sounded 8 fathms water at 5 single reef'd the fore & Mizn & double reef'd the Mn TS at 6 Bewfort sound NWbW 7 miles, & the SW point of Santalina head, SW byW 4 Leagues at 8 Handed Topgallt sails & brot too MnTS to the Mast at 10 made sail, Sunday 4th Tybee West, distant 2 or 3 miles

at 2 AM Wore Ship, sounded from 12 to 10 fms water, lost a hand lead & line, Tybee Light WNW 3 or 4 Leagues, set steering sails, at 9 bro't too MnTP to the Mast, fired a Gun & made the Signal for a Pilot, at ½ past repeated the Signal, at 10 made sail standing off and on Tybee light, repeated the Signal, sent the Schooner in Chace of a Sloop, repeated the Signal, ½ past 11 fired a Gun & made the Schooner Signal to leave off Chace.

First & Middle parts DoWr Latter light airs & Cloudy PM standing off and on Tybee, TKd: occasionally, came out of the Harbr a Pilott boat, at 2 she brot too the Sloop which we sent our Schooner in Chace off loaded with powder,[3] Came on board a pilott to carry the Ship in, bore away. at 4 Running over the Bar, the least water we had was 3 fm then the 1st Qr flood at 5 came to anchor in 5 fm water moored with the stream anchor, Tybee light Bearg SE by S ¾ of a mile.

Monday 5th At a Single Anchor in Savanah River Georgia

at 6 A M weigh'd the stream Anchr ½ past weigh'd & came to sail, fired a Gun & made the Signal for assistance ½ past 8 Anchd in Cockspur road wth the Bt Br in 5 fm water found here H: Majys Sloops *Tamer* & *Raven* & *Cherokee* Armed Ship, the Block House WNW. weigh'd the Bt Br & warp'd further ahead, at noon let go the Bt Br Anchd in 5 fm water. –

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1. PRO, Admiralty 51/867.
2. A schooner from Georgia for Cape Fear, which the *Scarborough* ordered to join her.
3. The sloop *St. John*, Gilbert Harrison, master, from St. Croix, with dry goods and gunpowder, Shuldham's Prize List, April 24, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *RAVEN*, CAPTAIN JOHN STANHOPE [1]

February 1776 Laying in Savannah River

Sunday 4 (AM) a sail in sight to the Esd manned and Armed the pilot Boat and sent her Out First middle and Latter mode Came in and Anchored abreast of the Light House His Majestys Ship *Scarborough* with her prize [2] Came in the Pilot boat with a Sloop which she had taken just without the Bar with a quantity of powder on board [3]

Monday 5 (AM) The *Scarborough* made the Signal for Assistance Answered Do at 8 Anchored here the above Vessels Punished Josh Hurley with 2 Dozen Lashes for Insolence. First middle and Latter mode Heard 2 Guns without manned and Armed the Pilot boat and sent her out at 8 came in again and found it to be the *Hinchinbrooke* Schooner.

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1. PRO, Admiralty 51/771.
2. The schooner *Violenti,* taken February 1.
3. This prize, the sloop *St. John,* according to Shuldham's prize list of April 24, 1776, was accredited to both the *Raven* and the *Scarborough*. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

VICE ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON TO PHILIP STEPHENS [1]

[Extract] *Antelope* Jamaica February 5th 1776

Sir/. I have received the Duplicates of the four Letters, dated the 5th October 75, and inclose the Duplicate of one, which I wrote, by the last Pacquet.

I beg leave to acquaint their Lordships, that since my last, I've been Served, with Seven more Writs of Habeas Corpus, which I complyed with, for the Reasons, which I assigned in my last Letter, and inclose attested Copies, of the Writs, with the Affidavits & Petitions; for their being Granted, which I hope, their Lordships will approve –

I further beg leave to acquaint their Lordships, that the *Squirrel,* & *Maidstone,* have sent in, each of them, an American Schooner, Loaded with French produce – The *Squirrel*s Prize, was taken with French Papers, but on Captain [Stair] Douglas's, finding the Mate, & Three of the Seamen, to be English Subjects, he detained the Vessel, and examined the People, when the Mate, acknowledged her, to be belonging to Philadelphia, and that the Master, had secreted; the English Papers, on which confession; Captain Douglas, sent her into Port Royal, and upon enquiry I find that there is some Gentlemen, in this Island, who came Passengers, in this very Vessel from Philadelphia, to Cape Nichola, & know her to be the property; of a Merchant in Philadelphia – I have therefore, detained her, & shall order, strict search to be made; for the English Papers, which I have not the least doubt, but I shall be able to find – But if I should not, theirs sufficient proof, of her being an American Vessel, for her Condemnation.

The *Maidstone*s was from Cape Nichola, bound to the Rebellious Colonies – I beg leave; to acquaint their Lordships, that I have received private Intelligence, from Hispaniola, that the French, are still making every Preparation for War, that they had already arrived, a Reinforcement of 6,000 Troops, with Two Frigates of 20 Guns each, the Troops, they have quarter'd at Cape Francois, Cape Nichola, & Port au Prince. I am likewise inform'd, that the same Warlike Preparations are making, at Martinac & Guadalupe, where they have; sent great Quantities of Arms, & Ammunition –

With regard to the Dissposition of His Majestys Ships & Vessels, under my Command, I beg leave to acquaint their Lordships, that the *Squirrel,* & *Maidstone,* still remain on their Cruize, but that I expect them in, in a few Days, as their provisions, are near expended the *Maidstone,* I shall order to complete again, as soon as possible, and send her out, But as the *Squirrel* has been Fourteen Months of[f] the Ground, & very Foul & Leaky, I shall get her Careen'd, But as I think the Station, should not be left, without some Ship, I have given Captain [William] Judd, of the *Antelope*, orders to hold himself in readyness; to Sail, as soon, as the *Squirrel* arrives, when I propose, hoisting my Flag, on board of her – And as the time of Year, is not yet come, for the *Florida*'s returning to Pensacola, I shall send her out; with the *Antelope,* all which, I hope, will meet, with their Lordships approbation – I am, with respect Sir [&c.]

Clark Gayton

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 1/240.

6 Feb.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES [1]

[Watertown] Tuesday, February 6, 1776.

Joseph Palmer, Esq; brought down the report of the Commmittee on the Conduct of Col. [James] Cargill.

Read and recommitted, and Mr. [Joshua] Caldwell is appointed on said Committee in the Room of Col. [James] Freeman, absent.

Afternoon.

The Committee appointed to bring in a Resolve for building Ten armed Sloops, reported. Read and accepted.

Resolved, That there be built at the Public Expence of this Colony for the Defence of *American* Liberty, Ten Sloops of War, of One Hundred and Ten Tons, or Fifteen Tons each, suitable to carry from Fourteen to Sixteen Carriage Guns Six and Four Pounders, and that Capt. Batcheldor [Josiah Batchelder], Col. [Jerathmeel] Bowers and Mr.[Thomas] Durfey, be a Committee with such as the Hon. Board shall join, to provide Materials, and employ proper Persons to build said vessels as soon as may be, for the Purpose abovesaid, and that the Sum of *Ten Thousand Pounds* be delivered to the said Committee, to enable them to proceed in building, rigging, and finishing said Vessels as soon as possible, and that each one of the Committee be accountable to the General Court of this Colony, when thereunto called by the said Court, for the Money he shall receive.

[1] Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch.

VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO PHILLIP CALLBECK [1]

Copy Boston 6th February 1776

Sir, I am favor'd with your Letter from Halifax of the 10th January and take the earliest Opportunity to commiserate your Sufferings and to Assure you and all the Inhabitants of the Island of St John's of my Attention and hearty Inclination to afford them every Protection the Naval force I have the honor to Command will Allow.

To promise an immediate complyance with your request of having a Frigate at your Port early in the Spring is what I am afraid I shall not be able to perform as it must wholly depend upon the Arrival of the remainder of the Force ordered to join me, a circumstance which the uncertainty of a Winter's Voyage to this boisterous Climate makes extremely precarious. It is therefore not in my power to do more than repeat my Assurances of granting you all the Protection the Naval Force under my Command and the exigency of Affairs will allow, as I am at this time applyed to for the Protection of four or five Frigates for various and Necessary Services upon this Continent, which I am not Able to comply with.

I am sorry to find from your Account, which Corresponds with many others I dayly receive that the Rebels enjoy so flourishing a trade along the Eastern Coast, and indeed they have been too successful upon every part of it, as well as with their Privateers. But I persuade myself a numerous Fleet with the Intelligence and Co-operation I may expect from the friends of Government, will enable me to from such a Plan for the ensueing Operations as will put a speedy Stop to their progress.

I wish you a safe return to Charlotte Town, and the reestablishment of your tranquility which I shall endeavour to promote by all Means in my power. I am, Sir [&c.]

M. Shuldham

Philips Callbeck Esqr His Majesty's Attorney Genl of the Island of Saint John

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

JOURNAL OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL STEPHEN KEMBLE [1]

[Boston] Tuesday, Feb. 6th. Major [William] Shirreff received an Account from the Master of a Transport of his being taken, from Fort Cumberland, Bay of Fundy, bound to Boston with a quantity of fresh Meat, and carried into a small port near Cape Ann, by three Privateers.[2]

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1. "The Kemble Papers," *Collections of the New-York Historical Society for the Year 1883* (New York, 1884), I, 67.
2. The brig *Henry and Esther,* carried into Squam on the Cape Ann peninsula.

COLONEL HENRY BABCOCK TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE [1]

[Extract] South Kingstown Hill 6th Feby 1776

Sir I had the Honor of recieving your Favour of the 3d Febry at this Place, previous to the Order contained in your Letter, had taken it upon me, Imagining it for the Interest of the Colony to March with part of Capt [Joseph] Stantons Company, that are Equipped to Narregansett Ferry, and have ordered Capt Stanton to March with the Remaind[e]r next Monday. I have the Pleasure to acquaint You that his Company is Full – Capt [Thomas] Potter's Company has 53 Men Enlisted, but are not Equipped with Arms, nor like to be so soon as I could wish, and must beg that your Honor would write to the Committee to exert themselves in procuring the arms. . . . Upon my March down here, I was informed by several Persons that Mr Applin & Dotr Gleason, when Capt Wallace Landed at Point Judith, went and Conversed with Capt. Wallace, without being authoris[ed] by any Officer wich has given vast uneasiness to the good People of this County, upon Examination Mr Applin confessed it was rather Imprudent in him, but his design was to prevent Capt Wallaces Ravaging Mr Nilses House and Distroying his Property. When the Fleet Sailed from Newport Mr Applin pushed from Mr Rowland Robensons. he says that he Imagined they were gowing out in order to meet Admiral Hopkins and he had the Curiosity to see the Engagement. I Observed to him that it was high time for every man to choose his side, and for him to be so over Officious as Twice to have a Conference with Capt Wallace gave great reason to suspect that he was a dangerous Person, and Inimical to the Libertys of America – Doct Gleason says that he said nothing to Capt Wallace and only spoke to Sam Wickham who is a Person that ran from Newport on Board the *Rose,* with the Advise of the Attorney General, Coll Brown, Esqr Holden, Mr Jno Potter and Mr Sylvester Gardiner, I ordered them to stay upon Littlerest Hill, upon their Parole 'till your Pleasure could be known, that they might not be upon the Sea-Coast to give Intelligence or converse with any of the Officers of the Kings Navy. When Capt Wallace Fired upon Conanicut, Do[c]r Gleason went on as he says to assist the Women and Children in gitting off – I saw him upon Conanicut but he had no Arms – I believe for their Imprudence, at least in Terrer to others it would be best to continue them there for some time yet – I Hope this will meet with your Honors Approbation – I am Sir [&c.]

Henry Babcock [2]

P.S In Justice to Capt Joseph Stanton, I must say he has taken unwearied pains to Equip the men –

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1. Letters to the Governor, 1776, vol. 8, R.I. Arch.
2. Commander of the Rhode Island State Regiment, formed January 16, 1776.

OWNERS' BOND FOR THE SLOOP *Hope* BOUND ON A VOYAGE TO CONNECTICUT OR NEW YORK [1]

Know all Men by these Presents that I William Greene of Warwick in the County of Kent in the Colony of Rhode Island &c. Merchant am held and firmly bound unto Joseph Clarke Esqr. General Treasurer of the said Colony in the Sum of Three Hundred Pounds Lawful Money, to be paid to the said Joseph Clarke in his said Capacity or to his Successors in said Office for the Use of the said Colony to which Payment well and truly to be made I bind myself my Heirs Executors and Administrators firmly by these Presents. Sealed with my Seal Dated the Sixth Day of February in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Six

Whereas James Sweet Master of the Sloop *Hope* burthened about Eighty Tons and owned by the abovenamed William Greene is bound by Permission of the Honble Nicholas Cooke Esqr. Governor of the said Colony on a Voyage with his said Sloop to the Colonies of Connecticutt or New-York in Ballast only – Now the Condition of this Obligation is such that if the said James Sweet shall proceed to the Colonies of Connecticutt or New-York and there take on board the Produce of the Country or other Articles under the Direction of the Committee of Inspection of the City Town or County where he shall lade and take on board his said Cargo and also bring back proper Certificates both of Exports and Imports from them and lodge the same in the Office of the Secretary of the said Colony within three Days after the Return of said Sloop and further shall not proceed to any Port or Place not being within the United Colonies, the Danger of the Seas and Seizure by an Enemy always excepted then this Obligation shall be void or else in full Force.

Sealed and delivered in the Presence of }
Esther Ward Henry Ward }

William Greene

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1. Maritime Papers, Bonds, Masters of Vessels, R.I. Arch.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO JOHN HANCOCK [1]

[Albany] February 6th –

Yesterday Col: [Rudolphus] Ritz[e]ma arrived from Canada and brought me a Letter from General Wooster, Copy whereof inclose – Colo: Ritzma does not think it possible to compleat two Regiments out of the last Campaign's Troops now in Canada – I shall be agreeably disappointed if one can be raised there – I have advised Colo Ritzma to proceed to Philadelphia that Congress may have an Oppertunity of examining him as to our affairs in Canada. The civil police of that Country I am very certain claims immediate Attention. Its Arrangements ought not to be left to any Military Commander who must necessarily have his Hands full of other Business.

Enclose an Account that has been sent me by Governor [Philip] Skene's Overseer. He supposes that by this Time a much greater Quantity of Staves than what he has charged are destroyed. I have so many Applications of the like Kind that I am ashamed of the Conduct of our Troops – Tories and Whigs are indiscriminately the Object of plunder whenever a fair Oppertunity offers – You cannot Sir imagine how detrimental this is to our Cause and what Remedy to apply I know not – I have given Orders: I have entreated the Officers to attend and prevent such scandilous Depredations, but all in vain.

I believe there are very few Arms left in Canada either of those found in the Garrisons taken, or those left by the Soldiers – What is become of them? They are stolen and brought down the Country; very few fit for any Thing are left in Store here – How the Regiment raising in Connecticut is to be supplyed here – If I should have a Number sufficient they will hardly be worth the carrying – The Arms of the two Companies from Pennsylvania that are arrived are also much out of Repair – Could not the Arms taken from the Tories on Long Island be immediately sent up? I conceive that the Quantity of powder Congress has ordered up is vastly short of what will be wanted in Canada let the Fate of Quebec be what it will – Fifteen Tons would not be too much. I am [&c.]

Ph: Schuyler

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[1] Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, I, 504, 505, NA. Continuation of a letter of February 4, 1776.

ABRAHAM LOTT TO THE NEW YORK COMMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

New-York, February 6th, 1776.

Yesterday, at 2 h. P.M. Mr. Lott received the enclosed order, for sea provisions for His Majesty's ship *Mercury*,[2] which he thinks he is at liberty to supply, pursuant to the order of the Honourable Congress, in August last; but being desirous to act, so as not to give offence in these difficult times, humbly begs the advice and direction of this Honourable Committee, whether the command shall be complied with or not?

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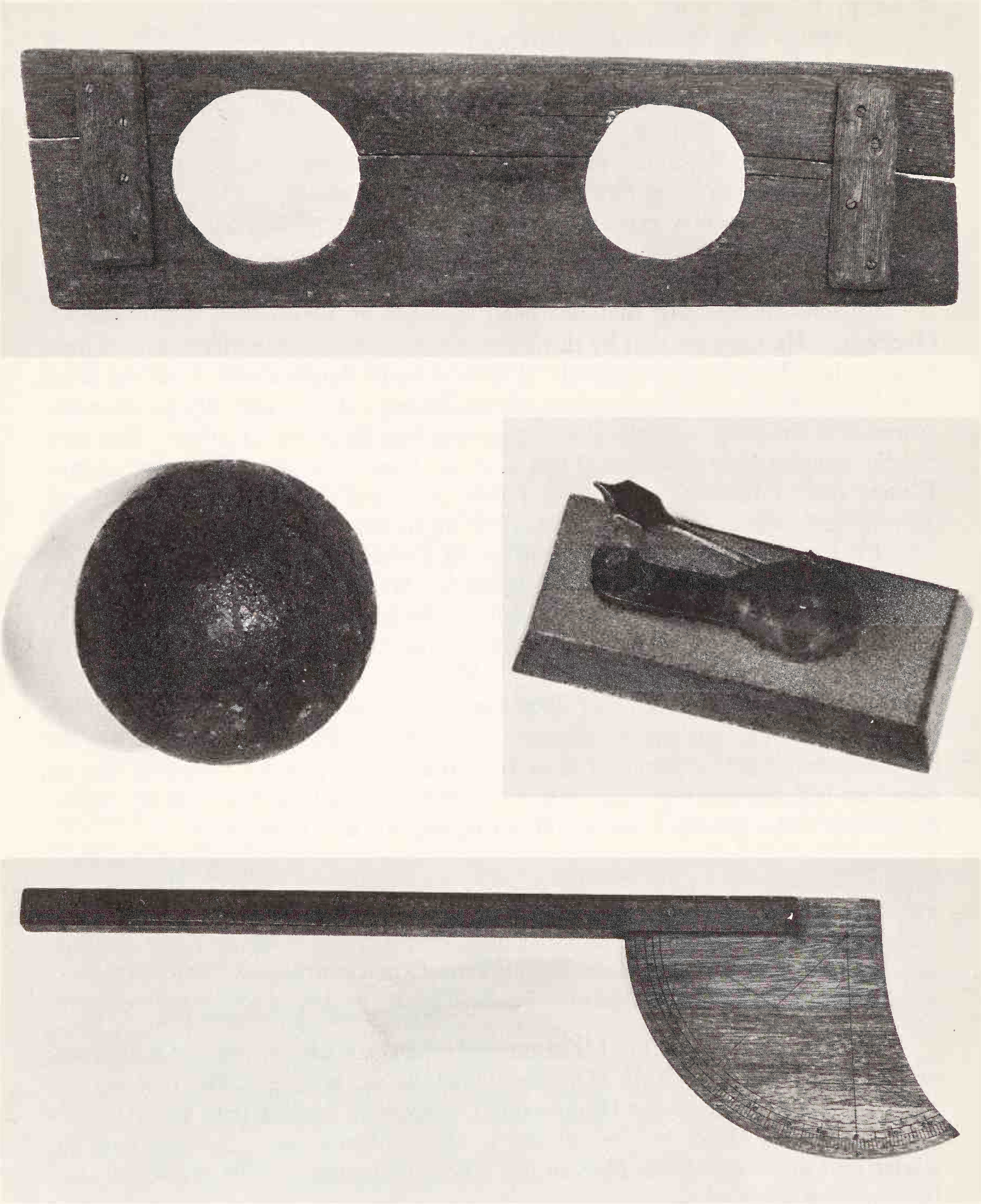
[1] *New York Provincial Congress,* II, 193.

[2] From John Herring, purser of H.M.S. *Mercury,* February 5, 1776.



(Top) Wooden shot gauge for 12 and 9 pound shot. (Middle left) 12 pound shot. (Middle right) Powder tester. (Bottom) Gunner's quadrant.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

In Committee of Safety, New-York, Feb. 6th, 1776.

Abraham Lott, Esqr. attended, and informed the Committee that the purser of His Majesty's ship *Mercury* had sent to him (as agent victualler of His Majesty's ships in this port) a list of sundry provisions required for the said ship *Mercury*, and mr.Lott desired to know whether he be at liberty to supply the said ship *Mercury* with provisions.

Ordered, That Mr.Lott be informed, that it is the sense of this Committee that he ought not to supply the said ship *Mercury* with provisions.

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[1] *New York Provincial Congress,* II, 194.

WILLIAM HOOPER TO JOSEPH HEWES AND JOHN PENN [1]

My dear friends New York Feby 6th 1776.

I leave this early tomorrow morning, I have been detained here all day writing, fishing for intelligence of Genl. Clinton's destination. What the inclosed conveys I think you may be depended upon. Therefore write all your friends to stand forth & to exert themselves. Pray press the matter on Mr. Thos. P [Jones ?] urge him to call forth the back Country.

In the letters you write you need not mention my absence, tho you may if you think it necessary, I care not much about it – You will subscribe my name to any Official letter you may send.[2] I am affectionately yrs

Wm Hooper

[Enclosure]

My dear friends Upon my arrival here I found that the *Mercury* Man of War with General [Henry] Clinton on board, and a Transport under his convoy had come into this Harbour on Saturday last [February 2]. This occasioned much Speculation & till last evening their destination remained a secret. It is now confessed & it is generally believed, for my own part I have not the least doubt of the fact that Genl Clinton is on his way to North Carolina. The particulars as far as we have been able to obtain information of them are these, that 7 Regiments are to embark on the first day of December from Great Britain from thence to proceed to Hampton Road there to wait till Genl Clinton joins them with the small body of troops which he carries with him from Boston, & When with the Advice of Govr Dunmore they have settled the plan of operations, they are to proceed to North Carolina to make an impression into that & the adjacent Colonies. Genl Clinton says that three Transports sailed with him from Boston having on board 200 light armed Troops, that they left him in a Snow Storm of[f] Sandy hook. His object in coming in here is probably to confer with Gov [William] Tryon & carry off what ordinence stores he can pillage from hence. We have just received information that the Men of War have dispatched their Barges to Turtle Bay to possess themselves of some Cannon Shot which are there, Genl [Charles] Lee sends a party to oppose them.

It will immediately occur to you that it is necessary that our Constituents should be informed of this new Maneuvre, that their best efforts may be exerted to defeat the purposes of it. When I consider the defenceless state of No Carolina arising from a want of Arms & Ammunition, the divided sentiments of the people, the effect it might have upon the Highlanders & Regulators if Governour [Josiah] Martin supported with a body of Troops should introduce himself amongst them, I am importunate that no stone should be left unturned to protect in that province the friends to the American Cause. I need say nothing to stimulate you to contribute every thing in your power I do not affect to dictate, I beg leave to hint to you that it will be prudent immediately to send off an Express to Edenton with the Intelligence I herewith afford you, & thereby to recommend to them to call as soon as may be the Provincial Congress to take such measures under their Sanction as may prevent the cause of America as far as [North] Carolina is concerned in support of it going to total destruction.

I leave to you whether it will not be prudent to assemble in Arms all the well affected part of the back Country, that they may [serve] to keep in order those of contrary sentiments and may be prepared to march at a moment's warning to any part of the Sea Coast of No Carolina or Virginia where the enemy may attempt to land, It will answer another good purpose as it will give them some little discipline before they are brought into action. I would not confine this to the back Country the Inhabitants on the Sea Coast must be put in the same readiness General Officers must be appointed, one Brigadier General for each district, a General & Lieutent Genl over the whole. I think it a matter of supreme importance that the River of Cape fear should be obstructed – the Navigation also should be impeded at Newbern – I leave to you the propriety & possibility of effecting it there & elsewhere – Attention ought to be given to providing Cannon particularly Field pieces – I wish the Gunpowder &c intended to go by the new Waggon were on the way – In a Word I think every thing is now at stake with us, & unless the whole force of our province is called forth – farewell to all our Struggles for freedom, We must be satisfied to sit down the Spectators of the Triumphs of our Enemies over our dearest rights & privileges, condemned to abject Slavery, as the reward of our successless virtue – May Heaven avert it –

In the letter to our Provincial Council I hope nothing will be omitted that may work upon their Reason, or affect their passions, You well know the avenues that lead to their Hearts, I am sure you will pursue them attentively. Seven Regiments 680 each with the accession of Tories is a very formidable force, it will require their best abilities to oppose it. A large Sum of Money must be had from the Congress our Treasury is exhausted, Our Wants upon this occasion will be great & urgent – Pay subsistence Warlike Stores must be had – must be answered with money.

By this Time the Troops from England are in Hampton Road, to morrow Genl Clinton sails from this, Not a moment ought to be lost in sending off your express – a delay might involve our province in irremediable ruin – I think it would be attended with beneficial consequences that one or more of the delegates of No Carolina were at home, I cannot take it upon me to Urge you or Mr Penn at this disagreeable Season to undertake a Journey home, sure I am Much benefit might arise from your presence the[re] & should one or both of you think such a measure necessary I will instantly return to Philadelphia to supply your places as far as I am capable, or will take that Service upon myself if you think proper to enjoin it.

It is necessary that the whole province of North Carolina be alarmed, therefore direct that your Expresses be published thro the whole of it, – & by all means communicated to the Inhabitants of Mecklenb[urg]h County as soon as possible Adieu, I write this in such a hurry that I cannot answer for its inaccuracies, I have not time to go over it again. Pray forward the enclosed when you send your express. I am my dear friends [&c.]

W^{m} Hooper

Col. [Benjamin] Harrison says the *Mercury* mounts 26 Guns – Clinton no doubt gets good information here as to our back County from Gov Tryon &c – Write me if an Oppty offers to the Eastward suddenly – Lord Stirli[n]gs Regt expected here every hour – all in confusion – I have a piti for [James] Duane, My love to him & God have mercy on his Tory City this in Secret Will it be necessary to say any thing of drawing home our Troops [3] – better I think to leave it to [the] discretion of the Provincial Council.

Pray urge the Council not to wait for the Provincial Congress before they proceed to take measures for their defence

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1. Hayes Collection, NCDAH Photocopy. Original in library of Hayes Plantation, Edenton, North Carolina. Hooper, Hewes and Penn were North Carolina delegates in the Continental Congress.
2. Hooper was on his way to the camp at Cambridge.
3. The North Carolina troops under Colonel Robert Howe, in Virginia.

WILLIAM HOOPER TO SAMUEL JOHNSTON, EDENTON [1]

My dear Sir [New York] February 6 1776

The express who come [with] this will inform you by a letter to the Provincial Council of North Carolina addressed by their delegates, that Genl [Henry] Clinton is at New York in the *Mercury* of 26 Guns bound to Hampton in Virginia with 3 transports of 200 light troops, there to join 7 Regts from England & from thence proceed to North Carolina, & in all probability to Cape fear; as they go upon Govr [Josiah] Martins requisition they will probably proceed immediately to join him – I flatter myself you will prepare for their reception.

Much attention should be paid to prevent our Pilots convoying the Ships – to prevent their obtaining fresh provisions – Might not our Rivers be obstructed, Narrow passes secured, bridges taken up – Mud batteries thrown up, Some Cannon placed advantageously – Must not every man a friend to the Cause, and capable of duty turn out with his musquet, Do we not now play a Game, where Slavery or Liberty are the Stakes – but why do I teys [tease] you who are much better capacitated to judge of the proper measures to be pursued than I am – but suffer me – Must you not have Brigd Generals, in districts and Superiour Officers over the whole – Must not very large bodies be placed immediately along the Sea Coasts – Where I to advise the whole force of the Colony should be collected ready for immediate exertion when called upon, & bid adieu to plough shares pruning hooks till the Sword can find its Scabard with safety & honor to its [bea]rer – My first wish is to be free – My second to be reconciled to G. B. God grant that both may soon take place –

Measures must be taken immediately e'er this the Troops of the Enemy are in your Country May you Stand forth like Men & fight the Cause of Liberty the Cause of the living God.

Adieu My dear Friend When we meet may we meet in peace & happiness [&c.]

W^{m} Hooper

[P.S.] [Charles] Lee is in New York with 1000 Conne[c]t Troops the *Phoenix* of 40, *Asia* of 64 *Mercury* of 26 Guns lying before the Town – I fear New York will not long have a being – Pray write Harnet [Cornelius Hartnett] & Maclain concerning the Pilots –

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1. Emmet Autograph Collection, NYPL.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS [1]

[Philadelphia] Tuesday, February 6, 1776

A letter from the committee of safety of New York dated —— [February 4] was read, informing that General Clinton was arrived at New York, but that it was apprehended his destination was to the southward.

Ordered, That a copy of the said letter be sent to the southern colonies.

The Committee on the regulations of trade, after the first of March next, brought in their report, which was read, and referred to Thursday next, to a committee of the whole.

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to consider and bring in a resolution respecting the exportation of naval stores for the public service:

The members chosen, Mr. [Joseph] Hewes, Mr. [Francis] Lewis, Mr. [Samuel] Ward, Mr. [Robert Treat] Paine, and Mr. S[amuel] Adams.

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1. Ford, ed., *JCC,* IV, 112–15.

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH [1]

[Philadelphia] Tuesday 6 Feb. A Comee of 5 chosen to get Naval Stores from N Carolina to our Men of War building in New England –

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1. Richard Smith's Diary, LC.

SAMUEL CHASE TO DANIEL OF ST. THOMAS JENIFER [1]

Dear Sir. Philada Feby 6th 1776.

The Congress just now received the letter from the Council of safety of N. York. pray dispatch copy to Virginia by the post or if gone by express to their convention. a Brig is arrived to Mr [Robert] Morris with 15 tons of Powder & 1500 stand of Arms – 5 Tons & 500 arms belong to our province

Adi[eu] S.Chase. in Congress.

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1. Correspondence of Council of Safety, Md. Arch.

JOSEPH HEWES TO SAMUEL JOHNSTON, EDENTON [1]

Dr Sir

Philada 6th Feb. 1776

I have but just time to enclose you a Copy of a Letter from the Committee of Safety of New York; Our Accts from the Camp are that two Regiments in a number of Transports Men of War, Bomb Vessels &c. are sailed, Supposed for Virga or the Carolinas, that General [Henry] Clinton had sail'd with them, I hope Our province will be on their guard, and that You are in great forwardness with your third Regiment. I have not time to add more yours &c.

J. Hewes

[1] PML.

CONTRACT BETWEEN NICHOLAS AND JOHN BROWN AND THE SECRET COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS [1]

Memorandum That it is agreed by and between Nicho Brown and John Brown of Providence in the Coloney of Rhod Island Merchts of the one part and Samuel Ward, Benja Franklin John Alsop, Francis Lewis, Josiah Bartlet, Joseph Hews, Thomas M'Kean, Robt Morris, and Robert Alexander Esqrs Members of the Committee of Secrecy Appointed by the Honbl Continental Congress of the Thirteen United Colonys of North America of the Other Part – That a Voyage or voyages Shall be Understd to Some proper port or ports in Europe for the Speedy procuring ten Thousand good Striped Blankets for soldiers at four Shillings and Six pence or five shillings stg or Near that Price for each Blanket, Nine Thousand & two Hundred Yards of 6/4 Broadcloth the Collours to be Brown and Blue for Officers and soldiers Uniforms and eight Hundred yards of 6/4 broad Cloth of Different colours Suteable to face them the graitest part of the Cloths being for privates to be About four shillings stg p Yard That for the Officers Six shillings stg per Yd Ten Tons of Lead & two Hundred & fifty Stands of Good Arms Such as are used by the infantry of France with fifty Barrels, of One hundred pounds weight each, of Good Gun powder. If Any of the particular Articles here enumerated are not to be had, then a graiter proportion of such as are at Market to be purchased and in default of Any of these then to purchase Roussia or Ravens Duck Ticklenburgs Ozenabrigs or vitrys or Others Course Linnens or, Course Woollens fit for soldiers or sailors Use – That the Vessel or Vessels shall be chartered for the Use of the United Colonys, who are to bear the Entire resque of the Goods exported and Imported, the Owners of the Vessel, or Vessels employed to run the resque of the Sea and the United Colonys to ensure them Against all British Captors. The Vessell or Vessels employed to Run the resque of the sea and the United Colonies to ensure them Against All British Captors [*sic*]. The Vessels to be valued by Govr [Nicholas] Cooke who are Also to estimate the Monthly hire of Said vessels or the freigh to be given on the Goods exported and imported. and it is further Agreed that five per Cent Commissions Shall be Allowed the Said Nicholas Brown & John Brown for purchasing the Cargoes to be Exported two and a half PrCent on the Sales thereof in Europe and two and an half pr Cent for purchasing the Returns. The above mentioned goods to be imported are to be put on Shore in Some Safe and Convenient harbour in the United Colonies to the Eastward of Chessopeak Bay and Notice thereof given to a Quorum of the Said Committee of Secrecy as Soon as possible, and the Said Nicholas & Jno Brown do here by promise to Render an account hereafter to the Said Committee of Secrecy for the Sum of twenty four Thousand Dollars now advanced to them

By Sd Committee Wittness our hands Philadelphia February 6. 1776
In behalf of & by Virtue Sam Ward
of a Power for that Josiah Bartlett John Alsop
Purpose Fran^{s} Lewis B Franklin
Josiah Hewes Joseph Hewes

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1. Nicholas Brown Papers, JCBL.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY[1]

In Committee of Safety.
Philad'a, 6th Feb'y, 1776.

Resolved, That Messrs. [James] Mease, Mr. [George] Clymer, & Mr. [Samuel] Howell, be a Committee to treat with Messrs. Bayard & Hodge, concerning the importation of a Number of Firelocks from foreign parts.

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1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records,* X, 477, 488.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA PROVINCIAL CONGRESS[1]

[Charleston] Tuesday, February 6, 1776.

Resolved, That the Council of Safety do forthwith cause the Marsh and Hog-Island creek channels, in Charles-Town harbour, to be so effectually stopped, as to prevent the passage of ships of war through either. And that they do also cause such land-marks as they shall think proper, to be so removed or disguised, as to render the passage over the bar as difficult as possible.

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1. *Provincial Congress of South Carolina,* 11–14.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY[1]

In the Council of Safety,
[Charleston], Tuesday, Feb. 6th, 1776.

In consequence of a following resolution entered into by Congress this day, viz.

[See Journal of Provincial Congress]

The immediate attendance of Capt. [Edward] Blake, and of all the pilots, was ordered.

Capt. Blake, Mr. [Alexander] Elsinore, Mr. [Benjamin] Stone, and Mr. [Jacob] Waldron attended accordingly.

After some conference with them,

Ordered, That Mr. Elsinore, Mr. Stone, and Mr. Waldron do immediately procure proper boats and assistance, and with them proceed and destroy every land-mark that can in the least contribute to the safe passage of vessels over Charlestown bar, and the channels within the same. And that they do also sound and stake out the most proper places in Hog-Island Creek, and the Marsh channels, for effectually obstructing the passage of ships through either; and immediately after making a proper report thereof to this board.

Capt. [Charles] Morgan applied for a permit to load rice and Tobacco on board the sloop *Swift,* to amount of military stores imported by him for the public.

Ordered, That Mr. President be authorized to do this business.

[1] *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society,* III, 250–52.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M. ARMED SHIP *Cherokee* [1]

February 1776	Moored at Cockspur
Sunday 4th	A M heard several Guns fired in the Offing. Do The *Tamer*s Tender went out with pilots. Moderate and fair Wear at 4 P M came in here His Majesty's Ship *Scarborough* wth 2 Prizes a Schooner in Ballast and a Smugling Sloop with 52 Casks of Powder on board Sloop's Name *St John,* Harrison Master [2]
Monday 5th	Moderate and fair Wear P M empd Starting all our Salt Water and sent the Empty Casks a Shore to be repaired
Tuesday 6th	A M empd Wooding and Watering Do came in here His Majestys Armed schooner *Hinchinbrook.*

[1] PRO, Admiralty 52/1662.

[2] See Journal of H.M.S. *Scarborough* for details of the prizes.

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7 Feb.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL EDWARD ANTILL TO MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER [1]

Copy Point aux Fere 7th Feby 1776.

Dr Sir. As so much depends upon immediate Relief in Canada and a proper Arrangement in Canada to carry those Intentions into Execution I cannot help being greatly alarmed and much shocked to hear of the great Confusion and Irregularity now at Montreal for particulars refer you to Mr McCarty the Bearer who is a Friend to the Cause and may be depended on unless those Things are put upon a better Footing Mens Reputations in the Service as well as the Service itself will greatly suffer and the Canadians will form an indifferent opinion of us. Coll. [Moses] Hazen requests me to mention this Matter and am with Respect [&c.]

Edw^{d} Antill

[1] Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, I, 536, NA.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Fowey*, CAPTAIN GEORGE MONTAGU [1]

February 1776 Moored off Baker's Island

Wednesday 7. AM fired 17 Nine Pdrs at a rebel Privateer turning in thro' Baker's Island Channell, for Salem – Scraped between decks. Moderate with snow

at 6 PM Anchored here his Majesty's Brigg the *Hope*.

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 51/375.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL [1]

[Watertown, Wednesday, February 7]

A Bill intitled an Act for Encouraging the Fixing out of Armed Vessels – having passed the House of Representatives to be engrossed. –

In Council Read a Second time and passed a concurrence to be Engrossed.

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[1] Mass. Arch., vol. 34, 596.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES [1]

[Watertown] Wednesday, February 7, 1776.

The Committee on the Petition of Jeremiah Obrian, brought from the Hon. Board the 2d. current, reported. Read, and re-committed.

The Committee on the Petition of Jeremiah Obrian, again reported.

Read and accepted.

In the House of Representatives Feby 7th 1776 –

Whereas it is of Importance that the Enemies of the[se] Colonies should as far as possible be deprived of Necessary Supplys whereby they may be render'd the less capable of distressing these and the other Colonies aforesaid, and to effect this purpose it is Expedient, and necessary Armed Vessels should be fitted out and Employed to prevent supplies getting into the hands of our said Enemies – Therefore Resolved, That the Committee of Correspondance, Inspection, & Safety of Newbury Port with Jeremiah Obrian be a Committee to prepare, and in all respects Equip, and Man with Fifty Men each including Officers the Sloop *Machias Liberty,* and Schooner *Diligent* now lying at Newbury Port, and that the said Committee recommend such proper persons to the Honble Council as may be necessary for Officers of said Vessels for the purposes above mentioned and when said Vessels are prepared as afore[said] the Officers belonging to said Vessels be Commissionated by and follow such directions as they shall receive from time to time from the Council of this Colony

And it is further Resolved, That the following sums set against the several Officers, and Men Engaged in the above Service shall be paid them upon their faithfully discharging the duties assigned them –

vizt A

	p Month		p month
Captain	£4	Carpenter	£1..10/–
[1]st Lieut	£3	Gunner	£1..10 –
2d Lieut	£2..10/–	Pilate & Quarter Master	£1..10 –
Surgeon	£2..10/.	Steward	£1..10 –
Master	£2–	Master at Arms	£1..10 –
Boatswain	£1..10/.	Foremast Men	£1..4 –

And for further Encouragement to the said Officers & Seamen – It is Resolved, That they shall be Intituled to One Third the proceeds of all Captures that shall be by them made, and finally Condemned agreeable to a Law of this Colony made, & passed in the present Session of the General Court Intitled "An Act for fixing out Armed Vessels, and for the Trial, and Condemnation of Vessels, that have been Employed in aiding, and Assisting our Enemies" and in such proportions as is allowed the Officers, and Seamen of the Armed Vessels fitted out on Account of the United Colonies by his Excellency General Washington.
A

Sent up for Concurrence
J Warren Spkr

[Endorsed] In Council Feby 8th 1776
Read & concurred with the amendment at A vizt at A insert "The above establishment to continue untill the last Day of December next, unless this Court should think it expedient to discharge them sooner" – sent down for Concurrence
Perez Morton D Secry

In the House of Representatives Febry 17th 1776
Read and concurr[e]d – Sent up
William Cooper Speaker Pro Tem

[In Council] Consented to

Afternoon [2]

Benjamin Lincoln, Esq; brought down a Letter from Mr. Nathaniel Shaw, Jun. dated New-London, Feb. 5, 1776, relative to the Arrival of Capt. [Joseph] Packwood with Powder.

Read and committed to the Committee appointed by a Resolve of this Court, which passed the House the 10th of January last, to settle the Accounts remaining unsettled on the Books of the late Committee of Supplies, and to take Care of several Cargoes, &c. And the Committee are directed to take Order with respect to the Sum left in St.Eustatia and Martinico, by Capt. Packwood to purchase Powder.

And David Cheever, Esq; is hereby appointed on said Committee, in the Room of Col. [Elisha] Porter.

Michael Farley, Esq; brought down a Bill for encouraging the fixing out of armed Vessels, &c. and of repealing a former Act for that Purpose.

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1. Mass Arch., vol. 208, 166.
2. The text of the first two paragraphs and the afternoon session are from Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch.

JOURNAL OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO BUILD TWO CONTINENTAL FRIGATES IN RHODE ISLAND [1]

[Providence] Feby 7th 1776

Meeting in being according to Adjournment –

Voted. That Capt Charles Jenckes be imployed to get all the Barr Iron, Timber, Boards, Navil Stores &c now brot to be brot from Newport to Fogland ferry to be shipped up here as soon as possible. and that Mr Gladding bring all the Locus & Sparrs from Bristol Ferry, and are Acc[ord]ing to be wrote to for this purpose.

Voted. That 400 Good Fire arms, 400 Good Pistols 40 Swivil Guns & 400 Cutlasses be procured by Messrs Clarke & Nightingale as soon as may be at the resque of the Continent. –

Voted. That Mr Joseph Russell go to Attleborough to morrow to hurry the timber in as fast as possible, that Mr John Smith go to Cumberland for the same purpose and that Mr Daniel Tillinghast go to North Providence and Smithfield, and Mr Benoni Pierce go to Cranston & Johnston for the same purpose, that 10/ P Ton be given for carting all common Timber from 8 to 9 miles distance and 7/ P Ton be given from 4½ to 6 miles distance and that a further reasonable allowance be made for the Carting of all crooked or bad Timber, or for geting it out from bad or difficult Places.

Reck[on]ing 22/6 paid by [blank]

Meeting adjourned to Fryday evening 6 o'clock

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1. Journal R.I. Frigates, RIHS.

BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM WEST TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE [1]

Hon'd sir Head Quarters Middletown 7th Feby 1776

I take this oppertunity to Inform you that on the 4th Inst. the Ministerial fleet under the Command of Capt [James] Wallace, went to Point Judith & took on Board about one Hundred Sheep 2 Cows Seven Load of Hay & from many Circumstances no doubt Capt Wallace was well inform'd how matters Stood at Point Judith & in a particular manner it is strongly Suspected that Joseph Aplin & one Doctor Gleson was some of the persons that aided & assisted in the plan to get the Stock Said Aplin went over the Ferry a day or two before the Fleet went to Point Judith was Brought too by Capt Wallace, what the Conversation was have not yet Learnt. He has from time to Time at the Town Meetings & Counsells in Newport steadily made it his Business to Inflame the minds of the People against Providence & the rest of the Colony & in a Particular manner against me telling the Town Councell that my Letters were filled with Chicanery & Deceit, many other things he has been guilty off in this way, upon which I gave orders to Mr Benja Stelle to proceed over to South Kingstown & to make what inquiry he could & take up said Aplin or any other Person that he should have good Reason to Suspect of aiding or assisting in the Point Judith affair. I shall Collect all the Evidence that I can relative to said affair as soon as possible & send them to you, there will be severall respecting the Conduct of Aplin sir I am sure as Long as the Boats pass within Hale of Wallace it puts it out of my power to keep intelligence from him & every intelligence he wants he gets & by that means knows every Spot were we have men & where not & what Situation they are in which Gives him great advantage to make Devastation in the Colony sometimes in one place sometimes in another, endeavouring to Visit the place where there is fewest Men, it is my Candid opinion founded on good Circumstances that had it not been for the Intelligence Capt Wallace got by way of the Boats, & that from our own people there would not have been one House Burnt on Conanicutt nor prudence nor one Creature taken off of Point Judith & now sir as he has lately taken Stock which is Contrary to the Act of Goverment & in receiving his Supplys therefore should be Extreamly Glad of instruction from your Honor as to Boats passing & Wallaces supplys – I am with Regard [&c.]

W^{m} West

1. Letters to the Governor, 1776, vol. 8, R.I. Arch.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO JOHN HANCOCK [1]

[Extract] Albany Feby 7th 1776.

Sir. Since my last to you by Colo: [Rudolphus] Ritz[e]ma, Major [Matthias] Ogden is arrived from Quebec with the inclosed to you from General [Benedict] Arnold. he also delivered me a Letter from General [David] Wooster Copy whereof with Copy of a Return of the Military Stores in Canada I also inclose.

By the Return of the Military Stores you will see how vastly deficient we are in almost every Article, and how necessary it is that a Supply should be sent – I have it not in my power to send any Thing for I have Nothing.

Mr [Joseph] Trumbull's Deputy goes to Canada with what little Money there is in Chest – I have desired him to take all the Money he can get in Canada and draw upon this principal here – a considerable Sum I believe will be got in that Way, as a Number of Merchants are gone with vast Quantitys of West India Goods – I have encouraged them to bring Blankets and such things as our Army may stand in Need of and that whatever might be wanted would be purchased of them.

The Captains of the two pennsylvania Companies have this Moment informed me that their Men are without Mittins and Mockinsons, of the latter I have only been able to procure about 120 pair, of the former I have none; I shall try to supply them some how or other – I could wish that every Colony in which Troops are raised supplyed the Men with all these Necessaries – It causes a long Detention here and after all they cannot be equipped as they should be.

The Troops in Canada will be in great Want of Shoes; Major Ogden informs me that none are to be had there, nor can I get any here. I have employed people to purchase what they can get.

Be so good as to send up Money that the Connecticut Troops may be paid – I have been under the Necessity of allowing the pay from the places where they were discharged until they got Home, and for their Subsistance on the Way – If I had not done this the recruiting Service would have gone on very tardily.

The Accounts of Monies advanced to any of the Regiments for the Northern Army should be transmitted to the Deputy pay Master General as soon as the Regiments march otherwise the same Confusion will take place that has distressed us so much last Year. I shall take the Liberty to make this Request to the different Colonies. I am Sir [&c.]

Ph: Schuyler

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1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, I, 506–08, NA.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

[New York] Die Mercurii, 10 HO. A.M.
Feby. 7th, 1776.

Mr. Saml. Franklin informed the Committee and the Members of Congress present, that his ship *Sally*,[2] loaded with salt and in the custody of Capt. [Hyde] Parker or his order, is in great danger from the ice; that Capt. Parker is willing that he should cause the said ship to be brought to Lupton's wharf, on his giving security to have her kept safe and returned to Capt. Parker on his request; and Mr. Franklin requested the advice and direction of the Committee of Safety in that matter. Mr. Franklin withdrew.

After some time spent therein, the Committee of Safety and the Members of Congress are of opinion that they ought not to give any directions therein to Mr. Franklin, for which they assigned to him their reasons.

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1. *New York Provincial Congress,* I, 285.
2. Seized by H.M.S. *Phoenix* on February 3, when entering the harbor from Alicante. Shuldham's Prize List, April 24, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM NEW-YORK, FEB. 7." [1]

The town is in the greatest confusion. The Congress have recommended for the inhabitants to move out. The *Mercury* man of war has demanded three months provisions, which is refused. Lord Sterling came to town this morning, with [New] Jersey forces.

Extract of another letter from New-York, Feb. 7.

The Governor sent for the Mayor, and desired him to assure the public, that General [Henry] Clinton was only come to pay him a visit on his way, and that the troops should not land here; nevertheless it was thought necessary to keep a strict look out, for fear they should land by surprise, in consequence of which half of our battalion kept guard all night, the other half the next, and the second battalion are doing the same. Nothing hostile has yet commenced, but God knows how soon it may. The ice obliges the ships to warp close to the wharf. This day the ice in large cakes was chock from side to side, and many people upon it.

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1. *Pennsylvania Evening Post,* February 10, 1776.

WILLIAM McDERMOTT TO JOHN KELLY [1]

[Extract] *Asia,* 7th February.

Dear Sir – I suppose by this time you have heard of my situation, but thank God have escaped their villainous treachery in attempting to make a prisoner of me for bringing intelligence on board the King's ships, which I now dare to say they were not far out. Captn. Vandeput has treated me very kindly and has recommended me to Genl. Clinton, who sails on a secret expedition the morrow on board the *Mercury*, I believe for Virginia, but is kept a profound secret. He has got a number of recruits on board the transport. I shall embrace this opportunity of going with him, as I make no doubt, from what Captn. Vandeput told me, I shall meet with success. It distressed me beyond expression that I had it not in my power to bid you farewell; but when you consider my situation, I need not make an apology, as I am persuaded it will be the last letter I shall have the pleasure of writing to you.

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[1] *New York Provincial Congress,* II, 167. An intercepted letter.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS [1]

[Philadelphia] Wednesday, February 7, 1776

[*Resolved*] That a like order be drawn in favour of the Naval Committee, for the sum of 20,000 dollars, to enable them to discharge the debts by them contracted, the said committee to be accountable:

A memorial from Murray, Sansom & Co. Jacob Watson, and Frederick Rhinelander, of the city of New York, was presented to Congress and read:

Resolved, That the same be referred to a committee of three:

The members chosen, Mr. [ ] Lee,[2] Mr. [Thomas] Nelson, and Mr. [George] Read.

A petition of Pierre Le Fargue was laid before Congress and read,

Resolved, That the same be referred to the Secret Committee.

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[1] Ford, ed., *JCC,* IV, 115–17.

[2] The Journal does not specify whether the selection was Francis Lightfoot Lee or Richard Henry Lee, both delegates to the Congress from Virginia.

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH [1]

[Philadelphia] Wednesday 7 [February] A Frenchman who had brought into this Port Ammunition now requested Leave to export Produce therefor,[2] it was referred to the Secret Comee –

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[1] Richard Smith's Diary, LC.

[2] Pierre Le Fargue.

INVOICE OF FLOUR ON BOARD BRIGANTINE *Fortune*, FOR THE WEST INDIES [1]

		C Q lb			
244	Barrls bought of Ed Hanson	480..1..10	a 13/6		324..4..7½
701	of Sundries	1399..0..27	13/		909.10..1½
146	of ditto	304..0..25	12/6		190..2..9½
221	of ditto	446..0..9	12/		267.13..
1312		2629..3..15			
	1242 Casks		a 21d.		108.13..6
	70 ditto double Hoop'd		23d.		6, 14..2
	Charges				
	Porterage of 1048 Bls to the point		a 4d.	£17..9..4	
	ditto of 70 Barrels		2d.	11..8	
	Cooperage paid			1..6..6	
	100 Hhd Staves for Dunage			1.12..	
					20.19..6
					1827.17..8½
	Commission 5 P Cent				91.7..9
					1919..5..5½

Baltimore 7 February 1776 Errors Excepted

Lux & Bowly

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[1] Executive Papers, Box 6, Bundle 2, Md. Arch. *Fortune*, Thomas Moore, master, sailed on account of the Maryland Council of Safety.

WILLIAM SPEAR TO DANIEL OF ST. THOMAS JENIFER [1]

Sir. Baltimore 7th Feby 1776.

Inclosed you have invoice of the oznabrigs you desired me to keep for you, which I have, ready to deliver to your order. By the inclosed accot it appears there is a balance in my favour of £ 168..12s..12d which sum please to give the bearer Mr Cummings an order on the treasurer for and oblige Sr [&c.]

W^m^ Spear.

P.S. There is accounts come to Philada from the west indies that there is a number of our vessels seized Mr [William] Neils schooner from this place is said to be one of that number [2] I tremble for such vessels as is destined for St Eusttia and Martinico, on accot of their vicinity with St Christopher and Dominica, if you should have any thing to add to any Capt[s] orders I will attend you with him, the time of his sailing is very uncertain as our navigation is entirely stoped by the Ice.

W S

To The Honble Danl of St. Thos Jenifer

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[1] Correspondence of Council of Safety, Md. Arch. Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer was chairman of the Maryland Council of Safety.

[2] See William Neil to Charles Carroll, February 12, 1776.

Journal of H.M. Sloop *Otter*, Captain Matthew Squire [1]

February 1776 At an Anchor in Norfolk Road Virginia

Wednesday 7 At 8 A M sent a Party on shore to forage, as did the other Ships. At Noon found the Rebels had come down, & were attacking them; fired several Guns, as did the *Liverpool* on them. At 2 P M the People returned, the Rebels having taken the Corporal of Marines Prisoner.

[1] PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

Journal of H.M. Sloop *Cruizer*, Captain Francis Parry [1]

[February 1776] Moor'd off the Fort [Johnston]

Friday 2d A M saw two Vessels in the offen unmoor'd and hove short at 10 found they were Mercht men At noon veard away and moor'd again.

Mode and Cloudy wear

At 3 PM sent a boat down to the snow at 10 the boat return'd with an Account that she was sezed by his Majestys ship *Syren* from Bristoll in ballast bound and belonging to Charlstown So Carolina

Saturday 3d At 8 sent the boat down again to her Assistance, AM in working up she got aground loos'd sails to dry

Modt and fair wear

At 6 PM came in & Anchord here A Small Schoner from Newburn loaded with Indian corn.

Sunday 4th At 8 AM came up and Anchord near the *Peggy* Snow Seized by the *Syren*.

Monday 5th Modr and fair wear.

AM received on board 3 Casks of oatmeal

PM Empd Watering

Tuesday 6th At 6 AM saw 3 sail of Vessels in the offing unmoord at 7 weigh'd and run down to Bauld Head saw the Vessels ware Schooners. Came too with the small Bower in 4½ fath at the End of oak Island WNW and the Fort No sent a boat out to the Vessels found one of them to be Schooner fitted out by Lord Wm Campbell one the *Pensacola Packett* & the other a small Privater belonging to Charlestown taken by the *Syren*.

Modr and fair wear

at 4 P M weigh'd and Came to Sail At 5 anchor'd again abreast the Fort and Moor'd as before came in & anchord the Schooner above mention'd.

Wednesday 7th A M rec'd on board from the Schr *Polly* 5 Casks of Flower.

[1] PRO, Admiralty 51/218.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CHARLESTOWN, SOUTH-CAROLINA, DATED FEBRUARY 7, 1776"[1]

The reason of deferring the battery on Sullivan's island was, the *Tamar* and *Cherokee* sloops of war lay close alongside of this island; which was made a den for runaway slaves, who were encouraged and protected by the people belonging to the ships. The departure of them, occasioned by want of provisions which we refused to supply them with, the moment we had it in our power to prevent them from plundering, gave us an opportunity of fortifying the island. I went twice down, and worked the first time three, and the 2d two days, the only volunteer. The ships were but a few days gone, when three others, sent from England, appeared off our bar, the *Syren* of twenty eight, *Raven* of twenty guns, and a transport. They several times attempted coming in, but the wind for three or four days prevented them. One of our pilot boats fired upon their barge, which was several times returned, without damage. They at last sailed for Georgia, where they and the other men of war are now striving to procure provisions, after which we expect a visit from them, and are pretty well prepared. We have above one hundred heavy cannon mounted for the defence of the town and harbour, the militia from all parts are marching into town.

Upon the return of the Georgia Delegates, the Sons of Liberty [in Savannah] assembled, unrigged all the vessels that were ready to sail for England, set up a liberty pole, seized upon the persons of the Governor and Council, and sent to us for two hundred men. Some Tories there are striving to bring on an Indian war, and recruiting for government in the back parts of that Province.

The town [Charleston] is surrounded with seven batteries, two on James island, viz. Fort Johnston of twenty, and a new one of eleven guns, and two on Sullivan's island, one of twelve and another of four guns, so that we can rake the whole harbour from the bar. But I suppose this is nothing to what your Council of Safety has done for the defence of Philadelphia, which is so easily defended on account of the length of your river. You must be impregnable by this time. You are happy, my dear friend, in not being exposed to the more than diabolical machinations of government tools, and the dread of insurrections from your slaves. Hell would be ashamed of such mean and more than brutal attempts to destroy us, and the Devil would blush at the impudence of the man who would have the effrontery to recommend a reunion with so barberous a government.

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[1] *Pennsylvania Evening Post,* March 21, 1776.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY[1]

In the Council of Safety,
[Charleston] Wednesday, 7th Feb., 1776.

The following letter was written to Archibald Bulloch, esq., for the Provincial Congress or Council of Safety at Savannah.

Gentlemen – Charles-Town, 7th Feb., 1776.

. . . A large frigate, supposed to be the *Syren,* was lately off South-Edisto, having a schooner in company, and seeing our armed scooner *Defence* within the inlet, sent in two boats manned: when these came within gun-shot, Capt. Tufts fired grape from three six-pounders at them, a signal was made by the ship, the boats returned, and she stood away to the southward.

We request you to give us the fullest information you can of the men-of-war at Cockspur.

By order of the Council of Safety.

Henry Laurens, President.

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1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society,* III, 252–53.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *TAMAR,* CAPTAIN EDWARD THORNBROUGH [1]

February 1776	River Savanah Georgia
4	PM came in his Majs Ship *Scarborough.*
5	AM Longboat a Watering Carpenters as before Received 229 lb of fresh Beef Mode & Cloudy PM Came in his Majs Schooner *Hinchinbrooke* Carpenters as before First & middle pt little wind & Clear latter fresh breezes PM Longboat watering
6	AM riggd out the main Yard and got out the Bowsprit belonging to the New York Sloop [2] for the *Hinchinbrooke* Recd out of the Above Sloop 3 puncheons of Rum 327 Gallns Cyder 10 Bbl & a Cask of Port wine in Bottles.
7	Recd from the *Scarbourouh* 10 half Bls Powder Mode. & Clear PM the Signal was made on board the *Scarborough* for Lieutenants Carpenters & Sail makers Employ'd as before.

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1. PRO, Admiralty 51/968.
2. The *York Packet,* Stephen Weeks, master, seized by H.M.S. *Tamar* in Savannah River on January 20, 1776.

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8 Feb.

PETITION OF NOVA SCOTIA INHABITANTS TO GEORGE WASHINGTON [1]

To His Excellency George Washington Esquire Generalissmo of the Army of the Twelve United Colonies of America –

May it Please your Excellency

The Liberty we take in Addressing a Person of so Exalted a Rank, will we presume be fully pardon'd when you perceive the Occasion of it –

The Inhabitants of Nova Scotia & in particular those of the County of Cumberland have been under the greatest anxiety and apprehensions ever since the Great Contest subsisting between Great Britain and the American Colonies, Our situation has been such that we have not had it in our power to do any thing in Conjunction with the Other Colonies. The form of Goverment we are under, and the manner of Executing its Authority has been such, that we are rather to be looked upon as Slaves than Freemen –

With Anxious desires have we been waiting for the success of your Righteous Cause, and that you would cast an Eye of pity towards this forlorn part, we have indeed nothing to Recommend us but misery, and impending destruction, and devastation we trust our manner of Proceedings will have the desired Effect on you – As well as the Others who are the Instruments of supporting the Liberty of Mankind –

We have been har[ass]'d much, Occation'd by Different proceedings of Goverment, threaten'd are we, because we have such sentiments Concerning the Cause Contended for by our Brethren on the Continent, News have been Received that Troops will soon be sent among us, This in a manner has Rous[e]'d many, who were Invisone'd in Lethargy, Committee's have been Appointed from the different Towns (Including the Accadians) to fall upon some method for safety – there being a Number among us (vainly Called Government men) Are Continually prying into Our proceedings, and with Accumalated Tales, Give information To the Goverment at Halifax – Liable therefore are we to be Cut in peices, having no Expectation of succour but what comes through your Excellency – We agreed in Our Committees that nothing should be done Publickly as it might Agravate the Others to fall upon us, sooner than they intended, further as we could not tell the Intention of the Honorable Continental Congress Concerning us – Therefore as Individuals who belong to the Aforesaid Committee, Do Recommend Jonathan Eddy Esqr to Your Excellency who will acquaint you with our Situation, & Praying with Ardency that your Excellency will please to releive us; so that we may be Able to give our Sentiments publickly, & Join with our little Strength, in Conjunction with the Other Colonies, in preventing the Ensigns of Slavery from being sett up in any Part of this Great Empire. – We further Pray Your Excellency, will keep this our Request as a Secret for the Present

We do Seperately & Jointly Pray for the Success of your Arms, and that you may be Victorious & Vanquish all Your Enemys –

We are with the Greatest Respect [&c.]

Elijah Ayer
Nathaniel Reynolds
Mark Patton
John Allan
William Lawrence
Amasa Killam

Jesse B[ent]
William Maxwall
George Forster
Simon Newcomb
Robert Foster
Simeon Chester
[February 8, 1776]

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1. Papers CC (Letters from George Washington), 152, I, 567–68, NA; enclosed in Washington to Hancock, March 27, 1776.

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF NOVA SCOTIA [1]

At a Council holden at Halifax on the 8th of February 1776

Present

His Excellency the Governor,
The Honorable Charles Morris,
Richard Bulkeley,
Henry Newton,
Joseph Gorham,
Arthur Goold,
John Butler } Counsellors

Mr Thomas Am Harris Master's Mate of the King's Sloop *Savage* declared

That by Order of His Commanding Officer he was Ordered on board the Schooner *Lively* about five Weeks ago, and Accordingly boarded Her, and Asked whence She came from, and was Answered, from Winter Harbour, He went down in the Cabbin, and found Mr Higgins, Mr Calbeck and Marshal Carpenter's Assistant of the Navy Yard – He then Asked Mr Higgins from whence he came – who said from Head Quarters at Cambridge. – at which the Declarant Started, – Mr Higgins said you need not be surprized I assure you it was from Head Quarters I came, – The Declarant Asked how he came from thence – at first he said it was by his interest, and then said he purchased the Vessel, – He then talk'd of going on Shore, to which this Declarant said he would give him a passage and go with him to Captain Bromwiche's [Hugh Bromedge].

The declarant then Ordered four of the Hands on board to take care of the said Schooner; as He did not Chuse she should go away untill he had Orders from the Commanding Officer. – As he was putting off from the Schooner Mr Higgins Order'd her to the Wharfe, – The Declarant replied, you cannot do that untill further Orders; I have taken charge of Her myself. Higgins Asked then how the Tide was; The Declarant Answer'd; Tide of Flood. – they then went on Shore together; Mr Higgins Asked whether he Might go to Mr Butler's, to which the Declarant said he might, it was immaterial. That Higgins went into Mr Butler's; That then the Declarant waited on Capt. Bromwich & acquainted him with what had happened, that Captain Bromwich desired that he would bring the Master of the Schooner on board the *Savage*. – That the Declarant Accordingly went to Mr Butler's to Speak to Mr Higgins, and Acquainted him of the Orders, that he went into a Room there, where he found Mr Higgins and another Person, when a third Person came in at another Door, who said good Morning to you Mr Higgins, I am glad to see you here; I did not expect to see you here so soon, Mr Higgins replied, Sir, it is your interest, had not your Letters flown about at the [Provincial] Congress and at Cambridge, I should not have seen you here; on which it was replied by the other Person present, Sir, it is Mr Butler's Letters in England you Mean – on which Mr Higgins repeated the same Words over again, it was your interest &c or I should not have been here – Then the 2d Person said to Mr Higgins, you dont Want this Person, meaning the Declarant, any More, on which Mr Higgins, said no Sir, you may take the Master with You –

The Declarant further said that Mr Butler was the Third Person who came into the Room –

Mr Higgins Appearing was Asked by the Declarant when I did see You, do you recollect what passed between Us, – to which Mr Higgins said I really don't recollect nor know. – being Asked whether Marshall was there; Higgins replied he was, do you recollect whether I asked you whence you came – and that you said from Head Quarters at Cambridge. – Higgins replied maybe so, I am not certain. – Did you not say you bought the Vessel. – Higgins replied Yes, I purchased Her.

Did I not see you at Mr Butlers? who was the Person to whom I saw you talking there. – Higgins replied he did not recollect any Person there, – but, on further recollection, he said, he believed it was the Lieut Governor

Mr Higgins being Asked what he Mean't by saying that Mr Butler's Letters were flying about &c at Cambridge, had been the Means of bringing him back so soon; – Answered, that he did not recollect any such expression; – that it was for carrying provisions to Halifax for the Troops, and on Account of the Letters which Mr Butler had Wrote to Mr Calbeck of St John's Island, and had been taken and Opened by the Rebels, containing reflections on them, that he had been taken and brought to Cambridge. –

Being further Asked by the Declarant whether the Lieut Governor did not say, – you Mean Mr Butler's letters in England. – He Answer'd he did not recollect – Being Asked whether the Lieut Governor, Asked Mr Higgins if he wanted Mr Harris any More, says he believed he did –

Mr Calbeck of His Majesty's Council of Saint John's Island, Appearing was Asked by the Governor –

Did you hear of any Letters of Mr Butler's being at Cambridge on your Arrival? – He Answer'd No, And said that the Letter wrote to him by Mr Butler, had been taken by the Rebels contained very strong expressions Against them, – Asserting that they were Commanded by a set of sad Fellows, and would be Beat, or words of that purpose, and that there was a reinforcement coming out from England, and a broad Pendant in this Harbour; and that if they made any Attempts here they would get a Damn'd drubbing. – that when they had their papers restored to them, they Burn't Mr Butler's letter.

The Council having taken the whole of the Declaration and Evidence into consideration, were of Opinion, that there was no proof whatever, that Mr Butler had carried on any Correspondence with the Rebels, that on the Contrary it appear'd that the Schooner was taken on Account of having brought Provisions for the Troops; And that Mr Butler had wrote to Mr Calbeck a letter in very Strong terms against the Rebels, which afterwards fell into their hands. [2] –

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1. Council Minutes, N.S. Arch.
2. This case is an aftermath of the exploit of Captains Nicholson Broughton and John Selman, commanding Washington's schooners *Hancock* and *Franklin*, in seizing Phillip Callbeck, the acting governor of the Island of St. Johns at Charlottetown, and taking Mr. Higgins and his schooner in the Gut of Canso, and conveying them to Cambridge. General Washington there ordered their release and the restoration of Callbeck's papers and Higgins' schooner.

NEW HAMPSHIRE GENERAL COURT TO THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS [1]

The Council & Assembly of the Colony of New Hampshire:

That by reason of their Vicinity to the Town of Boston, the Enemies Ships of Warr often hovering round their Coast & Harbour, They have been for many months past Kept in perpetual Alarms. Have been at a very Great Expence in preparing to Defend themselves, at Least Thirty Thousand Pounds L my in Erecting Batteries, mounting Cannon & supporting Soldiers, having had Fourteen hundred men under pay at one time – Exclusive of Two hundred Matrosses to Guard the Metropolis and Expect the ensuing spring, to be under the Necessity of Raising a much Greater Number; and as you have been pleased to order a Number of Battalions of men to be raised to Guard other Colonies, and as this is by far the Poorest Colony on the Continent, according to the Number of Inhabitants –

We most humbly pray your Honours would order such a Number of men to be raised and Stationed at Portsmouth, (and in case of any Emergency to assist our Neighbour Colonies) as you in Your Wisdom Shall see fit.[2]

Exeter, February 8, 1776

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[1] Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire,* VIII, 67.

[2] From the Journal of Congress, Friday, March 1, 1776: "A letter from the committee of safety of New Hampshire with a petition from said colony, and sundry other papers were read: *Resolved,* That the same be referred to a committee of three." Ford, ed., *JCC,* IV, 179.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL [1]

Sir Cambridge Feby 8. 1776

I last night received Intelligence of the Arrival of some Powder in your Colony by the sloop *Maccaroni,* & the report is that she brought Arms too – As my last Letters from Philadelphia do not promise me an Immediate supply of these necessaries, And as the Exigency of this Army at this particular crisis, calls for much more than what we have I beg the favour of you to Interest yourself, that they may be sent to this Camp, as expeditiously as possible. – If they belong to the Colony I will take them on the Continent's Account & pay for them, or replace the powder If that shall be thought more advisable, as soon as I have an opportunity of doing It, which I hope will not be long – If to private Gentlemen, I shall be much Obliged by your friendly exertions that I may have It – I should have made this Application did not the state of our affairs at this Time require all that can be collected, Not doubting of your best endeavours that my requisition may be complied with I am Sir [&c.]

G:W

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[1] Washington Papers, LC.

New England Chronicle, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1 TO THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1776

Cambridge, February 8.

We hear, "that as Capt. Manly was coming out of Plymouth, January 30, an armed brig (which went from Boston for the purpose of taking him, as is supposed)[1] gave him chace; upon which he ran his vessel on shore, a little South of the North river, in Scituate. The brig came to anchor, and fired not less than 400 times upon the privateer; but, very remarkably, no man was even wounded. One ball entered the stern, and passed but about six inches from Capt. Manly, who was confined by sickness in his cabin. The next day, 130 balls were found upon the adjacent shore."

Beside the above, which is from a correspondent near where the affair happened, we hear, that after the brig ceased firing, she manned her boats, boarded Capt. Manly's vessel (the people being ashore) and endeavoured to set her on fire; but seeing our people coming upon them, they were glad to get off without effecting their design. She has since been got off, is refitting, and nearly ready for another cruize.[2]

On the 25th of December last was taken by a Plymouth privateer, and carried in there, a small sloop from New-York, Moses Weymen, master, laden with provision for the ministerial army in Boston, consisting of 35 fresh hogs, 100 barrels of pork, 50 barrels fine New-York pippins, 20 firkins hogs fat, some quarters of beef, turkies, &c. &c.

Last Tuesday se'nnight [January 27] Capt. House, with 4 whale boats, took and carried into Barnstable, a sloop of 115 tons burthen, bound from La Have for Boston, laden with beef, hay, potatoes and turnips.

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[1] H.M. Brig *Hope*.

[2] Manley's schooner was the *Hancock*. The above account verbatim, was reprinted in the *Boston Gazette,* Watertown, February 12, 1776.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES[1]

[Watertown] Thursday, February 8, 1776.

A Bill for encouraging the fixing out of armed Vessels to defend the Sea Coast of America, and for erecting a Court to try and condemn all Vessels that shall be found infesting the same:

Read a first Time, and ordered to be read again at 12 o'Clock, this Day.

Afternoon.

The Bill for encouraging the fixing out of arm'd Vessels, &c. Read a second Time, and committed to Mr.Speaker, Mr. [William] Story, and Colonel [Azor] Orne.

Resolved, That to-Morrow 11 o'Clock A.M. be assigned for a third reading of the said Bill.

A Return from Cape-Elizabeth, of a Schooner proposed to be fitted out as a Privateer, and the number of Men who would engage in that Service, with a Petition of Isaac Battle and Samuel Nichols, praying that said Schooner may be fitted out for that purpose.

Read and committed to the Committee appointed by the Court to build Ten armed Sloops. And the said Committee are impowered to purchase, instead of building, Vessels as are suitable for the Purpose.

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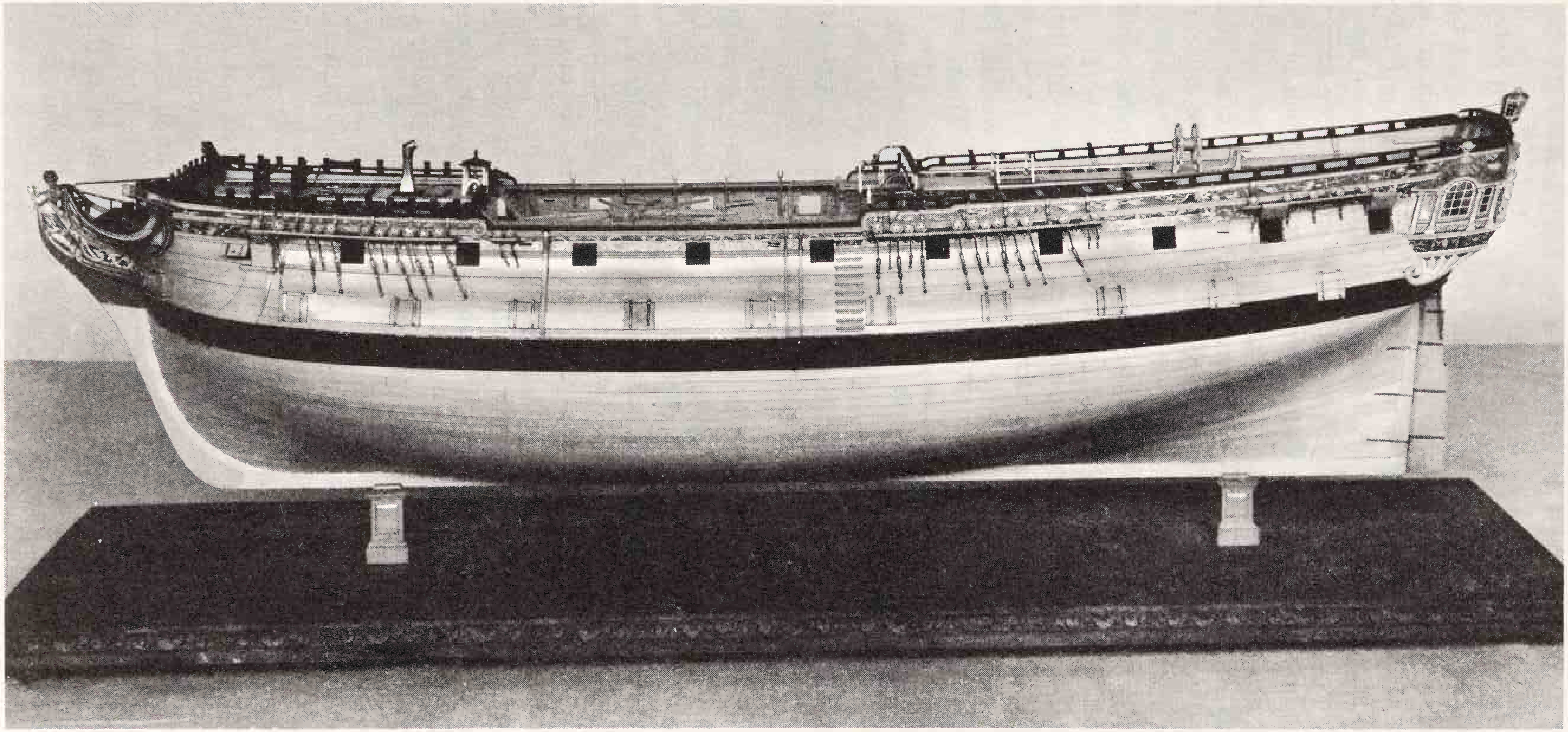
[1] Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch.



A model of a 44 gun ship.

Thomas Cushing to John Langdon [1]

Dear sir Watertown Feby 8 1776

I have just received your Favor of the 25 Ultimo am glad to hear you arrived at home in Safety. Agreable to your request I now transmit you a Copy of the Votes of the Marine Committee (Vide the other side)[2] – I take it we are at Liberty to purchase the Riggen Sails Boats &c for the Ships we are directed to Build, however I submit it to your Consideration whether, as we have time for it, it will not be best to write to the Committee to be more explicit in their orders - I have gone so far as to Engage the Hemp Coal & some Iron & have wrote to Mr Hancock Chairman of the Committee that I have so done, & desire him also to Send me the Model & drafts of the Ships. I expect soon to hear from him with further Instructions. pray let me know what progress you have made & upon what terms you have Agreed for the Building of the Ships, whether by the Ton or by the Day and if by the Day what you are to give by the Day & if by the Ton what p Ton & how much you are to Allow the overseers for their Trouble & any further Information you think proper.

I remain [&c.]
Thomas Cushing

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1. Captain J. G. M. Stone Private Collection, Annapolis.
2. Votes of the Marine Committee December 16, 1775, designating the dimensions of the thirty-two gun frigates.

Colony Bond for the Massachusetts Private Armed Vessel *Lizard* [1]

Know all Men by these presents, That we Benjamin G[or]ham Mariner, Isaiah Doane Mercht, Michael Nickols [Micah Nichols] Cooper, of Cohasset, in the County of Suffolk, Sturgis G[or]ham of Barnstable in the County of Barnstable Merchant, all in the colony of the Massachusetts bay, are holden & stand firmly bound & oblig'd unto the Treasurer & Receiver General, of the Colony aforesaid, in the full & just Sum of One thousand pounds, to be paid unto the said Treasurer & Receiver General, or to his Successor in said Office, to the true payment whereof, we bind ourselves, our Heirs, Executors & administrators, jointly and severally, firmly by these presents; Seal'd with our Seals the eighth day of February Anno Domini 1776. –

The Condition of the afore written Obligation is such, That whereas the said Benja Gorham hath, on the Day of the date hereof received a Commission to command an armed Vessel, called the *Lyzard* burthen about Thirty two Tons, to make reprisals of all armed & Other Vessels, that shall be found supplying the Enemy, or acting counter to a Law of this Colony, entitled, "An Act for encouraging the fixing out of armed Vessels to defend the Sea Coasts of America, and for erecting a Court to try & condemn all Vessels that shall be found infesting the same." If therefore the said Benjamin Gorham shall and do in and by all things, well and truly observe and fullfil such Instructions, as he shall receive from the Council of this Colony, and shall in all respects conform himself to the Directions given in & by the act aforesaid, then the aforewritten obligation to be void, otherwise to remain in full force.

Sign'd, Seal'd & delivered
In Presence of
Isaac Bartlett
Levitanus Stephenson

Isaiah Doane Benj^{n} Gorham
Sturgis Gorham Micah Nichols

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 6, 212.

GURDON SALTONSTALL TO SILAS DEANE [1]

New London Feby 8, 1776 A M 8 Clock

Dear Sr The new York mail not in, expected momentarily. Your favors of 13th & 24th ulto recd. Inclosed you have an open leter to Mr. Gadsden, as I am told by Colo Dyer since writing it, he is gone to Carolina, I leave it open that you may learn some of our News Currant here, & no doubt much of it erroneus. seal & forward it to him.

Messrs Dyer [Nathaniel] Wales & S[amuel] Mott are here Comt from Govr & Council safety touchg Fort, reviewd the several places Wps Neck, Mamacock, Groton heigth, & Groton Rock, my conjecture from last evenings conference is that the Compy under my Command will be continued & when weather permits, finish a 10 Gun Battery in Front on Wps Neck say 24ft with proper Wings, & raise a Compy to build a Fort at Mamock like bigness, another Compy at Groton to finish Rock Battery, & build an Inclosed Fort on the Groton heighth, which heighth is higher than any Hill for Miles, & 48 rod from Water & 120ft high as formerly adviced you. the Fort at Mamk probably inclosed, baracks at Mamk & at Groton Heighth Oh that Congress would order a number of 42 Pounds on Groton Eminence; its Common cause, as we expect this Port will be the Asylum for Contl Navey &c & one they must have of necessity. The Cannon at Fort here one half will be placed at Groton Rock in a few days when the Battery is ready, & to be replaced as soon as possible, the only present expectation is to have 24 pounders cast at Salisbury Furnace, my greatest fear is about getg a Skilful Founder. The things relative to above Forts lie at the hearts of Our Assembly men, they will be Frugal, but not limit the Sum to be disbursed. Friday last I left your Spouse & all at Weathersfd well. Your Bror Barny [2] tells me the Ship he builds is to draw only 1½ ft more water aft then forward (which is an improvemt on former times,) and 10½ ft aft when launched; I want the improvement to be carried farther (on other Vessells) by calculg them to draw precisely the same water forward as aft. & thus when the fore end has broke the water, as there will be no more to break, the after end will follow. but on our old plan, namely a large Vessell to swim loaded 4 feet by the Stern, when the fore end has broke the water, where the resistance is proportionably strong to the perpendicular depth of Water to be removed. (example in some degree, where a Farmers loaded Sled to run 4 inches higher forward than behind, in the Snow 1 foot deep just falen, its easy to see, that the resistance will be vastly more than if Sled runs on horizontal line) The breadth of Yr Ships Beem 34 feet is well judged, & depth of Hole 16½ ft I am pleased with, understandg its design is to bring the upper deck low, so that all heavy Cannon may be on the upperdeck, & the Ship carry them without rolling, the Lower & upper deck Knees I suppose (tho I dont know) are to be bolted thro. thick Stuff, without regard to the Whales & the Whales laid at discretion, where it will serve to make a bottom calculated in best manner, to pass through the Water; which last method has been the Study of all our Carpenters, & when that is done, it has been the General Error (I think) of Merchants & Carpenters to give so much Masts & Canvass as to make the Vessell go, as the Sailors Phrase is on her upper leathers; consequently the Wisdom of forming a compleat botom is destroyed. were the Merchants Ships Masts smaler & not above 2 thirds so taut, & the same quantity Canvas spread, I quere, will not the Vessel go upright, & if the shape of botom is to the purpose, she'l then have the Advantage of it. If the bow of a Vessell is well formed to break the water, why would not the same form aft discharge it well. Consider Whale boats, the best rowing boats in America, they go on even keel, & both ends almost alike, perhaps Stern somewhat leanest, wch I atribute to dificulty of quiting the old Custom in formg Vessels leanest behind.

Your Ship has a fine breadth (& hope great length of Floor). I long to hear of a Warrlike Vessell that goes on even keel as within mentioned, & that carrys her mettle of a horizontal line when the Ship is goeing 6 or 8 knott, that is to say that the Ship shall not he'l in any considerable degree, when on a Chase; which to me appears practicable on some such plan as within mentd. & in addition such a Ship is in litle danger of loosing her Cannon, moreover can fight an Enemy in a Gale wind, nor are they in so much danger of looseing small Masts, & Short if well shrowded, as when they are lofty A Ship thus Riged will beyond all contradiction make better weather in a Storm, & in my simple Opinion be much better in all respects that the old mode.

What I have wrote is for your amusement, as to the Navigation Subject. sometime hence if it deserves a consideratn tell me Yr [&c.]

G.Saltonstall

I recd Goddards plan safe.

T.Green will reprint the Pamphlet Common Sense in a few days.

My Love to Capt Saltonstall if near you, & tell him all are well here & Westerly. Colo. Harry has a Regt at the Island & is Marched to the Camp in Caracter

P M 9.Clock The western post just in, no leter from any person. Am pleased to hear Genl Clinton arrived last Sunday at New York, & is not I conclude destined to Virginia, expect Genl How & the rest at Boston will soon Folow Clinton, to York, Matters at home by your papers rise in favor of America fast.

Yrs [&c.]

N.B. The Ship on new Model as aforesd should have her Stem & Stern post perpendicular, which would make her Stronger above Water, suport her Bowsprit the better, & this would increase the length of straight Rabit, make the entrance below sharper forward, & cleaner abaft, (which removes an Objection some would be apt to make, that She would not mind her helm) & as the length of Keel is increased, She will hold in proportion a better wind. I am a Friend to her haveing a large proportion of dead rising.

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1. "The Deane Papers," *Collections of the Connecticut Historical Society,* XXIII, 16–19.
2. Barnabas Deane who had the contract to build a Continental frigate in Connecticut, subsequently to be called the *Trumbull.*

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS [1]

[Philadelphia] Thursday, February 8, 1776

The Secret Committee, to whom the petition of Mr. Pierre Le Fargue was referred, brought in their report, Whereupon,

Resolved, That Mr. Pierre Le Fargue be permitted to load the sloop, in which he imported a small quantity of powder and arms, with the produce of these colonies (horned cattle, sheep, hogs, poultry, and lumber for making casks excepted) and export the same to Martinique. And that the said Mr. Pierre Le Fargue do take every possible precaution to avoid all British men of war and cutters on his voyage, and use his utmost endeavours to import into these colonies the powder and arms mentioned in his memorial, and proposed to be imported by him.

The committee on the memorial of Murray, Sansom and Co. &c. brought in their report, which was read, and ordered to lie on the table.

A letter from Dr. [Benjamin] Rush and a memorial from Dr. [John] Connolly, respecting the state of said Connolly's health, was presented to Congress and read: Whereupon,

Resolved, That the said J. Connolly be allowed, at suitable times, to walk in the prison yard or hall, the gaol keeper taking especial care to prevent his escape.

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1. Ford, ed., *JCC,* IV, 117–22.

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH [1]

[Philadelphia] Thursday 8 Feb. A Report from the Secret Comee in Favor of the Martineco Man was agreed to [2] . . . Debate on a Report allowing a Vessel at Norwich in Connect to go out with her Cargo, it was postponed [3] Conolly allowed to walk the Prison Yard 2 Hours every Day on Report of his Physician Dr. [Benjamin] Rush –

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1. Richard Smith's Diary, LC.
2. Pierre Le Fargue.
3. Relating to a petition of Murray, Sansom & Company, New York merchants, in the case of the ship *Polly.*

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a, 8th Feb'y, 1776.

Agreeable to a Resolve of Congress, this Board went into the choice of a proper Person to be appointed Captain of the Company of Matrosses to be raised in this Province for the service of the united Colonies, when they made choice of Mr. Bernard Romans; therefore, *Resolved*, That the said Bernard Romans be appointed Captain of the said Company of Matrosses.

Resolved, That the Brig't *Hetty*, Capt. Lott, or any other vessel employed by Capt. Vanhorn for the Committee for importing Powder, Arms, &ca. from Foreign parts, be insured by this Committee against all seizures, on account of her having such articles on Board for this Committee, and in case she may be so lost, this Board will pay for her, agreeable to her valuation by three indifferent persons, to be agreed on by the owners of said Vessel and this Committee.

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1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records,* X, 478, 479.

Penet & Pliarne to Nicholas Brown [1]

Sir! Philadelphia 8th Feby 1776

We have recd the Letter that you did Us the Honor to Write the 22d Decr & we Shod have answer'd it the Moment of its Reception; If Mr Cook [Nicholas Cooke, Jr.] had deliver'd it before he left Phila

We have terminated our Business with the Congress. Our Contract is passed with the Secret Committee & Mr Penet depar[ts] to day for France, Where he goes on Business for the Cont[in]ent. It is not Possible to Reconcile this Treaty with Yours Because our Contract is of a Particular Nature, & our Campai[gn] will not Permit of Communication, for the Object is very Impor[tant] & which exacts the most delicate Measures. –

But Sir! we have determin'd to Settle in this City of Phila the Center of our Commerce & we Should be Happy on this Account to Open Business with Your House. – We Shall have here in our Stores all the Articles from France of which the Continent will have Need. – We will address you either directly from France or Phila Merchandize for your Town & its Neighbourhood. You will make Sale of them on our Accot & We will allow You the Customary Commission & Shall take other Articles which may Suit You, agreable to the offer, that You made Us in Your Letter. –

It would Suit Us to Load on our Accot by the first Ship that You Should send to St Eustatia 300 Boxes of Sp. Ceti Candles of a Good Quality & well Condition'd: each Box to Weigh from 25 to 30 lb & 35 lb. You will have the Kindness to address them to Messrs Menard, la Combe & Theare, Merchts in St Eustatia, Tis One of the First Houses & who do the Most Business & will Inform Your Captains of Correspondents at Martinico & the other Windward Island. –

We desire you to Join in this Letter that we Shall Send him an Invoice of the Price of the said Boxes, Upon which you will add the Freight which will be Paid You by these Gentlemen as may Judge needfull.

If there are means to make Insurance on the Merchandize at A Reasonable Price; we desire You to do it, As for Yourselves & in Case the Insurance is too high; we will Run the Risque. As to the Payment, You may draw for the Value that we shall Prise You; a Bill of Excha at three months Credit as we will Pay at its Expiration: The Business that we have just Undertook, will not Permit Us to give You the Money 'till the delay of three Months. –

Dont Omit giving Us advice of the day of the Departure of the Merchandize & inclose in our Letter a Double Invoice that you Shall address to St Eustatia.

If you Send Ships into France, you may address them to Havre or to Nantes according to the address here Joined. Your Loading will be in such manner as you Shall order wether in Amunition or other Mercha: You may rely on the Activity of our Houses & be assured that No One Can procure You the Same Advantages As We. –

We desire You to take Notice of the Signing of Our House & Remember that it is this Underneath

We have the Honour to be Yours &c
Pliarne Penet & Compa

[Endorsed] Translation of a Letter from Monsr P. Penet & Co at Phia –

1. Nicholas Brown Papers, JCBL.

CREW OF PENNSYLVANIA ARMED BOAT *Ranger* TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

To the Committee of Safety appointed for to adopt Measures for the Protection of this Country, or to the Hon'ble Congress.

The Address of the Free Company, belonging unto the *Ranger* Armed Boat, in the Service of the United Colonies of North America,

Humbly Sheweth,

That we the said company, for the time that we have belonged to the said Armed Boat, have contrary to the articles agreed to, by the said Company, sustained several wrongs, which untill this time we have, with Patience bore, thinking that we should by repeated Complaints made unto the Officers whom this Immediently concerned be redressed, but we at this time finding our Grievance become more burthensome thinks it a proper season for to lay our Grievance before you,

Humbly hopeing,

That the Hon'ble Gentlemen will be pleased for to allow the said company what their articles seteth forth. In the said articles we are allowed ten pounds of Mutton, Beef or Pork, Mutton or Pork we have got none since we belonged to the said Boat tho' often Desired, the Beef that we have received have at several times proved so bad & more especially at this time, Vinegar we have got none since we belonged to the said Boat tho' allowed in the aforesaid articles which causeth us for to lay our case before you hoping that your honours will be pleased for to take it into your consideration, and allow us what is proper for men that is fighting for the Liberty of this Country.

Your Honours have been pleased for to allow us Six pence P week for to buy Vegatables for each man Belonging to the service, but what we receive we could buy for 2d P man & the Potatoes are so small and so bad that they are only fit for Children for to play Jack Stones with, your Honours have allowed us bread or flower, the Victualler will only give us wh he chuses giving us Bread when we chose flower, thinking it a proper time for us to get Bread when are down the river. We likewise hope that your honours will be pleased for to take us further into your Consideration, and allow us our pay when it becomes due, as there is several of the said Company have Occasion for their pay when it becomes due, having great families, and we hope that these things you will be pleased for to take into your Consideration, and allow us what is proper for men that is ready, able & willing for to fight for the freedom of their Country and Liberty of our Children hereafter. Signed by Order,

[February 8, 1775] [2] Rangers.

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[1] Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives,* 1st series, IV, 704–05.

[2] The date is approximated. The only clue to it is an action of the Committee of Safety on February 9, appointing a Committee to superintend the armed boats and furnish them with "what necessarys they want," *Pennsylvania Colonial Records,* X, 480, 481.

CREW OF PENNSYLVANIA ARMED BOAT *Ranger* TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

Appointed by the free choice of the people for adoptg measures for the protection of this Country.

Gentlemen,

This is for to lett you know, that we the Company of Rangers, Belonging to the Continental Service, after Waitg on you Gentlemen this forenoon, & after coming from your meetg, we went for to do our Duty at our Quarters at the Barracks, as soon as we entered the same our Boatswain was put under Centry, being committed to the Guard house, and there continues, now we the Rangers being sensible that he is confined in the wrong, & thinking it is on the account of our waitg on you at the aforesaid time, that he is confined for, we therefore hope that you will either give us an order for to get the aforesaid Boatswain out of Confinement, or for to Bring the Officer or Officers that Confined him, to be made for to give a true account of what they have confined him for, unto this Gentlemen we should be verry Glad that you would give us an Immedient answer, or else we shall expect that you would be so kind. If that you do not allow us what is right for to order the aforesaid Rangers their discharge.

Signed P Order,
Rangers.

[February 8, 1775] [2]

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[1] Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives,* 1st series, IV, 705.

[2] See preceding letter and footnote 2.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE [1]

At an Especial Meeting of the Committee on
Thursday 8 Feby 1776 –

Capt William Wall applied to this Committee for Liberty to load the Sloop [blank] Capt Coffin with Provisions for Rhode Island, but as Capt Coffin had been before refused by this Committee, and then applied to the Congress, who also refused him, the Committee adhere to their former Resolution of refusing the said Coffin Liberty to load in this Port –

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[1] Baltimore Committee, LC.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

No 10. [Annapolis] Feby 8th 1776

Gentn We are much obliged by your Favour of the 27th Ulto and shall most cheerfully co-operate with you in every Measure, that may contribute to our mutual Defence against the Invaders of our reciprocal Rights, that may be in our Power; and shall also be happy in keeping up a constant intimate Correspondence, which our common Cause at this Time renders necessary. –

Our Inexperience in naval Preparations prevents us at present from either approving or disapproving your Plan of Row-Gallies for the Protection of Potowmack River. We have a Ship, which we call The *Defence,* that mounts 22 six Pounders, besides Swivels and will be ready to proceed to her Station by the first of March. She will cruise in the Bay, and as Occasion may require, proceed up Potowmack and the Captain shall have Orders to contribute every Thing in his Power to the common Defence on all Occasions. The Powder necessary for this Ship & for Fortifications which we are building, will diminish our Stock so much, as to prevent us from attempting an Increase of our Marine, 'till we receive a Supply of that necessary Article, more than sufficient for our Troops & Militia on whom we chiefly rely for Protection, and when this happens, we shall advise you of it.

We have adventured very extensively to procure Arms and Ammunition, but are fearful from the Advices that we have lately received, our Endeavours will not be attended with the Success we wished and had Reason to hope for.

[1] Council of Safety Letter Book, No. 1, 1776, Md. Arch.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO MARYLAND DELEGATES IN THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS [1]

[Extract]

No 9. [Annapolis] Feby 8th 1776.

. . . We have also received a Letter from Messrs [William] Paca & [Robert] Alexander of the 2d of this Month, and are sorry to find we are likely to be disappointed in our Prospect of geting Cannon from New-York or Philadelphia; as they were immediately wanted for carrying into Execution the Resolution of the Convention for fortifying the City of Annapolis and Baltimore Town, and as we are not certain whether Mr Hughes, tho' he has already begun casting the nine-Pounders with some Success, may be able to comply with his Contract for the heavy Cannon, with the Convention in Time. Those purchased by Mr Paca, we intended for the Ship *Defence,* which is getting ready with all possible Expedition . . . We have been long in Expectation of receiving the Powder from Messrs Willing and Morris, which they engaged to supply us with and for which the Money was lodged in their Hands, but have not as yet been favored by them with any Thing on that Head, we need not acquaint you that it is an Article, we stand much in Need of and that the Convention to relieve our present Necessity had agreed to take five Tons of that made at Philadelphia from the Salt Petre lately imported, in Part of what we were to have had from those Gentlemen; we shall be obliged, if you will know of them, when we may expect the five Tons and what Prospect they have of procuring the rest contracted for by them and favour us with their Answer –

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[1] Council of Safety Letter Book, No. 1, 1776, Md. Arch.

MINUTES OF THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

[Williamsburg] Thursday, the 8th February.

Mr. John Calvert is appointed to employ proper persons and furnish necessary material, and superintend the building of a row Galley according to plan delivered, to be employed in James river, of which when finished he is to have the command, and is to engage his officers and seamen, his certificates for the workmen's wages and necessaries, will be paid when produced, and the utmost expedition is recommended to him.

Ordered a Warrant to Mr. John Calvert for £ 50 upon account.

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[1] *Journal of the Committee of Safety of Virginia From February 7, 1776, to July 5, 1776, Calendar of Virginia State Papers* (Richmond, 1890), VIII, 78. Hereafter cited as *Virginia State Papers.*

DEPOSITION OF ROBERT MARSHALL [1]

Port Royal Jamaica Feby the 8th 1776

Twenty five days ago I was at Cape Fransois in the Island of Hispaniola where I then saw Nine sail of the Line 4 of them from the Island of Martinica and the other five from Europe with a number of Transports which they brought under their convoy and saw them Land great Quantity of Gun Powder &ca and that the above Transports were full of Troops which I saw Disambark and that on the 28th of Jany 1776 I was at Cape Nichola Mole when I saw 800 Troops Landed from on board a large Transport under the Convoy of a 36 and 20 Gun frigate, and that they came from Port Loriant where there was likewise embark'd with them 2400 on board of three other Large Ships that had parted company, but were each exspected.[2]

Sworn before me this 8th
Febry 1776
[Richard] James

his
Robert X Marshall
mark

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 1/240.

[2] *Ibid.,* this deposition was enclosed in Admiral Clark Gayton's letter of March 28, 1776 to Philip Stephens, with the comment that it had been found to be "an absolute Falsity."

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9 Feb.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO JOHN HANCOCK [1]

Sir
Cambridge 9th Februa[r]y 1776

In Compliance with the resolves of Congress I have applied to General Howe for the exchange of Mr [James] Lovell, A Copy of my Letter & his Answer thereto you have Inclosed. –

Captain Watters [Daniel Waters] & Captain [Samuel] Tucker who Command two of the Armed Schooners, have taken & sent into Gloster a Large Brigantine Laden with wood, 150 Butts for water, & 40 Suits of Bedding, bound from La Have in Nova Scotia for Boston – She is one of the transports in the Ministerial Service,[2] the Captain Says that he was at Halifax the 17th January, & that General [Eyre] Massey was arrived there with two Regiments from Irland –

The different prizes were all Libelld imediatly on receipt of the Resolves of Congress pointing out the Mode, but none of them yet brought to trial, owing to a difference between the Law past in this Province, and the Resolutions of Congress, the General Court are Making an ammendment to their Law by which the difficultys that now occur will be removed as I understand it is to be made Conformable to your resolves – the unavoidable delay attending the bringing the Captures to trial is grievously complaind of, by the Masters of these vessels, as well as the Captors – many of the former have aplied for Liberty to go away without waiting the decision, which I have granted them –

I beg Leave to recall the attention of Congress to their appointing a Commissary in these parts, to attend the provideing of Necessarys for the prisoners who are dispersed in these Provinces – Complaints are made by Some of them, that they are in want of bedding & many other things; as I understand that Mr [David] Franks has undertaken that business, I wish he was orderd to send a deputy immediatly, to see that the prisoners got what is allowed them by Congress allso to supply the Officers with money as they may have Occasion, it will Save me much Time & much trouble –

There are yet but few Companys of the Militia come in, this delay will, I am much afraid, frustrate the intention of their being Called upon – as the Season is slipping fast away when they may be of Service –

The demands of the Army were so very pressing before your Last remittence Came to hand, that I was under the necessity of borrowing £25,000 Lawful money from this province, they very chearfully Lent it, & pass'd a vote for as much more if required, I have not repaid the Sum borrowed, as I may stand in Need of it before the arrival of another Supply, which the demands of the Commissary General, Quartermaster General, & paying off the arrearages, will very soon require –

Your esteemed favour of the 29th Ult – is just Come to hand it makes me very happy to find my Conduct, hath met the approbation of Congress – I am entirely of your opinion, that should an accommodation take place, the terms will be Severe or favorable, in proportion to our ability to resist, and that we ought to be on a respectable footing to receive their Armaments in the Spring – but how far we shall be provided with the Means, is a Matter I prof[ess] not to Know, under my present unhappy want of, Arms, Ammunition, and I may add men, as our Regiments are very incompl[ete,] the recruiting goes on very Slow, and will, I apprehend be more so, if for other Service the Men receive a bounty, & none is given here –

I have tried every Method I coud think of to procure Arms for our Men, they realy are not to be had in these Governments belonging to [the Public:]

and if some Method is not fallen upon in the southern Governments to Supply us. We shall be in a distressd Situation for want of them, there are near 2000 men now in Camp, without firelocks, I have wrote to the Committee of Newyork this day, requesting them to send me those arms which were taken from the disaffected in that Government, the Congress interesting themselves in this request, will do[u]b[t]less have a good effect – I have Sent Officers into the Country with money to purchass Arms in the different towns, Some have returnd, & brought in a few. Many are still out, what their Success will be, I cannot determine –

I was in great hopes, that the expresses Resolved to be establisd between this place & Philadelphia woud 'ere now have been fixt – It woud in my opinion, rather Save, than increase the expence, as many horses are destroyed by one Man Comeing the whole way, it will certainly be more expeditious, & Safer than write-ing by the post, or private hands, which I am often under the Necessity of doing –

I am with great respect [&c.]

G° Washington

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1. Papers CC (Letters from George Washington), 152, I, 465, NA.
2. The brig *Henry & Esther,* Nellis, master, taken by Washington's schooners *Lee* and *Franklin.*

ROBERT HANSON HARRISON TO COMMITTEE OF SPRINGFIELD [1]

Gentlemen Cambridge Feby: 9. 1776.

I have it in command from his Excellency General Washington to Inform you, that on Tuesday last [February 6] he received a petition from the Mariens in Springfeild Jail, Signed by David Scurrey & Patrick Clark, Sugesting the Severity of their Confinement without Fire & the want of necessary Cloathing at that Inclement season – His Excellency doubts not but you have paid proper attention to their wants If you have been apprized thereof, & I have only to add that It is his earnest desire, that the prisoners in our hands should be treated with humanity & kindness and have every thing really necessary for their support I am Gent [&c.]

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1. Washington Papers, LC.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES [1]

[Watertown] Friday, February 9, 1776.

The Bill for encouraging the fixing out of armed Vessels, read a third Time, and passed to be engrossed with Amendments.

Ordered, That Mr. [William] Story bring in a Resolve for supplying the Committee for fixing out Vessels for Powder, with the Sum of *Two Thousand Pounds.*

The Committee on the Petition of Jeremiah Obryan [OBrien] reported, Read and recommitted.

Afternoon.

Resolved, That there be allowed and paid out of the Public Treasury of this Colony, to the Hon. Benjamin Lincoln, Esq; and others, a Committee of this Court for fitting out ten Vessels to procure Gun-Powder and Ammunition,&c. the Sum of *Two Thousand Pounds* for that Purpose. They to be accountable to this Court for the same.

Four Petitions of Col. James Cargill.

One praying an Allowance for Mr.Shubal Williams, of Long-Island at Penobscut, who to assist the Sea Coast Guards to prevent the Enemy from getting Wood from said Island, was obliged to quit his Home, whereby he lost 100 Bushels of Grain, &c.

Read and dismissed.

Another praying an allowance for the Service of Part of the Militia of the East Regiment in the County of Lincoln, which he sent to Penobscot-Bay and Fort-Pownal, and with which he drove off several Vessels that were supplying the Enemy.

Read, and the Petitioner had leave to withdraw his Petition.

Another, setting forth that he was appointed by the Court to take the Command of the six Companies on the Sea-Coast in the County of Lincoln, and there being no Establishment for him, prays the Direction of Court.

Read and committed to Mr.[Daniel] Perry, Major [Benjamin] Ely, and Mr. [Josiah] Fessenden.

The other praying Directions with regard to the Schooner *Dolphin*.

Read and committed to the same Committee.

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1. Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch.

JOURNAL OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO BUILD TWO CONTINENTAL FRIGATES IN RHODE ISLAND [1]

[Providence] Feby 9th 1776

Meeting in being according to Adjournment –

Voted. That a Letter be wrote to Wm Ellery Esqr desiring him to meet Govenor [Nicholas] Cooke, at Warren on Monday next at 12 o'clock if a fair Day if not then the next fair Day in Order to purchase the Iron, Riging &c, that belongs to Mr. Levey which is under Attachment their & that Jabez Bowen write the Letter. –

Reckoning 17/ paid by [blank]

Meeting adjourned to Monday next –

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1. Journal R.I. Frigates, RIHS.

MINUTES OF THE CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

At a Meeting of the Governor and Council of Safety &c.

[Lebanon] Friday, 9 February, 1776

Determined the size and dimensions of the row-galley at N. Haven and sent by Mr. Hood, *viz.* Keel, 60 feet; beam, 18 feet; hold, 5 feet; dead-rising, 7 inches.

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1. Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut Records,* XV, 236.

Connecticut Gazette, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1776

New-London, February 9, 1776.

Last Sunday near Sun-set, Capt. [James] Wallace landed a Number of Men out of his Fleet on Point-Judah; took from thence seven Loads of Hay, a Number of Sheep, and two Cows.

By Capt. Arthur from Guadaloupe, we learn, that a French Frigate had arrived at the Island from France, with Reports that the French had made a Demand on the British Court of Fifty Million of Livres, as Restitution for Vessels taken by the English before the Declaration of last War. He also informs us that there's not so many English Cruisers off the foreign Ports in the West-Indies as has been represented.

MAJOR GENERAL CHARLES LEE TO JOHN HANCOCK [1]

N York Febry the 9th 1776

Sir –

A transport is this instant arriv'd in this harbour with Troops altho it is said that General Clinton gave his honour that not a Soldier was destin'd for this place – as We have, Sir, a great deal to do, many works to throw up, Long Island to secure – and a considerable deal of duty necessary for the safety of the City – and as the four Battalions orderd to be rais'd in this Province can not possibly be prepar'd for any sort of service in a very short space of time it is requisite to provide ourselves with an adequate force immediately – it is true the Committee of safety (whose zeal and alacrity seem most fervent) have ordered three Regiments of Minute Men into the City but I apprehend even this addition will not enable us to accomplish the measures resolv'd upon – if, Sir, a Battalion of the Philadelphian Associators, or a detachment from the several Battalions amounting to the Number of a compleat Battalion coud be spar'd us They wou'd not only be of infinite use to us, but of considerable to themselves, as it will afford 'em an opportunity of instructing themselves in the construction of Field works and [of] the Method of fortifying and intrenching camps. – I confess I am the more solicitous of being immediately put into force as I am extremely apprehensive that a very large Body of the Ministerial[ists] will be here in a very few days either from Boston or from England. I think, Sir, likewise as probably the number of Troops will be increasing here every day – the Congress wou'd do well without loss of time to establish an hospital in this Colony I am, Sir [&c.]

Charles Lee

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[1] Papers CC (Letters from General Officers), 158, I, 13–14, NA.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS [1]

[Philadelphia] Friday, February 9, 1776

A number of letters being received, were laid before Congress, and read, viz.

From General Washington, 24 and 30 January, with a copy of one to General Schuyler, 27 January, with a number of intercepted letters:

From General Schuyler 29, 31 January, and 1 February, 1776, enclosing copies of two letters from General Arnold, 11 and 12 January, and sundry other papers from Governor Trumbull, 3d February, with sundry enclosed papers.

Resolved, That the above letters be referred to a committee of five.

The members chosen, Mr. [Samuel] Chase, Mr. J[ohn] Adams, Mr. [John] Penn, Mr. [George] Wythe, and Mr. [Edward] Rutledge.

The Congress took into consideration the report of the Committee on the second memorial of Sansom, Murray & Co. &c. Whereupon,

Resolved, That the memorialists be permitted to make sale of their cargo of wheat in Connecticut, or else to proceed on their original voyage to Falmouth, in England, and a market under the office papers, and clearances, which the said vessel sailed with from New York in September last; and also subject to the former restrictions of Congress, respecting the appointment of a commander.[2]

Information being given to Congress that a quantity of powder, arms and salt petre was arrived.

Resolved, That the committee appointed on the 13th of last month, to purchase the salt petre then arrived, and have it manufactured, be directed and empowered to take every necesssary measure to have the salt petre, now arrived, manufactured into gun powder with all possible expedition.

Resolved, That a copy of the paper relating to signals found among the intercepted letters, be sent to the commander of the fleet, and that the delegates of the several colonies be permitted to send to their respective conventions or committees of safety a copy of the said paper under a strong injunction to keep it secret.

Resolved, That two tons of the powder now arrived, belonging to the United Colonies, be returned to the committee of safety for Pennsylvania, in part of that borrowed of them:

Ordered, That the committee appointed to manufacture the salt petre into gun powder, be directed to enquire and report to Congress a state of the powder, arms and salt petre arrived.

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1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 122–27.
2. This is the case of the ship *Peggy*, William Barron, master, whose suspicious actions induced the Continental Congress to rule on November 15, 1775, that Murray, Sansom & Co. could not dispatch the ship from Norwich, Connecticut, unless another master was appointed.

Diary of Richard Smith[1]

[Philadelphia] Friday 9 Feb. Minutes read & Letters from Gens Washn [Philip] Schuyler [David] Wooster & [Benedict] Arnold & from the N Jersey Convention & a Packet of intercepted Letters from England taken by [John] Manley inclosing private Signals of the Men of War and Transports –[2] Copies of these Signals ordered to Admiral Hopkins & to the Delegates of each Colony . . . Debates ensued about disposing of the Powder arrived here in Capt [John] Craig & 2 Tons were allotted to Pennsa in Part of what has been borrowed 1 Ton to N Carolina as formerly voted and the rest left for Consid[era]t[ion]s

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1. Richard Smith's Diary, LC.
2. The private signals were found in the packet thrown overboard by William Foster, master of the ship *Jenny*, and retrieved before it sank. This happened in December, 1775, and why it took so long to get them to Congress is not apparent. The intercepted letters probably were secured when the transports *Happy Return* and *Norfolk* were taken by Manley on January 26, 1776.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a, 9th Feb'y, 1776.

Resolved, That Mr. [John] Nixon, Mr. [Thomas] Wharton [Jr.] & Mr. [Robert] Whyte, be a Committee to superintend the armed Boats, & to furnish them with what necessarys they want, and to give orders for any necessary repairs.

Agreeable to a Resolve of Congress, this Board went into the choice of a proper person to be appointed as Capt. Lieutenant to the Company of Matrosses to be raised for the service of the United Colonies, when Gibbs Jones was made choice of; therefore,

Resolved, That the said Gibbs Jones be appointed Capt. Lieutenant of the said Company, for the service of Canada.

Upon application of Andrew Caldwell, Esq'r., Commodore to the Fleet, for a sum of Money for the Recruiting service; By Order of the Board an Order was drawn on Mr. John M. Nesbitt, Paymaster to the fleet, for £120 for that purpose.

Resolved, That the Officers that shall be employed to recruit in the Country for the service of the Fleet, shall be allowed twenty shillings per week each for their travelling Charges, and ten shillings per man for each Man they shall inlist, in lieu of all recruiting Expences, and also ten shillings per week for the subsistance of each of their Recruits, while they continue in the Country recruiting, and until they join the Corps at the Barracks.

[1] *Pennsylvania Colonial Records,* X, 480, 481.

THOMAS RODNEY TO CAESAR RODNEY [1]

[Extract] [Dover] Feby. 9th 1776

I recd: a Letter from Mr [David] Beveridge this evening and he still insists on our insureing a part of the Vessell which I have answered him we cannot do, and expect the Matter will end here with him –

[1] Rodney Collection, HSD.

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

[Annapolis] Friday 9 February 1776.

An Agreement was made with Mr Hugh Young for the Exportation of Provisions agreeable to a Resolution of [the Continental] Congress. Also with Mr George Woolsey for the like purpose, & Copies thereof filed.

Ordered That the Treasurer of the Western Shore pay to Mr Hugh Young fifteen hundred pounds Currency.

Ordered That the said Treasurer pay to Mr George Woolsey eighteen hundred Pounds Currency.

Permit was given to Mr Hugh Young to export Tobacco and Iron, or provision and in Return to import Salt.

[1] Council of Safety Journal, 29 August 1775 to 20 March 1777, Md. Arch.

PURDIE'S *Virginia Gazette,* FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1776

Williamsburg, Feb. 9.

By advices from the army under col. [Robert] Howe, we learn that they abandoned Norfolk last Tuesday [February 6], after removing the poor inhabitants, with what effects they could carry along with them, and demolishing the intrenchments which Lord Dunmore threw up a little before he fled on board the fleet now lying before that place. What few houses remained after the late bombardment were likewise destroyed, after being valued, to prevent our enemies taking shelter in them. Thus, in the course of five weeks, has a town which contained upwards of 6000 inhabitants, many of them in affluent circumstances, a place that carried on an extensive trade and commerce, consequently affording bread to many thousands, been reduced to ashes, and become desolate, through the wicked and cruel machinations of lord North and juncto, aided by their *faithful servants,* my lord Dunmore with his motley army, and the *renowned* capt. [Henry] Bellew, commodore of his Britannic majesty's fleet in Virginia, and his *generous* and *valiant crew.* Truly may it be now said,

Never can true reconcilement grow
Where wounds of deadly hate have pierc'd so deep.

The troops are now stationed at Kemp's landing, the Great Bridge, and in and about Suffolk.

The cannonading heard last Thursday se'nnight [February 1], at Norfolk, was occasioned by a detachment of our troops, under major [Francis] Eppes, attacking a number of black and white people from the men of war, who had landed to steal tobacco. Major Eppes drove them back, after killing four negroes, and two white men, upon which the ships began to fire. – We hear lord Dunmore and his friends are exceedingly uneasy, and a good deal frightened, upon hearing that the continental fleet is designed against them, and indeed they have very good reason,for,as sure as a rifle (and that, they will know, is pretty sure) commodore [Esek] Hopkins will pay them a visit so soon as he is joined by the Maryland squadron.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Kingsfisher,* CAPTAIN JAMES MONTAGU [1]

Feby 1776	At [Single Anchor] Hampton Rd point Comft N E
Wednesday 7	[A. M.] fired 3 Guns at the Rebels P M was fired on by the Rebels Retd it with 6 Guns Pt Comfort W B S 5 Miles
Thursday 8	A M at 10 Weighed & Came to Sail Gave Chace to 2 Vessels wth out the Capes At Noon found them to Be the *Liverpool*s Tender & prize Wore Ship Empd turning up At 3 P M Anchored off Point Comfort
Friday 9	At 8 A M Saw A Sl off Weighed & stood off At 10 found her to Be H:M:S: *Roebuck* Stood up in Co At 11 TKd in 1st Reef At 2 PM Anchored as Before in Co with the *Roebuck*

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 51/506.

CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, R.N., TO NAVAL CAPTAINS IN VIRGINIA [1]

By Andrew Snape Hamond Esqr
commander of His Majesty's Ship
the *Roebuck.*

In consequence of Orders from Vice Admiral Graves: You are hereby required and directed to put yourself under my command and follow all such orders and directions as you shall from time to time receive from me for his Majesty's Service. Given under my hand on board his Majesty's Ship the *Roebuck* at Virginia the 9th February 1776.

A. S. Hamond

Respective Captains of his Majesty's Ships
[Endorsed] the *Liverpool,* deld 9 Feby & distinctional Signals
Otter Do
Kingsfisher, deld 9 Feby 1776 & distinctional Signals Captain [Alexander] Graeme who Sussd [succeded Captain James] Montagu had the same 18 following
Otters Tender Lt John Wright – the *Betsey* deld distinctinal Signals [2d June]
Fowey – [George] Montagu 1st May 1776 Do do do

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[1] Hamond Papers, Orders issued, UVL.

CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, R.N., TO LIEUTENANT JOHN WRIGHT, R.N. [1]

You are hereby required and directed to put in execution those orders you have received from Captain [Matthew] Squire to escort the *Cruizer*s Tender to Cape Fear, giving her Lieutenant orders to put himself under your command, and having so done, to return to this place with all possible dispatch.

Given under my hand on board his Majesty's Ship the *Roebuck* at Virginia the 9th February 1776.

To Lieut John Wright
commander of the *Otter*s Tender the *Betsey*

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[1] Hamond Papers, Orders issued, UVL.

DIXON AND HUNTER'S *Virginia Gazette,* SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 1776

New Bern (North Carolina), Feb. 9.

By a Gentleman from Philadelphia,[1] we have received the pleasing account of the actual sailing from that place of the first American fleet that ever swelled their sails on the western ocean in defence of the rights and liberties of the people of these colonies, now suffering under the persecuting rod of the British Ministry, and their more than brutish tyrants in America. This fleet consists of five sail, fitted out from Philadelphia, which are to be joined at the Capes of Virginia by two ships from Maryland, and is commanded by Admiral Hopkins, a most experienced and venerable sea Captain. The Admiral's ship is called the *Columbus,* after Christopher Columbus, the renowned discoverer of this western world, and mounts 36 guns, 12 and 9 pounders, on two decks, 40 swivels, and 500 men; the second ship is called the *Cabot,* after Sebastion Cabot, who completed the discoveries of America made by Columbus, and mounts 32 guns;[2] the others are smaller vessels, from 24 to 14 guns. They sailed from Philadelphia amidst the acclamations of many thousands assembled on the joyful occasion, under the display of a *union* Flag, with 13 stripes in the field, emblematical of the Thirteen United Colonies; but unhappily for us, the ice in the river Delaware, as yet, obstructs the passage down, but the time will now soon arrive when this fleet must come to action. Their destination is a secret, but generally supposed to be against the ministerial Governors, those little petty tyrants that have lately spread fire and sword through these southern Colonies. For the happy success of this little fleet, three millions of people offer their most earnest supplications to Heaven.

1. The gentleman was Christopher Gadsden, en route from Philadelphia to Charleston in a pilot boat which had been driven ashore on the North Carolina coast.
2. Somebody, probably the printer, garbled the account of the two principal ships, because Gadsden, as a member of the Naval Committee was familiar with the entire fleet. The *Alfred* was the flagship, not the *Columbus,* and the *Cabot* was a brig.

Journal of H.M.S. *Syren,* Captain Tobias Furneaux[1]

February 1776 Cape Fear ENEt 5 or 6 Leagues

Monday 5 A M at 6 Wore Ship at 9 standing in shore after a small Schooner, *Lady Wm* & *Comet*[2] Schooners & our Cutter in Chace, at 11 TKd: and stood off –
Light Airs & Clear.
P: M: at 4 fired a Gun as a Signal to the Vessel in Shore at 7 Calm came too with the stream Anchor in 10 Fms Water, the extreams of the Land from NE½Et to WBS½So at 9 the Boat retd having taken a small Armed Schooner, the People had deserted her, after rung her on shore; she had on board 4 Swivels a Musquetoon & many Cutlasses –[3]

Tuesday 6 A M at 5 weighed & came to Sail, at 6 bro't too & sent a boat on board the Schooner, at noon the *Lady Wm Comet* & Prize Schooner for Cape Fear. –
Fresh breezes & Clear

Wednesday 7 A M at 2 TKd at 8 TKd in 6 Fath's supposing the Ship to be on the S Et end of Frying pan, exercised guns & small Arms –
First part fresh breezes & Clear, latter Mode
P M at 6 a great Swell from Nowd

Thursday 8 A M Lashed between Decks, at 10 the Articles of War &ca were read to the Ships Compy found the Ship to Nowd of Accot by streeching into the Gulph Stream –
First part Light breezes, Mdle fresh Gales & Cloudy, latter Mode with Rain, and a great Swell TKd occasionally;
P M at 11 dble Reeft TSls & struck Top Gallt Yards –

Friday 9 A M at 7 saw a Sail in the NEt at 8 fired a Shot & bro't too a Sloop from St Eustatia bound to Norfolk in Virginia, Laden with Sugar, Molasses, Rum, Coffee, Ginn & Salt which Sloop we detained & sent a Petty Officer & 4 Men on board to carry her to Cape Fear[4] at 11 made Sail –

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/930.
2. The *Comet* was the *Scarborough*'s tender, which was first spoken on February 3.
3. According to the *Cruizer*'s journal, the prize was "a small Privater belonging to Charlestown." Actually it was the armed pilot boat in which Christopher Gadsden had set off from Philadelphia for Charleston. His escape to shore is described in a letter from Henry Laurens to the Georgia Provincial Congress or Council of Safety, February 13, 1776.
4. This sloop, like the snow from Bristol taken January 30, is not named on Shuldham's or Howe's prize lists.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA PROVINCIAL CONGRESS[1]

[Charleston] Friday, February 9, 1776.

Col. [Christopher] Gadsden presented to the Congress an elegant standard, such as is to be used by the commander in chief of the American navy; being a yellow field, with a lively representation of a rattle-snake in the middle, in the attitude of going to strike, and these words underneath, "DON'T TREAD ON ME!"

Ordered, That the said standard be carefully preserved, and suspended in the Congress room.

1. *Provincial Congress of South Carolina,* 21–24.

South-Carolina and American General Gazette, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2 TO FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1776

Charlestown, February 9.

On Saturday sailed for Cadiz, the Spanish Snow *St. Michael,* Don Joacham de Laraquebel, Commander, which put in here in Distress, in September last, and has since been refitted.

Yesterday arrived here, from Philadelphia, Christopher Gadsden, Esq; one of our Delegates at the General Congress, and Colonel of the first Regiment of Infantry in the Service of this Colony, with his Son Mr. Thomas Gadsden. On the Coast of North-Carolina, they were chased ashore by a Man of War, supposed to be the *Syren* Capt. [Tobias] Furneaux, and her Tender; but fortunately Colonel Gadsden secured his Papers, and with the Rest of the Passengers and Crew, got safe on Shore. The Vessel, Mr. Waldron's Pilotboat, fell into their Hands.[1]

We hear that the *Syren* was seen off Georgetown Bar last Sunday, with a Schooner, which was supposed to be one from the Northward that had been taken by her.

1. See journal of the *Syren* for February 5, 1776.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO CAPTAIN SAMUEL GRAVES, R.N. [1]

(A Copy)

By James Young Esqr Vice Admiral of the Red; and Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels at Barbadoes, and the Leeward Islands &c:

Whereas I have received an express from Boston, with a dispatch from Major General [William] Howe, Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Forces in America, wherein He represents to me, His strongly apprehending that the King's Army under His Command may be greatly distressed for want of Provisions &c; should no Supplies speedily arrive there, and sundry Victualing Transports intended for supplying the King's Army in America, having been blown off that Coast in bad Weather are put into this Island in distress: amongst which the *Killingworth* Victualer, Thomas Powditch Master, and the *Layton* Victualer, Robert Johnson, Master are now refitted.

You are therefore hereby required and directed to take under your Care and protection, said Two Victualing Transports, the *Killingworth* and *Layton,* and Convoy them forthwith to Boston: on your arrival you are to put yourself and said Victualing Vessels under the Command and Orders of the Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships at that Port: and deliver the dispatches you will receive herewith as directed. You are strictly required to make no delay whatever in executing this duty, and take notice, that your Activity herein may prove of the utmost importance to His Majesty's Service, as perhaps the preservation and safety of the King's Army at Boston may depend on your Success: You are immediately to Compleat the *Viper*s Provisions &c. to three Months from the *Layton* Victualer, and should she need water may stop Ten hours at Old Road St Kitts to take on board a Supply; but are on no Account to make a longer stay at that place, or any other; for which this shall be your Order.

Given under my Hand at English Harbour Antigua; the 9th February 1776

Jam^s^ Young

To Captain Samuel Graves
of His Majesty's Sloop *Viper.*
By Command of the Admiral Geo: Lawford.

[1] PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Viper,* CAPTAIN SAMUEL GRAVES [1]

Feby 1776 Moor'd in St John's Roads Antigua
Friday 9 Modt & Cloudy with rain
P M Detained the Schooner *Elizabeth* belonging to Anopolis in Maryland.

[1] PRO, Admiralty 51/1039.

DEPOSITION OF JOHN KENNIDY [1]

Jamaica ss John Kennidy of the Parish of Kingston in the County of Surry in the said Island Gentleman being duly sworn maketh Oath an Saith That [he] this Deponent did between the Hours of Eight and Ten of the Clock of the Forenoon of this Ninth day of February Instant apply to Clark Gayton Esquire Admiral and Commander in Chief of his Majestys Fleet on the Station of this Island for the discharge of William Clarke and John Werden Mariners and James Young Merchant all now Confined on Board his Majestys Ship the *Antelope* in the Harbour of Port Royal under the Command of the said Admiral Clarke Gayton And this Deponent Saith that upon such Application the said Admiral Clarke Gayton did declare to this Deponent that he would not discharge the said William Clark John Werden and James Young as he detained them by Virtue of his Orders or Instructions this Deponent then demanded a Copy which the said Admiral Clark Gayton did positively refuse.

Sworn before me this 9th day John Kennidy
of February 1776 – T French

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 1/240.

10 Feb.

JOURNAL OF BARTHOLOMEW JAMES [1]

[Halifax, February 10]

The 10th of this month the harbour was totally froze up, and all communication with the shore cut off, at which time we had a gang of men on shore fitting the rigging. Captain [Charles] Hudson directed me to take a quartermaster with me, and endeavour, by breaking the ice, to get a boat on shore with provisions for the people. With the utmost difficulty we got into the boat astern, for it must be remarked that though the ice was four feet thick, it was of a substance incapable of bearing the weight of a man, occasioned by the rapidity of the tides. Having with the utmost difficulty reached about half way on shore, we began to discover the danger we were exposed to, as we made no progress but with the tide, which was setting us directly at sea in a large field of ice. Thus situated, Captain Hudson made the signal for us to return to the ship, but that I found totally impracticable. The Commodore [Marriot Arbuthnot], Captain [John] Symons of the *Cerberus* and the master attendant was hailing me from the wharf also to return to the ship; in complying with which I increased my danger by getting more in the centre of the tide, and hundreds of people were assembled to see the fatal consequences that would befall two boats – another with a man and his son – attempting at that time to cross the harbour. However, just at dark, with the greatest exertions, we got near enough for a man to throw us a lead from the *Cerberus'* jib-boom end, and at length was hauled by it alongside of the wharf where she lay, having been six hours in the above situation, and both myself and the quartermaster frostbit, and a sad witness of the other boat's distress, which was drove to sea and both the man and his son froze to death, having two days after been picked up at the entrance of the harbour. I did not return to the *Orpheus* for two days, during which I received all possible care and attention from Mr. Prowse, the master attendant, who was master of the *Torbay* when I belonged to her.

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1. Laughton, ed., *James' Journal,* 23–24.

ORDERLY BOOK OF MAJOR DANIEL ILSLEY [1]

Falmouth Feby 10th 1776

Orders for the Forces Stationed at Said Town [2] Viz That their be a Main Guard Consisting of one Subaltern one Serjeant one Corporal & twenty Privets that this Guard be Reli[e]ved once in Twenty four hours and that they Keep one Centinel at both of the Batteries from Sun Rise till Sun Sett & two Centinels from Sun Sett till Sun Rise – That the Centinels Suffer no Person to walk on the Platforms or Even Step on the Same Except those who have the Care of the Guns &c that they take proper Care of all Such Millitary Stores as may be Dld to their Charge and that they hail all Vessels Comming into the Harbour and Demand their Boat to be Sent on Shore Except the Guards are Satisfied that they are friends in Case they Refuse fire a gun acquaint the officer of the Guard and Commanding officer as Soon as may Be –

Ordered that their Be a Night Guard Known by the Name of the Patroll watch to Consist of one Serjeant one Corporal & Sixteen Privets their Duty to Begin at nine OClock in the Evening (at which time notice will be given by the Drum & fife for all Soldiers to be at their Barracks) and End after Day Brake four of this Guard to be Continually walking the Streets between the hay market and the Pound on the Neck

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1. MeHS.
2. Ilsley had about 300 men under him at Falmouth. The town had been jittery ever since the destruction by Lieutenant Henry Mowat in H.M.S. *Canceaux* in October, 1775.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO COLONEL JOSEPH REED [1]

[Extract] Cambridge, February 10, 1776.

The Congress have ordered all captures to be tried in the courts of admiralty of the different governments to which they are sent, and some irreconcilable difference arising between the resolves of Congress, and the law of this colony, respecting the proceedings, or something or another which always happens to procrastinate business here, has put a total stop to the trials, to the no small injury of the public, as well as the great grievance of individuals. Whenever a condemnation shall take place, I shall not be unmindful of your advice respecting the hulls,&c. . . .

. . . Our vessels now and then pick up a prize or two. Our Commodore (Manly) was very near being catched about eight days ago but happily escaped with vessel and crew after running ashore, scuttling, and defending her.

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1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington,* IV, 318–23.

OWNERS' BOND FOR THE SLOOP *Nancy* ON A VOYAGE TO NEW YORK [1]

Know all Men by these Presents that we John Innis Clarke and Joseph Nightingale both of Providence in the County of Providence and Colony of Rhode Island &c. Merchants are held and firmly bound unto Joseph Clarke Esqr. General Treasurer of said Colony in the Sum of Four Hundred Pounds Lawful Money to be paid to the said Joseph Clarke in his said Capacity or to his Successors in said Office for the Use of the said Colony to which Payment well and truly to be made we bind Ourselves Our Heirs Executors and Administrators firmly by these Presents. Sealed with Our Seals. Dated the Tenth Day of February in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Six.

Whereas Phillip Paine Master of the Sloop *Nancy* burthened about Fifty Tons hath Obtained Permission of the Honble Nicholas Cooke Esqr. Governor of the said Colony to proceed in said Sloop to the Colony of New York in Ballast only: Now the Condition of this Obligation is such That if the said Phillip Pain shall proceed with said Sloop to the Colony of New-York and there take on board the Produce of the Country or other Articles under the Direction of the Committee of Inspection of the City Town or County where he shall lade and take in his said Cargo and also bring back proper Certificates both of Exports and Imports from them and lodge the same in the Office of the Secretary of the said Colony within three Days after the Return of said Sloop and further shall not Proceed to any Port or Place not being within the United Colonies (the Danger of the Sea and Seizure by an Enemy always excepted) then this Obligation shall be void or else in full Force.

Sealed and Delivered
in the Presence of } Jos. Nightingale [2]
Henry Ward Elizabeth Ward

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[1] Maritime Papers, Bonds, Masters of Vessels, R.I. Arch.

[2] *Ibid.*, Clarke & Nightingale entered bond the same day for a second vessel, the schooner *Defiance* of about 50 tons burden, Robert Olds, master, bound in ballast to Connecticut.

Providence Gazette, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1776

Providence, February 10.

Sunday Morning last [February 4] the ministerial Fleet left the Harbour of Newport, and steered for some Time towards Block-Island, then stood in, and anchored under the East Side of Point-Judah [Point Judith] when they landed, and took off a Number of Sheep, two Cows, two or three Oxen, and some Hay. On Monday they came up the River as far as Gould Island, and have since been cutting Wood on Hope-Island.

SOUTH KINGSTON COMMITTEE OF CORRESPONDENCE TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE [1]

Sir. So Kingston Feby 10th 1776

The Committee of Correspondance for the Town of South Kingston, beg leave to inform your Honor, that the Sea Coast of this Town is very extensive, that it affords a great Number of Landing Places, and a most valuable Stock, and great Quantitys of Hay, now remaining upon the whole Coast – This Town is at the same Time on a very defenceless State, great Numbers are inlisted into the Continental Service, a considerable Number in the Regiments raising in this Colony – besides about fifty men lately placed upon Jameston as Minute Men – The late Attack upon Point Judith by Capt [James] Wallace, evinces our defenceless State still stronger, as Capt Wallace was able to git off a considerable Quantity of Hay and Sheep, before any considerable Number of Men could git there, tho' great Spirit was shewn by the Inhabitants of this and the neighbouring Towns – We must therefore, not only as we would regard our own immediate Safety, but [the P]ublick Cause, request your Honor, as soon as possible, to direct, that the Minute Men on Jameston under Capt Brown and Capt Parker, and a sufficient Body of the Regiments raising, be placed upon the Coast round this Town, that the Enemy may be frustrated in any future Attempt, This we apprehend absolutely necessary, but submit it most humbly to your Honor.

In behalf and by Order of the Committee, I am [&c.]

J. Peckham Cler[k] of sd Committee

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1. Letters to the Governor, 1776, vol. 8, R.I. Arch.

TESTIMONY OF JOSEPH APLIN [1]

[South Kingston, February 10, 1776] [2]

About twelve OClock A.M. last Sunday, I was at the House of Sylvester Robinson, Esq; in Point-Judith, in Company with several Gentlemen, and observed several Ships of War with Tenders, standing Southward. While we were conjecturing their Destination, a Neighbour of Mr Robinson came in just as we were sitting down to dine, and told us that Capt Wallace was landing his Marines on the Beach near the End of the Point. Not long after, I set out in Company with Mr Robinson, Dr Gleason, and Mr Robert Hassard, to make what Discoveries we cou'd of Capt Wallace's Design; and having reached Col Hassard's House, where we found the Family in the greatest Confusion, securing their Effects, and consulting their personal Safety, I gave it as my Opinion, that some Body ought to repair to Capt Wallace, and desire him not to desolate the adjacent Farms, and offered to go my self, provided Mr Hassard wou'd bear me Company; to which he consented. This those who were present acquiesced in, and if I am not mistaken, approved of.

On approaching near Capt Wallace he asked "who's that? – Mr. Aplin?" – I told him "yes." He then said, that his Object was to take a little Hay, and that he meant to take only the Remainder of a Stack which was then uncovered; adding, that he was willing to pay for whatever he shou'd take. I replied, that neither the Farm, nor any Thing on it belonged to me, but that one Mr Niles, a Friend of mine, occupied the Farm; that his being absent from Home, bro't me to him to desire him not to desolate it. He told me that he meant no such Thing, unless his Men were fired upon; in which Case he wou'd ravage as he went. I intimated that there were not less than six hundred Men about entering the Point, and that they wou'd soon be strengthened by the adjacent Country, which had been already alarmed. This I mentioned to shorten his Stay. He asked me if I thought the armed People that were on their March, had the Heels of the Ships? – which made me think that he intended making some Descent to the Northward.

Upon his expressing some Surprize at the sudden Rising of the People, I took Occasion to put him in Mind, that Desolation marked him wherever he went. He said that he never suffered his Men to ravage unless they were molested, and that he was always willing to pay for what he was allowed peaceably to take. He then asked me, who the Man was that stood by me? – I replied Mr Hassard. He asked him to lend him a Cart to convey the Hay to the Boats? Mr Hassard replied that he had none, and that he lived several Miles distant from thence. [Mr Hassard stood within Hearing during the whole Conversation] – Just after we took Leave of him, he called after me and told me, that if Mr Niles had got Home, he wished to see him, or any of the Farmers (as he called them) that wou'd come unarmed – I told him, I would bear the Message.

In my Way to the House, I drove along before me a large Flock of Sheep that were not far distant from the Out-Guards. When I got there, I saw several Gentlemen, and among them, Mr Niles; all whom I made acquainted with what had passed. – Mr Niles was very anxious that I shoud go along with him, and had his Request backed by Mr Caleb Gardiner and (I think) Mr Dyer. I consented, provided we were joined by any Body else. Dr Gleason offered, and accompanied us, together with Mr Hassard, to Capt Wallace. Nothing Material passed more than is above related, saving Capt Wallace's offering Pay for what he shou'd take, which was refused by Mr Niles, who told him, that he cou'd hold no Correspondence with any that belonged to the King's Ships. – Mr Niles had very little Conversation with Capt Wallace that was out of my Hearing.

The above is all that I can at present recollect of an Affair, which has been attended with very disagreeable Consequences to me. I can only add on the Occasion, that I have broken no Law intentionally, and that if I have transgressed the Line of Prudence, it was the personal Friendship that I bore Mr Niles, and the defenceless Situation of the Point-Farms, that led me into the Error: For at the Time when I first Went to Capt Wallace, there was not an armed Man upon the Point to protect any Thing there. I therefore thought it best both for the Public and Individuals, that Nothing shou'd be unnecessarily destroyed.

Joseph Aplin

1. Letters to the Governor, 1776, vol. 8, R.I. Arch.
2. *Ibid.*, the date is established by J. Peckham's letter of February 13, 1776: "Upon interrogating Mr Joseph Aplin last Saturday [February 10]."

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.'S MEMORANDUM OF POWDER DELIVERY[1]

	11 Kegs Powder		
26	13	5 at 4 ¾ tare	23 ¾
28	13 ½	6 at 2 ¼	13 ¼
27	13		37
27 ½	13 ¾		
26 ½	13 ¼		
135	13		
79 ½	79 ½		
214 ½			
37			
177 ½			
41	lb deld before		
218 ½	a 5/6	£60..1..9 LMy.	
	33 ⅓ PCt	20..0..7	
	York Cury	80..2..4	

Deld John Gilson
[New London] Feb 10,1776
De Danl Tuthill 6 a 5/6 – £1.13..0

[1] Shaw Collection, YUL.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO JOHN HANCOCK[1]

[Extract] Albany Feby 10th: 1776.

Sir I have received no Accounts from Canada since I had the Honor to write you on the 7th Inst The post came in Yesterday but had no Letters for me. . . .

Inclose you a paper that was delivered me by a Mr [John] Frazer a Judge of the Common pleas in Montreal and who has been sent down a prisoner here – I fear General Wooster pays too much Attention to the Advice of Mr [Thomas] Walker who has been so ill used by the King's Officers, that his private Resentment will hurt our Cause; and I dare confidently venture to prophesy that unless a respectable Committee of Congress be with all Expedition sent to Canada that our Affairs will not only greatly suffer, but that in all probability we shall lose the Affections of the Canadians.

The Committee if any is sent should be enabled to live with that Splendor which with Frenchmen creates Respect – I do not know how General Wooster lives, but if he does not in the Country where he is live at least equal to the utmost of his pay and allowance he will not do Honor to his Constituents.

[1] Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, I, 512–16, NA.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

[New York] Die Sabbati, 10 Ho. A.M.
Feb. 10th, 1776.

Benjamin Walker informed the Committee that Mr. Yates was informed that his ship was below; that he, Mr. Walker, went down in a pilot boat, expecting it was Mr. Yates' ship; that when the pilot boat came within a mile of the ship, they sent out a boat and pressed John Carleton to pilot the ship up; that he, Benj. Walker, was present and knows that they did press him as a pilot; that an officer on board informed him that they had 200 men on board, and were part of 7,000 men from England, and had been nine weeks at sea.

John Carleton examined, says, he frequently told the captain that there was not any person on board of his boat who could pilot the ship up; but that they insisted on it and obliged him to go on board; that Capt. Kennedy told him he was under the necessity to press him, and did press him to carry up the ship, and charged him on pain of death not to run her aground; that between the banks they saw a wood boat; that a jolly boat put off from her and rowed towards the ship and came within 20 yards; that they then ordered men into the main tops and on deck; that thereupon a pilot on board of the jolly boat, who said he had served his time with Fundran,[2] was taken on board; that near Staten island he got on board of his own boat; and that ship *Caty* is from Boston; that they said there were 200 men on board; that he saw between 40 and 50 men, as he thinks; that there were 8 or 9 officers on board; that he told them Genl. Lee was in New-York, and that he supposed there were 6,000 forces there; that he understood that ships in the whole had sailed with them; that Capt. Kennedy told him that the night before he got down they had 40 men on deck, and some men in the main tops. Carlton had a certificate in the words following, to wit:

> I, Capt. Kennedy, of the 44th regiment, commanding his Majesty's troops on board of the *Kitty* transport, do certify that I pressed and by force obliged the bearer, John Carleton, to pilot the above mentioned ship from Sandy Hook to New-York. Given under my hand on board the *Kitty*, Feb. 9th, 1776.
>
> Kennedy, Capt. 44th Regt.
>
> We certify the above.
> Lieut. Benson } 44th Regt.
> Lieut. John Campbell }

Thereupon a certificate was given to the said John Carleton, in the words following, to wit:

> In Committee of Safety,
> New-York Feb. 10th, 1776.
>
> The case of John Carleton, as to his having piloted up the transport ship *Caty*, has, at his own request been heard by this Committee, and Benjn. Walker, of the city of New-York, merchant, who went down with him in his boat, was examined as a witness. The Committee of Safety are of opinion that the said John Carleton was innocently brought into such a situation as to be necessarily obliged to pilot the transport

ship *Caty* with troops; and from any evidence that has appeared to us, the said John Carleton ought not to be injured, or considered in a worse light or esteem by the public on that account.

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1. *New York Provincial Congress,* I, 288–89.
2. Fundran's title was Branch Pilot. He was in charge of all New York pilots.

MEMOIRS OF WILLIAM SMITH[1]

[New York, February 10, 1776]

On Friday all was Tempest by the coming up of a Transport – The Fears of the Multitude made them forget the Mayor's Message concerning the expected Ship & concieving that they were betrayed Mr. [Henry] Clinton & the Governor were calumniated as false Villains, Liars and Decievers – The River was full of Ice and the Cold intemperate and yet the Inhabitants flew into the Country with their Effects & Nothing could restrain them from escaping at every possible outlet – The opposite Shores were covered with Household Goods there being not a sufficient Number of Carriages to take them away – Immense Losses were sustained by the Fugitives and many weakly Constitutions will doubtless complain from this a rainy cold Day to the Hour of Death. – Their Frights were owing to a Report that Mr. [Charles] Lee would instantly begin to fortify & bring on an Attack from the Ships in the Harbour.

Mr. Tryon at this Juncture sent [Samuel] Bayard [Jr.] the Deputy Secretary to the Committee of Safety to let them know his Answer to Bayard's Question what he should do with the Records that they were safe in their present Repository if no Works were erected to annoy the Ships and the Artillery remained untouched. This was in Effect giving Leave to General Lee to raise works in the interior Parts of the Island But the Committee made no Use of this Hint to ease the Inhabitants chusing to urge their Flight that the empty Houses might be used as Barracks for the Soldiers they had sent for – Mr. Tryon also offered to take the Records into his own Care and be answerable for them & refused his consent to remove them – That Message was delivered on the 7 of Feby to the Committee and reduced to writing tho' delivered in words, and one Copy left with the Mayor & another with Mr. Axtel [William Axtell] to be shewn to the Members of the Council on Shore It gave Relief to but Few except my Family to whom (as my Wife lay in the Day before) Mr. Tryon (Saturday 10th) desired Mr. Axtel to declare in Confidence that Nothing would tempt the Ships to fire at that Season upon the Town. Vandeput at the same time with Tears in his Eyes besought the Refugees contending with the Ice in passing the River to Return to the City assuring them that the Ships would not begin the Assault but all was in Vain while the Leaders on Shore perswaded to the Flight, and were silent as to the Message from the Governor who was at the same [time] openly maligned as one of the worst of Mankind & unfortunately the Wind prevented General Clinton from sailing for several Days during which Time Reports were propogated of Mr. [William] Howe's actual Embarkation at Boston destined to this Place as well as of other Troops being on their Way from Great Britain and General Lee at the same Time declared that his Works might be delayed for a Month. . . .

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1. Sabine, ed., *Memoirs of William Smith,* 263–64.

Robert Ogden to John Hancock [1]

Sir Elizabeth Town, Feby. 10th. 1776

I am ordered by the Committee of Elizabeth Town, to acquaint the Congress of the Capture and State of the Ship, *Blue Mountain Valley,* now lying at Elizabeth Town Point, and to desire particular Directions from the Congress, what is to be done with the said Ship, Cargo, Officers & Seamen.

On Monday, the 22d of January, between eleven & twelve oClock, Lord Stirling with about thirty Men of his Regiment (being near all that were then armed at this Place the rest being at Long Island) set out for Amboy on a secret Enterprise – In the Evening of the same Day, an Express arrived in this Town with a Letter directed to Lord Sterling, and in his Absence to the Chairman of the Committee of this Place, informing, that an armed Vessel with a Detachment of Marines & Seamen was sent off from New York that Day from the Ships of War in New York to the Transport Ship.

On the Chairman's Receipt of this Letter, he immediately called the Committee which met about six oClock in the Evening, and from the Letter & Express, collected & concluded that Lord Sterling left this Place with an Intention to procure a Vessel at Amboy and go in Quest of the Transport Ship which he then thought was in a defenceless Condition, not knowing of the Reinforcement sent from New York, and that if the Intelligence should reach him that Night, he would not be able to procure Vessels & Assistance in Season at Amboy to secure Success and might be repulsed with Loss. – On which the Committee resolved to send a Detachment of an 100 Volunteers in three or four Boats by the way of the Narrows to take, or assist Lord Sterling to take the armed Vessel or Transport of which they immeadiately notified Lord Sterling by an Express; And to encourage Volunteers to enter assured them they should share of the Prize or Prizes according to the Regulations that were or should be made by the Continential Congress. – Volunteers were soon procured, and furneshed by the Committee with Ammunition, Provision, & what Arms were wanting. – Of the Townsmen about 80 and of the Continental Troops about 30. – The Committee also procured three Boats and fitted them in the best Manner the Night & Hurry would admit of. – Between twelve & one OClock at Night the Armament was ready to sail but on Account of the Tide & Ice they could not proceed by the way of the Narrows; they therefore set out with a fair wind by the way of Amboy, where they stopped & called upon Lord Sterling, who with a Boat by him procured for the Purpose & about forty of his Regiment set out with them in Quest of the Ship & armed Vessel. – At Sunrise from the Mast head they descried the Ship at Sea, stood for, met & boarded her without Opposition, at ten OClock in the Morning. – They found her to be a Transport from London with Coals, Porter, Potatoes, Hogs, & Horse Beans designed for the ministerial Troops at Boston commanded by John H. Dempster, Brother to George Dempster Member of Parliment for Dundee &c, in Scotland. – But the armed Vessel by great good Fortune saved herself by returning to New York not having discovered the Ship to the great Disappointment of our People. – Lord Sterling gave the Command of the Ship to Mr [William] Rogers a Sea-Captain, with Orders to proceed for this Place, but being detained by Tide & contrary Winds, on Wednessday near Amboy, The Committee being Apprehensive of an attempt by the Man of War to retake her, on Wednesday Evening sent a Reinforcement of about 80 Men to secure her against any such Attempt and on Friday she arrived in Safety at Elizth Town Point, where she remained under the Care of Lord Sterling gaurded by some of the Troops under his Command untill Teusday Last, when he & his troops were ordered to New York; since which Time she hath been & now is under the Care of the Committee. – By Order of Lord Sterling & the Committee, the Porter & Beans are stored, the Sails & Rigging are taken on Shore; The Potatoes which are cheifly rotten & Coal remain on Board the Ship. – The Capt & Seamen remain Prisoners at large in this Town. – The Committee expected Lord Sterling would have, before this Time, procured the particular Dire[c]tions of the Congress for the Disposition of the Ship & Cargo, but in this they are disappointed and every Thing respecting the Ship is in Suspen[se.] The Hogs remaining being only seven (out of eighty) and the remaining Potatoes they have concluded to sell. – The Coal is in great Demand for making of Arms, and is liable to be destroyed with the Ship by an armed Force which may be despacthed privately in the Night from New York, which is but about fourteen Miles distance. The Seamen who are boarded out by the Committee are uneasy & soliciting the Committee for their Wages, which, they say, were promised by Lord Sterling. – The Capt is anxious to know how long he is to be detained, and the Committee are desirous that he may be soon dismissed & be at Liberty to return Home & inform his Freinds & Countrymen of the Usage he has received from the Americans. –

This, Sir, is the State of Affairs relating to the Store Ship called the *Blue Mountain Valley* taken & brought to this Place. –

The Committe[e] earnestly request that the Congress will immeadiately take the same into Consideration & will fully determine in what Manner the said Ship & Cargo shall be disposed of, and that they will very speedily give Directions particularly, for the same. – That if the Congress shall determine that the Ship & Cargo or any Part thereof shall be distributed among the Captors that they will order very particularly the Manner & Proportion of such Distribution, for which Purpose a List of the Officers & Men as near as the Committee can find is [i]nclosed. – The Committee are also desirous that the Congress will determine what is to be done with the Captain, Officers & Seamen belonging to the said Ship & also respecting their private Property due. – A Bill of the Wages is inclosed. – The Committee are informed & beleive that Lord Sterling soon after taking the Ship assured the Captain & Men that their Property then on Board should be restored to them and that they should receive all their Wages that were then due. – The Captain's Adventure amounts to about one hundred & twenty Pounds sterling, Sixty Pounds of which are insured. The Committee do not know whether that Sum should be allowed him or whether he should be refered for the same to the Insurers in England. They desire Directions from the Congress.

Here is also enclosed a Copy of the Bill of Laden of the Ships Cargo, which among other Things proves the Ships Destination.

The Committee desire you will be pleased to lay this Matter before the Congress immediately & hasten an Answer as soon as possible. I am [&c.]

Robert Ogden Chairman of the Committee of Elizabeth Town

P.S. Since writing the above, the Committee have received from Lord Sterling, a Copy of the Resolves of Congress of the 29th of Jany last, relating to the Ship *Blue Mountain Valley,* but as they then did not fully determine the Matter, they therefore beg the Congress will now resume the Consideration & send their particular Determinations on each Head, which will be chearfully submitted to & give full Satisfaction to all concerned.

A List of the Officers & Men Belonging to the Melitia of Elizabeth Town Who Entered on Board of three Different Shallops as Volunteers in Order to take the Ship *Blue Mountain Valley* Jany 22d 1776 Under the Command of Elias Dayton Coll

1 Elias Dayton Coll
2 Edward Thomas Lieut Coll
3 Oliver Spencer Captain
4 William Britten Captain
5 Francis Barber 1st Lieut
6 Aaron Hatfield 1st Lieut
7 Thomas Morrel 2 Lieut
8 George Everson Quartermaster
9 Smith H[at]field Capt Boat
10 John Thomas Capt Boat
11 John Trail Capt Boat
12 William Barnet Surgeon
13 William Higens Sergt
14 David Ross Sergt
15 Henry Baker Sergt
16 Sall Smith
17 Lewis Blanchard
18 Edmund Thomas
19 Thos Elstone
20 Ephraim Marsh
21 Adam Lee
22 Thomas Quigley
23 [blank] Macarty
24 Henry M'Munagal
25 Price pareel
26 Barny Ogden
27 Timy B. Stout
28 Jos: Meeker Jun[r]
29 Geo: Weeks
30 Edwd Connet
31 Azerrias Beaty
32 David Stewart
33 Dall Craig
34 Thos Lee
35 Stephen Wheeler
36 Farrington price
37 Elijah Woodruff
38 Dall Woodruff
39 Aaron Ogden
40 Edwd Jones
41 Wm Clark
42 Jona: Clark
43 Jona Nichols
44 Sall Mann
45 Silas Freeman
46 Wm Meeker
47 Sall Ogden
48 Gabriel Meeker
49 Jona: Piersons
50 Ellihue Piersons
51 Dall Bo[ute]yt
52 Robt Spencer
53 Wm Ramsden
54 Sall Sealey
55 Sall Lee
56 Thos Hoyt
57 Lewis Woodruff
58 Isaah Gray
59 Willm Livingston Jnr
60 Browst Livingston
61 John Hendrix
62 Sall Morehouse
63 Jacob Carle
64 Benja Woodruff

65 Jonathn Woodruff
66 Benjn Hinds
67 John Gray
68 James Clenehey
69 John Miller
70 John Runyon
71 Nicholas Deane
72 Moses Connet
73 Godfrey Blackney
74 Timy B[a]rns
75 Simon Simonson
76 Richd Miller
77 John Miller 2d

The Above is a True List to the [best] of My Knowledge & Beliefs

Edw^{d} Thomas

Elizth Town F[e]by 9 1776

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1. Papers CC (New Jersey State Papers), 68, 81–89, NA.

“An Account of Wages due to the Captain, Officers Seamen &c of the *Blue Mountain Valley* from the Time of their coming on Board in the River Thames untill the Arrival of the Ship at Elizabeth Town”[1]

		£	S	D
1	J.H.Demps[t]er @ the 1st of October untill the 25 Jany @ 8£ Sterling Pr Month	30	8	0
2	Chief Mate from 25 Septr untill Do [25th January] @ £3..5.0	13	0	0
3	Second Mate from 20th Septr to Do [25th of January] @ 40/	8	6	7
4	Third Do [Mate] from 1st of Octr to Do [25th of January] @ 31/	5	18	6
5	Carpenter from 25th Septr to Do [25th of January] @ £3..5..0	13	0	0
6	Boatswain 1st of Octr to Do [25th of January] @ 40/	7	12	0
7	Steward, from Do [1st of October] to Do [25th of January] @ 31/.	5	18	0
8th	James McKinnon Seaman from 25th of Septr to 25th Jany @ 31/.	6	4	0
9	Alexr Watson for same Time	6	4	0
10	George Wilson for Do	6	4	0
11	James Brice Boy @ 21/. for 4 Months	4	4	0
12	Emanuel Paterson from 10th Octr to 25th Jany @ 31/.	5	8	0
13	Nicholas Eliat for same Time	5	8	0
14	Caligan Bastian for Do	5	8	0
		£123	3	7

The above Persons are all that did belong to the Ship *Blue Mountain Valley* two Prentices Excepted they drawing no wages from the Ship.

The Captn says that their has been paid to the Saylors of the Above Amount. – 23 6 7

[Manifest of the Ship]

Shipped by the Grace of God in good Order & well conditioned by Mure, Son & Atkinson, by order of the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury, in & upon the Good Ship called the *Blue Mountain Valley,* whereof is Master, under God for this present Voyage John H. Dempster and now riding at anchor in the River Thomas, and by Gods Grace bound to Boston – One hundred & seven & a Quarter Chaldron of Coals One hundred

Butts of Porter branded CALVERT One hundred & twelve & a half Quarter of Beans Fifteen Tons, twelve hundred Weight of Potatoes Ten Casks of Sour Krout Eighty Hogs Thirty five Puncheons for water – Which are to be delivered in the like Good Order & Condition (the Danger of the Seas, Mortality of the [blank space] and Consumtion of their Provender only excepted) unto the Commander in Chief of his Majestys Forces in America or to his Order, at the aforesaid Port of Boston, or at any other Port in America which he shall direct, free of Freight. In Witness whereof the Master or Purser of the said Ship hath affirmed to four Bills of Lading all of this teno[r] & Date one of which being accomplished the other three are to stand void. And so God send the good Ship to her desired Port in Safety. Amen.

Dated in London the 30th Day of Septr 1775 –

[1] Papers CC (New Jersey State Papers), 68, 91–93, NA.

NORTH CAROLINA DELEGATES IN THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS TO THE NORTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

Philadelphia 10th Febry 1776.

Honble Gentlemen We had the pleasure of writing to you some time ago by Mr. Goddard surveyor of the Post Office, we now send by the waggon that you directed us to procure (to the care of Saml. Johnston Esquire at Edenton) the Drums, Colours,[2] Fifes, Pamphlets and a quantity of Powder to make up the load, we hope you will receive them safe and doubt not you will cause them to be distributed in such manner as to make them most usefull, we have searched almost every Booksellers shop in this City for pamphlets but have made a poor Collection, few are Written, none read, since the appeal to Arms,

You will please to observe that 400 lb of the Powder is the property of Mr John Cooper with whom you are to account, the remainder, and all the other articles are to be placed to the Credit of the United Colonies and such of them as are expended in their service you will charge to their account, we obtained an order on the Commissary for one Ton of Powder which with the Cash we have received is charged to our Colony, the Waggon cannot carry the whole of it with the other articles, if no good opportunity should offer to send you what remains we shall take care that the Colony has credit for it, If the accounts and Vouchers for the several Articles we have purchased can be had in time they shall be sent herewith, if not, we shall transmit them by the first safe hand as also an account of the sums we may receive from the Public Treasury.

you have herewith sundry resolutions of Congress (part of which have been transmitted before) we beg leave to recommend them to your Serious attention,

The Third Regiment which you are raising and the Vessels of War you are Fitting out will enhance your expenses amazingly, the whole will be too much for your Strength to accomplish, we therefore take the liberty to request of you to forward to us as soon as may be an exact account of your expenditures for the three Battalions on Continental pay and for the Indian Treaty with every other charge that you have against the united Colonies, we also wish to have an exact State of your Army, a particular account of your Navy expence, a State of the Strength and disposition of your minute men and military & what arms, amunition and Cannon may be wanted for the defence of the Province.

we have had very lumping accounts from two or three Colonies, some of our members have made severe animadversions thereon and the Congress has ordered them back for explanation, we entreat you to be very particular in making out your public accounts so that it may be seen at one view how and for what the money has been expended, it is necessary to inform you that no draught on the Treasurers of the United Colonies from any Province or public officer whatever is paid till Congress has inquired into the matter and directed the President to issue his order to the Treasurer and a minute of the whole transaction made on the Journal, when if the sum is for a particular Colony, that Colony is charged with it and is accountable for the expenditure, your own Judgment will point out to you the wisdom of this measure, you will please to direct us what sums of money to apply for and how they shall be remitted.

By the latest accounts from England down to the 17 of November we have reason to apprehend that our Colony will be attacked in the Spring, we submit it to your consideration whether it would not be prudent to call a meeting of the provincial Congress earlier than the first of May that you may be the better enabled to Counteract the wicked designs of the ministry by providing against the Armament intended to destroy your liberties, for further particulars respecting News we refer you to the public papers enclosed.

It is more than probable that the American seas well be covered with Men of War and cutters in the Spring for the purpose of intercepting Vessels and plundering the Shores for provisions, the sea Coast of our Colony is very extensive and may require your notice and attention.

We need not urge to you the Necessity of giving all possible encouragement to the recruiting service till your three Regiments are compleat, to the forming independent Companies where the minute establishment is deficient or not approved, and to the making Arms, Salt Petre and Gunpowder. We are with the greatest respect & esteem Gentlemen [&c.]

Honble Cornelius Hartnett Esqr and the other Members of the Council of Safety of North Carolina.

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1. Hayes Collection, NCDAH.
2. The colors referred to were purchased by Joseph Hewes, from James Wharton, ship chandler, and charged for February 8, 1776. The bill is itemized in James Wharton's Day Book, HSP, and reads:

1 Union Flag 13 Stripes Broad Buntg and 33 feet fly	
143 yards Broad Bunting	14..6..0
19 Do Narrow Do	19.
makg Oznabrigs & thread	1. 14..4
	£16..19..4

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a, 10th Feb'y, 1776.

Upon application of Mr. John Maxwell Nesbitt, paymaster to the Fleet, &ca., for a sum of Money, By order of the Board, an order was drawn in his favour on Michael Hillegas, Esq'r, for Fifteen hundred pounds.

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[1] *Pennsylvania Colonial Records,* X, 481, 482.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO LIEUTENANT ELISHA HINMAN AND OTHER OFFICERS [1]

Gent Men *Alfred* [off Reedy Island] febuy 10: 1776

I Desier you will Come with Capt [Hoysteed] Hacker [2] all the officers and men that are Designd for the Ameracin fleet as I understand you are arived on the Jersey shore [3] Make What Dispatch you Can as the fleet will Saill the fir[s]t wind

Esek Hopkins Cr in Cheff

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[1] Harbeck Collection, HUL.

[2] Hacker, on January 20, had been transferred from the brig *Cabot* to command of the fleet tender, the sloop *Fly*.

[3] That this letter was addressed to Lieutenant Hinman and the other two officers, who had sailed from New London on January 19 in the sloop *Lizard* with eighty-two Connecticut enlisted men for the fleet, is a logical conjecture. Apparently the *Lizard* had rough sailing and put into an inlet on the New Jersey coast earlier in February. Word was then sent to Hopkins of their whereabouts, and the sloop *Fly* was dispatched down the bay to pick them up for the fleet. They probably did not arrive until the fleet had anchored within Cape Henlopen on February 13. The men were distributed among the various vessels. Of the three officers, Lieutenant Jonathan Maltbie was attached to the *Alfred* immediately upon his arrival, and Hinman was sent to the *Cabot* to succeed Hacker as first lieutenant. The immediate disposition of the third officer, David Phipps, master, is not in evidence.

DR. C. F. WIESENTHAL TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

[Extract] Balt Town Febry 10th 1776

Gentlemen According to Your Orders I have examind and received into my Care the Medicins and Shop of Doctr Stenhouse for the Use of the Troops, the invoice of which I have thought requisite to inclose for Your Examination – The Medicins are all of good Quality, and Saleable in Case they should not be wanted the Price is less than what Medicins at present Sell for, and that considerable, . . .

. . . I have likewise taken some necessary Surgeons Instruments which likewise enhanced the Sum. Upon the whole it is my Opinion that if the War should continue and consequantly our Troops take the field we shall find abundantly use for these Medicins and not have enough, but should we be So happy as to conclude a peace and not want many of the Medicins they will allways bring the Money laid out again, another Consideration is that the Ship *Defense* will most certainly want a Considerable Chest and as it can be Supply'd from this Shop will take off a good deal thereof. I have the honour to be [&c.]

C Wiesenthal

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[1] Red Book, XV, Md. Arch.

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

[Annapolis] Saturday [10] Feby. 1776.

Copy of Letter No 13 was sent to Mr Wm Spear of Baltimore Town.

Instructions & sailing Orders were given to Captain Thomas Moore of the Brig *Fortune*.

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[1] Council of Safety Journal, 29 August 1775 to 20 March 1777, Md. Arch.

EDMUND PENDLETON TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

Gent Wmsburg Feb 10th 1776.

We think it our indispensible duty to inform you that a 50 gun man of war is just arrived & lying with the *King Fisher* & several Tenders off old Fort Point below Hampton what ship or from whence she came, we have not yet discovered [2] we are [&c.]

By order of the Commee. Edm^{d} Pendleton.

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[1] Correspondence of Council of Safety, Md. Arch.

[2] H.M.S. *Roebuck,* 44 guns.

MINUTES OF THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

[Williamsburg] Saturday, 10th February.

A Letter wrote to the committee of safety of Maryland to advise them of the arrival of a 50-Gun man-of-war.

Ord., a warrant to John Sandford for use of George Mason and John Dalton for £1000 on account for furnishing prov's and necessaries for sundry vess.

A Letter wrote to the Virginia Delegates in Congress, intimating the arrival of a 50-Gun man-of-war.

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[1] *Virginia State Papers,* VIII, 80, 81.

PURDIE'S *Virginia Gazette,* FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1776 [1]

Williamsburg, Saturday Feb. 10.

Col. [Patrick] Henry received the following letter last night by express from Col. [William] Grayson at Hampton: "Yesterday the *Kingfisher* went down towards the capes, and this morning she returned, in company with a fifty gun ship and some tenders. They are all now at anchor, just below the light house."

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[1] Although the masthead of this issue appears as February 9, it is apparent that the paper was not published until the following day, as evidenced by the above date line.

DIXON AND HUNTER'S *Virginia Gazette,* SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1776

Williamsburg, Feb. 10.

A Schooner from Salem, and another from Ipswich, both in ballast, the latter with 200£ on board, in continental dollars, were taken last Tuesday, by two tenders, and carried into the harbour of Norfolk. They were bound in here for corn.[1]

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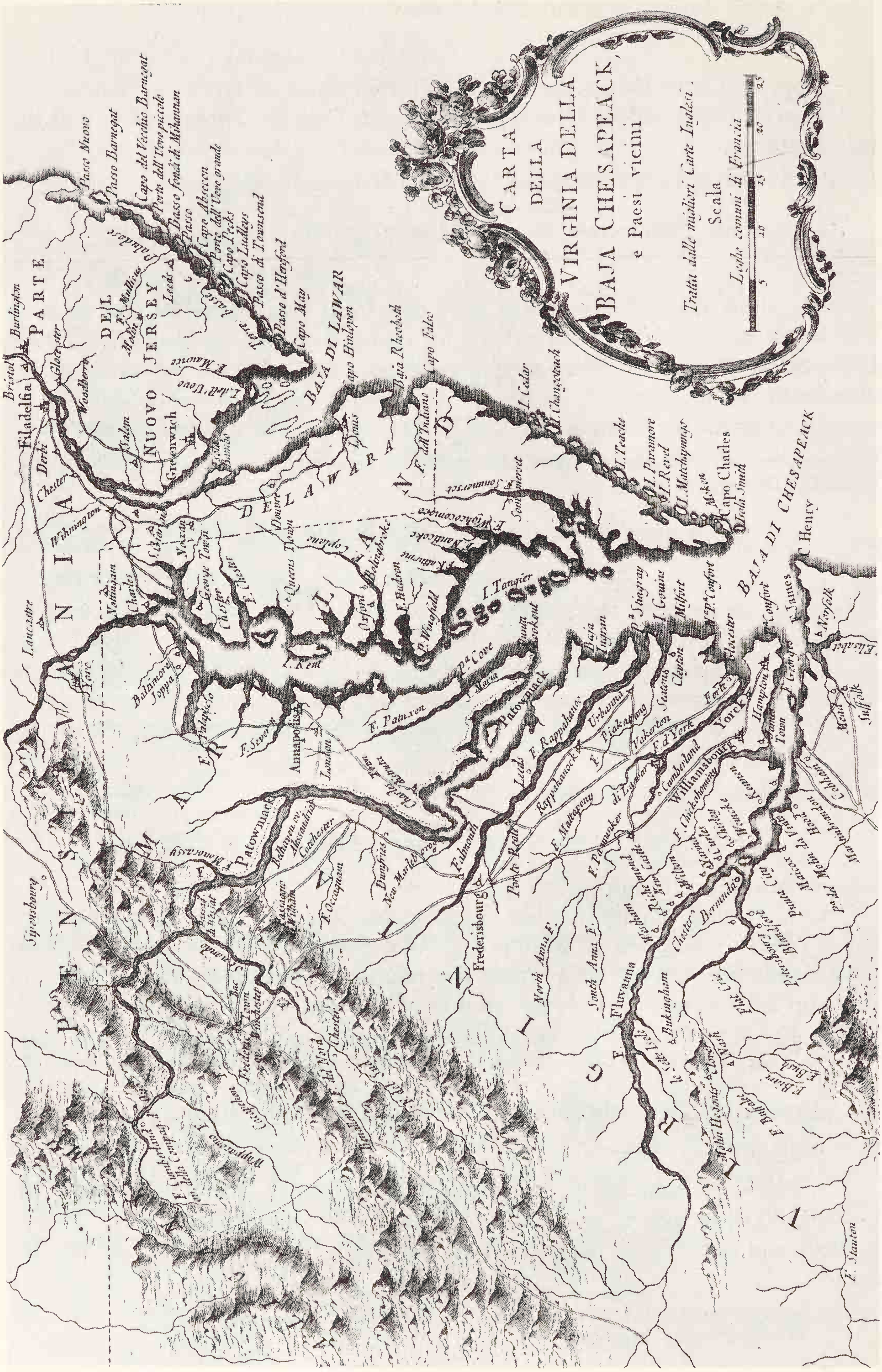
[1] The schooner from Salem was the *Polly*. See Pinkney's *Virginia Gazette,* February 3, 1776. The other has not been identified.


CARTA
DELLA
VIRGINIA DELLA
BAJA CHESAPEACK,
e Paesi vicini
Tratta dalle migliori Carte Inglesi.
Scala
Leghe communi di Francia
5
10
15
20
25
PARTE DEL NUOVO JERSEY
PENSILVANIA
MARYLAND
VIRGINIA
DELAWARA
BAJA DI LAWAR
BAJA DI CHESAPEACK
Filadelfia
Burlington
Bristol
Chester
Wilmington
Lancastre
Yorck
Baltimore
Joppa
Annapolis
F. Patuxen
Patowmack
F. Rappahanoc
F. d' York
Williamsbourg
Hampton
Norfolk
Suffolk
Fredericksbourg
Falmouth
Alexandria
Fluvanna
I. Kent
I. Tangier
Capo Charles
C. Henry
Capo May
Capo Hinlopen
Capo Fales
Baja Rhobott
Passo Nuovo
Passo Barnegat
Capo del Vecchio Barnegat
Porto dell'Uovo piccolo
Passo fondo di Mohannan
Capo Absecon
Porto dell'Uovo grande
Capo Pecks
Capo Ludlows
Passo di Townsend
Passo d'Hereford
Greenwich
Salem
F. Sommerset
Point Comfort
Gloucester
Cumberland
Bermuda
F. Stauton

Journal of H.M.S. *Liverpool,* Captain Henry Bellew [1]

Febry 1776 Off Norfolk in Virginia

Saturdy 10 AM ariv'd Here our Tender [2] with a Brig from London bound to Jameses River suspected to be the property of a Rebel.

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1. PRO, Admiralty 51/548.
2. *Ibid.,* the tender *Edward* had sailed on her fourth cruise on February 7, 1776. There is no record of the brig from London on the prize lists of Shuldham and Howe, so probably she was discharged.

Captain Andrew Snape Hamond, R.N., to Captain Francis Parry, R.N.[1]

Sir *Roebuck* at Virginia the 10th Feby 1776

Having received the enclosed Copy of a letter from Vice Admiral Graves containing some intelligence, I have thought it necessary to acquaint you therewith:

If you should be able to procure any Pilots for the River Delawar I should be glad you would send them to me here. I am [&c.]

A S Hamond

Captain Parry of His Majesty's Sloop
the *Cruizer* North Carolina

1. Hamond Letter Book, 1771–1777, UVL.

"Extract of a letter from Jamaica, dated February 10, 1776." [1]

The times here are very troublesome; all the European ships are taking in cannon, fearing to be attacked by our privateers cruizing off the Banks of Newfoundland for them; the French seem to be much in favour of the Americans, likewise one third of this island at least. This town has been in confusion, these two days past, occasioned by the arrival of the *Squirrel*; Capt. [Stair] Douglas, who brings intelligence that he spoke with 3 sail, being part of a French fleet, together with a number of transports, amounting to 17,000 men, bound for Hispaniola; another account says that 9 sail of the line, with the above number of men, had actually arrived.

The Admiral's barge stopt here this moment, and confirms the above, as also two Frenchmen that have just been examined. This town is in much the same situation as Newport was upon receiving the account of the Lexington battle. It is reported that martial law will be read on Monday morning; the Council have been sitting these two days. The Admiral's ship, and the *Squirrel,* are all the force here – No flour in this island but what is musty and hard; the newest being 6 months old.

1. *Pennsylvania Gazette,* April 24, 1776.

Vice Admiral James Young to Major General William Howe [1]

(A Copy) English Harbour Antigua 10th February 1776.

Sir, I had the honour to receive your Letter of the 24th December last the 1st Instant by Captain Otta, who came Passenger from Barbadoes in a Tender belonging to the Squadron under my Command, which then happened to be waiting the arrival of the Packet from England to bring my dispatches from thence; He also brought me Letters from Captain [B.C.] Payne and Lieutenant [Henry] Chads, with Copy of your Instructions to those Gentlemen.[2] They are not yet arrived at Antigua, but I find are purchasing at Barbadoes what provisions &c. they can meet with; Captain Payne says He expects He shall be able to purchase there some hundred barrels of Beef, and about one hundred Puncheons of Rum, and when he gets the same on board will immediately proceed to join me at this place. – The moment I received your Letter, I sent an Express to the Contractors for Victualing the Navy on this Station; and directed them to buy up all the Provisions they can lay their Hands on, for the use of His Majesty, out of which I will spare for the use of the Kings Troops at Boston as much as possible can be done without distressing the Squadron under by Command; but I am Sorry to find there is very little to be purchased at this Island beside Flour, of that at present there is plenty, and if Captain Payne thinks a further Supply of that Specie wanting (besides what the Victualers here have on board) I will order purchase thereof.

The Victualing Transports from England for the Port of Boston (named in the within List) have by Stress of Weather been forced into this Island, some of them in very bad Condition. The two which wanted least repairs I have got refitted, and dispatch them forthwith to you, under Convoy of the *Viper* Sloop, Captain Samuel Graves, who has been also blown off the Coast of America and is just now refitted. I hope they will arrive safe and afford present relief till the others can be got ready and sent after them. at present having no Ship belonging to this Station at hand I could not send a stronger Convoy with them, therefore should not think it prudent to risque more of the Victualers with the *Viper,* had they been ready for Sea.

His Majesty's Ship *Experiment* of 50 Guns, Commanded by Captain Robert Keeler is at this Port, having likewise been blown off from the American Coast, with both her lower Masts Sprung. I am using all possible dispatch to refit her, and hope to effect it in about three Weeks, When I shall Order Captain Keeler to take the remaining Victualing Transports &c. under his care and protection, and Convoy them to Boston: I am Sorry to acquaint you the live Stock which were put on board these Vessels for the refreshment of the Troops are mostly dead on the Passage, a few Hogs only excepted and the Vegetables such as Potatoes &c. were all rotten and became a Nuisance on board. – therefore have been Surveyed, Condemned and thrown over board. I must further acquaint you that four Companies of the 55th Regiment came in here about three Weeks since in the *Enterprize* Transport, she having lost all her Masts. I have got the Troops accomodated in the Barracks on this Island, during their Stay and have Victualed them with the remains of the Provisions they brought out in the Transport; as said Transport has received so such damage, I do not mean to keep them here till she can be repaired, but divide them among the different Victualers, and send them under Convoy of the *Experiment,* whose Captain will take on board a part of them.

Believe [me] Sir, it gives me much concern to perceive by your Letter the Kings Army at Boston, are likely to encounter such Strong necessities, and I sincerely wish it lay in my power to remove all their difficulties, but this at present is a very bad place to get assistance at, of the kind you need, however as these Victualers are well filled with the most necessary Species of Provisions, I hope they will arrive safe and prevent the Troops immediate Wants, and flatter myself the Remaining Victualers with what we can otherwise purchase here to put on board your Transports will arrive in a short time and afford a more ample Relief to the Army. – Should you hereafter have any Commands in this Country, that I can execute, be assured I shall take great pleasure in performing them. I most ardently wish you Success, and have the honour to be Sir [&c.]

Jam^s Young.

P.S. Your Transport, the *Diana* was not arrived at Barbadoes the 30th January, the time Captain Payne and Lieutenant Chads wrote me from thence.

His Excellency Major General Howe
Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Forces in America.

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1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.
2. Payne and Chads had arrived January 29, 1776 in the *Hartfield*, transport. See their letters of January 30, 1776.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM [1]

(A Copy) English Harbour Antigua, 10th February 1776.

Sir. Having received an Express a few days since from Major General [William] Howe, representing the low State of their Magazines of Provisions for the Army at Boston, and requesting my assistance to procure them a Speedy Supply from this Country, and as the several Victualing Transports from England for the Port of Boston (named in the inclosed List) have been forced into this Island by Stress of Weather, some of them in a very bad Condition. I have got two of them which wanted least repairs refitted, and dispatch them immediately to Boston, under Convoy of the *Viper* Sloop, Captain Samuel Graves (one of your Squadron) who has been also blown off the American Coast, and is just refitted at this Port. I hope these will arrive safe at Boston, and afford present relief to the Army. The remainder of the Victualers I expect to get ready for Sea in about three Weeks, and propose sending them under Convoy of His Majesty's Ship *Experiment* (another of your Squadron) blown off the Coast with her Main and Foremasts Sprung. I am using all possible dispatch to get her refitted and hope to effect it by the time abovenamed.

With great pleasure I embrace this opportunity to Congratulate you on the very important Command the King has appointed you to, and ardently wish you Success and honour therein. If I can execute any Commands you may have in this Country, I hope you will acquaint me therewith. I have the honour to be [&c.]

Jam^s Young.

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1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

11 Feb. (Sunday)

BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID WOOSTER TO THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS [1]

Gentlemen Montreal 11th Feby 1776

This Letter will be delivered you by Mr [Thomas] Walker and Mr [James] Price two Gentlemen whose Friendship and Attachment to our Cause is well known and to whom the United Colonies are under many Obligations. – As they are the best acquainted with this Province of perhaps any two Gentlemen in it and as there are many Transactions of great Importance to be determined concerning it, I have requested them to wait upon the Congress that you may know from them fully every thing necessary for your Information.

I have permitted the Merchants in this Place Trading to the Upper Country to chuse a Committee to profer a Petition to the Honorable the Congress concerning their Indian Trade, you will hear from them and from Messrs Walker and Price what can be said for and against it, and your Determination in that and every other Matter I shall strictly attend to – Besides the Operation of War there are so many Civil & Political Affairs that require the greatest Care and most Delicate Management that I could wish a Committee of Congress might be sent into this Province.

General Arnold has in a most surprising Manner kept up the Blockade of Quebec & that with half the Number of the Enemy he is now so well reinforced that I apprehend but little Danger from a Sortie should they make one. I intend to Join him as soon as this place can be left with Safety & necessaries properly Provided for forwarding the Troops as they arrive from the Colonies. I fear we shall meet with Difficulty in taking the place for want of proper Artillery, Amunition, &c but every thing possible will be done. Unless we keep up a greater Force in this Province from the Colonies than should be brought against us in the Spring, I fear we can place no great dependance upon the Canadiens & in that Case it might be attended with very unhappy if not fatal Consequences – How great a force the Ministry will send here is uncertain yet many Imagine they will make this Province the Seat of War. I hope we shall be able to keep the Field against them.

I enclose you Copies of several Letters to General Schuyler with a couple of his to me – He writes me that he has observed to Congress that I had wrote him with unbecoming Subacis I think he might have pointed out to me the Exceptionable parts of my Letters before he made his Observations to Congress. It gives me Pain that I am obliged in my own Defence to trouble you with Examining & Determining which of us has the greatest reason to Complain of ill Treatment. I am Conscious that my Conduct will bear the Strictest Scrutiny. I have ever studiously avoided entering into any Altercation with him fearing that the Public Interest might suffer by it, he began to Insult me immediately on my Joining the Army as you will see by his Letter of the 23d Octo last though I know no reason under heaven why he should treat me thus Cavalierly but merely to Indulge his Capricious Humour which in the Course of the last Year he has dealt out very liberally upon many of the Officers who have served in this Department complaints of which have frequently been made to me. happy would it be for him and for our Cause if he would learn to Bridle his Passions. The Letters between him and me will speak for themselves I shall send him a Copy of this Letter and also Inclose with this a Copy of my Letter to him of this Date – No Personal Ill treatment will ever prevent my steadily and Invariably continuing to pursue those Measures which shall appear most Conducive to the Public Good and I shall think myself happy if by doing every thing in my Power I can be in the least Instrumental in maintaining and preserving the Rights and Liberties of my Country. I am [&c.]

Dav^{d} Wooster

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1. Papers CC (Letters from General Officers), 161, II, 265–66, NA.

BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID WOOSTER TO MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER [1]

Sir

Montreal Feby 11 1776.

Your Letter of the 26th Ulto I have received In Answer to which give me Leave to observe to You, that I also claim a Right to be treated with the Respect due to me as a Gentleman and an Officer intrusted with a Command from the Honorable the Representatives of thirteen Colonies; Why Sir, are these positive Mandates? Have I ever disputed your Orders? Since I have been in the Army I have exerted every Faculty to promote a Union among the Officers and have carefully avoided Every Thing that might have the least Tendency to cause Jealousies, In short Sir I have steadily and invariably pursued those Measures that appeared to me conducive to the true Interest of our Country. How ungenerous therefore is It that an Advantage should be taken of my conciliating Disposition, Yet You will pardon me If I misjudge; I cannot account for your Imperious Conduct towards me, upon any other Principle, You will remember your Letter to me while I was at St Johns founded in Falsehood and which You could have no other Motive for Writing but to insult Me, I thought It at that Time not worth answering & shall at present take no further Notice of It, I shall however send a Copy of It to Congress & of your last Letter together with Copies of my own, Except the one You observe was wrote with unbecoming Subacity, that is somehow mislaid & I shall be obliged to You If You will forward It. – I can remember Nothing in It either disrespectful or Subacid and being confident Nothing of that Nature was intended, I presume the Congress will find that It is not expressed.– As You have already complained to the Honorable the Congress, I have thought It my Duty to shew them what has passed between Us and they will judge which of Us has the greatest Reason to complain of Ill Treatment.– For the present let the Matter rest: They will doubtless do Justice. This is no Time to altercate, the whole of our Time is little enough to attend to the Operations absolutely necessary for the Defence of our Country. –

You will give me Leave to inform You that the Commanding Officer who is with this Army is to give out Orders & is the Only competent Judge of what is proper & what Not for the internal Regulation of the Army & for the immediate safety of this Country, Since the Death of the Worthy and brave General Montgomery (with whom I had the Happiness to serve in the strictest Harmony &

Friendship & who ever treated me like a Gentleman) the Command devolves upon me & I shall give out such Orders as appear to me necessary for the Public Good; And shall send out of the Country all Prisoners & such Persons as may be thought dangerous to our Cause as soon as It can be done with Convenience.

The Returns of the Army shall be made out & transmitted to You. I shall also take Care that Your Orders to General Montgomery are executed as far as is possible. – I shall do Every Thing in my Power to carry into Execution every Resolve of the Congress. –

Mr. Jordan has accepted the Bills for five hundred Dollars, when It is paid I shall Credit the Public.

I mentioned to You in a former Letter that I thought It very necessary that an Artillery Company as well as Artillery Stores &ca should be sent into this Country, should be glad to hear whether they can be spared from the Colonies or Not & what Assistance of what Nature we may expect. I shall send a Copy of this Letter to Congress & shall also inclose with this a Copy of my Letter to Congress, If there are any Misrepresentations You will have an Opportunity to correct them. – I am Sir [&c.]

Dav^{d} Wooster

P.S. I will just Observe further that I think It would have been much more Generous in You to have pointed Out to me the Exceptionable part of my Letters before You complained to Congress.

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, I, 556–58, NA.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

Die Solis, 10 HO. A. M. Feb. 11th, 1776.

This Committee observing that the cannon and military stores on and near the battery are now under removal to other parts of the city, and knowing that this transaction, both in its design and execution, is without the consent of this Committee, and even without their knowledge, otherwise than as discovered from the transaction itself, and as, perhaps, such a removal may bring on a firing upon the city from the ships of war in this port, which may greatly endanger the public records of this Colony, this Committee is fully of opinion that the publick records ought to be immediately removed to a place of greater safety than that in which they now are: Therefore,

Ordered, That the said public records of this Colony, together with Saml. Bayard, Junr. Esqr. the Deputy Secretary of this Colony, be forthwith conveyed, under a proper guard of the militia of the city of New-York to the dwelling house of Nichs. Bayard, Esqr. alderman of the out ward of the said city, and be there securely kept under such guard until further order of the Provincial Congress of this Colony, or of this Committee of Safety. And the said guard are hereby expressly required to permit the said Saml. Bayard, Junr. Esqr. to have continual access to and the direction of the said records, except that he and every other person be prevented from removing them, or any of them, from the place where they are hereby ordered to be deposited, until the further order of the Provincial Congress or of this Committee. And,

Ordered, That Col. [John] Lasher be requested to furnish a proper guard, and see this order executed.

Ordered further, That Col. Lasher fix on such officers and company of his regiment for this and any other duty that may be directed, as he shall think proper, and report the same to this Committee, the Committee hereby giving assurance that provision will be made for the pay and subsistance of such company equal to the Continental establishment while continued in service.

3 ho. P.M. February 11th, 1776.

Col. [Abraham] Lott came to the Committee and informed that the *Mercury,* sloop of war, and the two transports which sailed with her, are anchored near Staten Island; that he met several suspicious persons passing from Powle's Hook toward Killvankull ferry; that he was informed by a person near Killvankull that he apprehended that the ship of war and transports will commit depredations on the stock there. The Committee are of opinion that the most effectual measures to prevent such depredations, is to [write to] the committee of Elizabeth Town to request them to send a parcel of men to protect the stock on Staten Island from depredations.

In Committee of Safety,
New-York, Feb. 11th, 1776.

Gentlemen – The *Mercury,* ship of war, with two transports under her convoy, are departed from this city this afternoon, and we are well informed, that they are anchored near Staten island.

We are apprehensive that they intend to commit depredations on the stock on Staten island. We applied to the Provincial Congress of your Colony yesterday, requesting that Col. Herd [Nathaniel Heard] with some of his troops should be sent to the island for a few days, and sent that letter by Col. Herd. We are apprehensive that Col. Herd will come too late to prevent any attempt that may be made to take off the stock. We, therefore, earnestly request you, on receipt hereof, to despatch a part of your militia to such parts of the island where it is most likely any attempts of that kind may be made, to guard the island until the said vessels are gone off or Col. Herd can arrive to their relief.

If their design should be such as we suspect, they may perhaps be able to land about 200 men.

Please to inform Col. Herd of this intelligence, and your proceedings in the premises.

We are, respectfully, gentlemen [&c.]
By order of the Committee.

To the Chairman and Members of the Committee, Elizabeth Town.

Ordered, That a copy thereof be engrossed, and signed by the Chairman, and transmitted by express.

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1 *New York Provincial Congress,* I, 291.

MEMOIRS OF WILLIAM SMITH [1]

[New York] Sunday 11 Feby [1776]

The whole Town was alarmed with the Removal of all the Cannon from the Fort and Battery to the Fields – Carts were imployed for the Stores & Ammunition & the Cannon drawn by Hands with an astonishing Uproar & shouting & the Work continued all Day long with an almost intire neglect of all public Worship. The Multitude expected every Moment a Firing from the Ships. The Wind was at West and the Tide flowing up till the latter Part of the Afternoon so that the Ships could not come round till the Ebb when a Tender fell down took a View and returned & with a speaking Trumpet informed the *Phoenix* that they were removing the Cannon and 3000 Men were at Work. This was a Finess for their laying quiet all the Morning tho' the Eastern Docks were lined with Soldiers & the Noise undoubtedly heard. The *Asia* & *Phoenix* now unmoored & the *Mercury* with General Clinton & two Transports put out to Sea, but the Wind rising at North West the two Station Ships let go their Anchors in the same Ground. – About Midday Lord Stirling stepped into my House & boasted of his having the Conduct of this Business & applauded himself for transacting it in open Day at least alarming to the Inhabitants but I withheld my Confidence in the Message from Mr. Tryon & let [f]all no Reproaches for distressing the Town at such an intemperate Season because found the attempt to perswade People to continue at Home was ill taken by the Committee.

Mr [William] Axtel informed me yesterday that he hinted to Mr Tryon a Design of removing the Cannon and knew his Resolution to bear it [John Tabor] Kempe came into the Cabbin & on hearing the Conversation exulted with a then the Ball will begin, expressing great Pleasure in the expected Attack. Axtel turned upon him with a Reproof of his Inhumanity – I am surprised Sir to see you pleased – You may be safe but there are 16000 Souls in that Town in Danger who can neither prevent the removal nor firing of the Cannon – He went all silent and ashamed – I was shocked says Axtel at the Cruelty of the Fellow who was as gay at the Thought of an Attack as a giddy Girl at the Invitation to a Dance. – These Times try all Characters!

The Day after Mr. [Henry] Clinton arrived there was a Conference on Board of the *Dutchess of Gordon* between him the Govr. [Hyde] Parker [George] Vandeput [James] Drummond and [Andrew] Elliot and as they have now born patiently the levying of Men seizing Stores & will bear the Erection of Works I imagine it is from a Perswasion that Administration mean to save the accessible Towns till their Overtures are Tried. And that if Clinton has not communicated the Intelligence they rely upon Lord Drummond's suggestions – I saw this Company collect from the Coffee House Bridge & knew from [James] Jauncey Junr. that Elliot was sent for before he came down there where he waited some Time for Ld Drummond.

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[1] Sabine, ed., *Memoirs of William Smith,* 264–65.

MAJOR GENERAL CHARLES LEE TO JOHN HANCOCK [1]

[Extract] New York Febry the 11th 1776

Sir As the North River is now intirely clear of ice I thought it imprudent to suffer the cannon and other stores to remain any longer upon the Battery and in yards at the very water edge from whence the Ships of War Might have convey'd [th]em at their pleasure, as it would have been impossible to have obstructed their Manoeuvres almost within the Very [muz]zles of their guns – this day therefore I ordered the whole to be remov'd to the ground before the upper Barracks it was effected without the least opposition or shew of opposition from the Ships – indeed I even consider'd their menaces to fire upon the Town as idle gasconades – inclosd is a list of the Pieces and their appurtenances – the *Mercury* Frigate, the Transport and Brig, are saild, if your Fleet was out They must certainly fall into your hands . . .

1. Papers CC (Letters from General Officers), 158, I, 17, NA.

GOVERNOR WILLIAM TRYON TO LORD DARTMOUTH [1]

No. 33. Ship *Dutchess of Gordon*
My Lord off New York 11th Febry 1776

The enclosures are on the Subject of the Seizure made by Lord Sterling of the Transport *Green Mountain Valley* [2] [John Hamilton] Dempster Master. – By the Mates Deposition, and the Masters staying with a fair Wind for Boston, Twenty four Hours longer on the Coast than he had agreed upon with the Mate, and afterwards suffer his Vessel to be boarded and Seized by several Boats, when he was Seven or Eight Leagues off the Jersey Shore, carry's the appearance of carelessness, if no more. The Mate and Master had the benefit I hear of their private Venture's each, Cheese and Bottled Porter. The Master treated with kindness and respect by the Inhabitants of Elizabeth Town, where His Vessel is laid up. – The Mate is kept Prisoner on Board the *Asia*. I am with the greatest Respect My Lord [&c.]

Wm Tryon

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/1107, 363.
2. Tryon mixed his mountains and his colors, the transport was the *Blue Mountain Valley*.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Phoenix*, CAPTAIN HYDE PARKER, JR.[1]

February 1776 Moor'd in the East River Abreast the Town of New York

Sunday 11 Modt Breezes & Clear with Frost in the latter part P M Saild hence His Majesty's Ship the *Mercury* wth the *Kitty* Transport and a Brig. Cast off all our fast's hove up the Sheet Anchor and hove off on the Best Bower into the Stream and moord Ship with the Bower abreast of the Fly Market. Unbent the Cable from the Spare Anchor.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/693.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Asia,* CAPTAIN GEORGE VANDEPUT [1]

February '776	Moor'd in the East River
Sunday 11	Light Breezes & Frosty Wr Sail'd hence His Majesty's Ship *Mercury* with two Transports. Unmoor'd & hove off to the Outer Anchors.

[1] PRO, Admiralty 51/67.

JOSEPH HEWES TO SAMUEL JOHNSTON [1]

Dear Sir Philadelphia 11th Febry 1776

I have got a waggon made, have purchased four good Horses and expected to have sent them off on yesterday but when I went to examine the Powder in the Magazine I found to my surprise there was none but Cannon powder and that very coarse & orderly not fit for musketry knowing the greatest part that is wanted for our province ought to be musket powder I thought it best to detain the Waggon till such could be obtained, Seven Tons of such I hear is in a Vessel below and will be up as soon as the Ice will suffer anything to pass I hope in a few days to get the Waggon away, the horses come pretty high, two of them $50 each, the other two 35 each, they are all bays & young

Our friend Hooper has taken an Opprty when he could be best spared from Congress to fly to the Camp at Cambridge to see his mother who has lately got out of Boston he has been gone about ten days and will return as soon as possible he desired me to put his name to any letter I should write to the Provincial Council I believe he would not wish they should know he was absent

Late last night I received a letter from him dated at New York the 6th he seems greatly alarmed at the intelligence he had received there and urged very pressingly the necessity of sending of[f] an express to you, the substance of the information he gave and what has been recd since he left it you will find in our Letter to the Council which you have herewith, the Anxiety of my worthy friend for the safety, honor & happiness of our Province, and for his dearest connections there I imagine has induced him to paint things in the strongest colours to me however I wish there may not be too much truth in his suggestions, all are from England seem to agree that we shall have a dreadful storm bursting on our heads thro' all America in the Spring, we must not shrink from it we ought not to shew any simptons of fear, the nearer it approaches and the greater the sound the more fortitude and calm steady firmness we ought to possess, if we mean to defend our liberties our dearest rights & privileges against the power of Britain to the last extremity we ought to bring ourselves to such a temper of mind as to stand unmoved at the bursting of an Earthquake – altho the storm thickens I feel myself quite composed I have furnished myself with a good musket & Bayonet and when I can no longer be useful in Council I hope I shall be willing to take the field, I think I had rather fall there than be carried off by a lingering illness, in this I am nearly of the same opinion of the French General who Confined a long time by sickness to his bed, on hearing the Duke of Berwick was killed by a Cannon Ball, he exclaimed, great God, how unfortunate I am, Berwick was always a lucky fellow

1. Hayes Manuscripts, NCDAH. Letter continued February 13, 1776.

Andrew Doria Journal [1]

Sunday Feby 11th At 10 A M Cast off from the Pierse in Company with all the Fleet, and on Tuesday the 13th was Join'd, by the Sloop *Hornet* Schoner *Wasp,* Arm'd Vessels from Baltimore, Within Cape Henlopen, where all the Fleet Anchor'd in Holekill road where we lay till the 18th

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

Commissioned Officers of the First Continental Fleet [1]

[Delaware Capes, February 11] [2]

Ship *Alfred*	
Dudley Saltonstall	Commander
John Paul Jones	1st lieut
Benja Seabury	2nd do
John Fanning	3rd do
Ship *Columbus*	
Abram Whipple	Commander
Rhodes Arnold	1st lieut
Joseph Olney	2nd do
Ezekiel Burroughs	3rd do
Brigt *Andrea Doria*	
Nicholas Biddle	Commander
James Josiah	1st lieut
Elijah Warner	2nd lieut
Jno McDougall	3rd do
Brigt *Cabot*	
John B Hopkins	Commander
Hoisted Hacker	1st lieut
Thomas Weaver	2nd do
Danl Vaughan	3rd do
Sloop *Providence*	
John Hazard	Commander
Jonathan Pitcher	1st lieut
John Rathbun	2nd do

1. Hayes Manuscripts, NCDAH.
2. The date is arbitrary. Rathbun was assigned to the *Providence* on February 10, 1776. According to the Journal of the *Andrew Doria,* the fleet sailed from Reedy Island on the morning of February 11, 1776. From the same source, it appears that the *Hornet* and *Wasp,* from Baltimore, joined the fleet within the Delaware Capes on February 13, 1776. Hence, the date could not have been prior to February 10, nor later than February 12, or otherwise the officers of the two vessels from Baltimore would have been listed.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO WILLIAM SPEAR [1]

No 13. [Annapolis] Feby 11th 1776

Sir We are sorry to hear of the Seisure of the Vessels you mention in your's of the 7th, however we hope the Report about [William] Neil's Schooner may not be true – [2] as we may probably think of giving some further Instructions to your Captain, we shall take it as a Favor, if when he comes down, you will accompany him.

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[1] Council of Safety Letter Book, No. 1, 1776, Md. Arch.

[2] The schooner *Nancy,* seized off St. Eustatius.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

In the Council of Safety,
[Charleston] Sunday noon, Feb. 11th, 1776.

Capt. Joseph Turpin having attended according to order, and been conferred with respecting the command of the brigantine *Comet,*

Resolved, That Capt. Joseph Turpin be appointed to the command of the colony brigantine *Comet.*

And a commission was made out accordingly, signed, dated this day, and delivered to Capt. Turpin.

Ordered, That Capt. Turpin do immediately take the command of the brigantine *Comet,* examine and make a return to this Board of her state and condition, and use the utmost diligince in fitting her for service.

Capt. Simon Tufts, commander of the colony scooner *Defence,* returned yesterday from a cruize, attended, and made a report thereof.

Ordered, That Capt. Tufts do take on board two months provisions, and kept his vessel in constant readiness to put to sea.

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[1] *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society,* III, 255–56.

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12 Feb.

BRIGADIER GENERAL BENEDICT ARNOLD TO JOHN HANCOCK [1]

Dear Sir, Camp Before Quebec, Febry 12. 1776

My last was of the 1st of Febry since which nothing has occurred worth Notice, except Several Desertions from the Garrison, who are much Distresed for Fuel, and must soon burn their houses and Shipping; – they are at short allowance of Provisions, and obliged to mount guard every Other Night, which has made great uneasiness Among the Seamen, who are the Principal part of the Garrison. –

I have Just received the Resolves of the Honble Ct Congress, as late as 10th of Janry and Beg leave to present them my respectful Compts and sincere thanks for the Honble mark of esteem they have been pleased to Confer on me, which I shall study to deserve.[2] –

The multiplicity of Accounts which daily arise here, and many which originated In the life of Genl [Richard] Montgomery, togather with those of the Commissaries & Quarter Masters, (which in my Opinion ought often to be adjusted) as well as those of Colo [James] Livingstons Regt and many Others, (which are Intricate) and do not imediately Fall under any particular Department, renders It imposable for a Commanding Officer to pay that attention to them which they deserve and at the same time do his duty as a soldier, I have therefore to request that the Honble C. Congress, would take into their Consideration, the Directing the Paymaster to Adjust those Accounts, or appointing a Committe for that Purpose, who, I make no doubt, would find full employment, prevent Many Frauds, and greatly accelerate the Publick business

We have been reinforced with Only One hundred & seventy five Men, our whole force is about Eight hundred effective Men, we have about two hundred, Sick & unfit for Duty, Near Fifty of them with the Small Pox, the Canadians, in most of the Parishes, inocu[late] For their Own Safety. – I am with great esteem, Dr Sir [&c.]

Benedt Arnold

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1. Papers CC (Letters from General Officers), 162, I, 64–65, NA.
2. Congress promoted Arnold to Brigadier General on January 10, 1776.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Hunter,* CAPTAIN THOMAS MACKENZIE [1]

Febry 1776 Remarks &c in Quebec

Mondy 12 Fresh Breezes with hard frost p m the Rebels sent a flag of Truce to the Wall with Letters for the Governor who would not receive them the thanks of the Governor to all the Officers & Men of the Garrison for their strict Attention to the duty of the Garrison this severe Weather –

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1. PRO, Admiralty 51/466.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM MONTREAL, DATED FEB. 12." [1]

Quebec is enclosed by a considerable body of forces under Brigadier General Arnold: They hope to avoid storming, and thereby prevent effusion of blood on both sides. The Garrison consists of the seamen belonging to two frigates, and the merchantmen that winter at Quebec, two companies of wretched emigrants raised from the outskirts and suburbs, the dependants of Government, and a few citizens whose exposed effects obliged their remaining to preserve: In the whole we estimate from 12 to 1300 men capable to bear arms; a body not sufficient to do the daily duty of guards only. To this may be added the want of wood to that degree that by a deserter just escaped, without destroying the houses there remains not fuel for five days. These circumstances we flatter ourselves will engage General Carleton (out of humanity) to offer terms before the season becomes so advanced as to oblige the continental army to force their admittance.

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1. *Essex Journal,* March 15, 1776.

MINUTES OF THE NOVA SCOTIA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL [1]

At a Council holden at Halifax on the 12th day of February 1776

Present

His Excellency the Governor
The Honorable Charles Morris
Richard Bulkeley
Henry Newton
Joseph Gorham
Arthur Goold
} Counsellors. –

The Governor laid before the Council the Memorial of Mr Butler setting forth, that although in the proceedings of the preceeding Day, the 8th Instant on which the Council had been held, he had been Acquitted of having held any kind of Correspondence with the Rebels, – Yet as being a Member of His Majesty's Council for this Province, and Commissary for Provisions, he conceives himself under greater Necessity of Clearing his reputation from any Suspicion whatever; Therefore praying that a Day may be Appointed for hearing him in Council, – together with such persons as he may think, proper to produce and Question for his further Justification. –

And Mr Butler Attending together with Mr Higgins, Mr Calbeck [Phillip Callbeck] & Mr Harris, the Persons called on by the Memorialist, the following Questions were put by him to Mr Higgins – Vizt

Question

1st As you denied on your Examination on Thursday Evening having said the Words in my Parlour which Mr Harris mentioned in his Declaration, which were these, Vizt Sir, it is your Interest, had not your letters flown about at the [Provincial] Congress and at Cambridge I should not have seen You here. – You will please to declare what were the Words you did Make use of at that time –

Answer It was not through the interest of your Letters flying about at Cambridge –

Question 2d What letters were they you referr'd to, to whom directed, & what was the Contents

Answer Letters directed from Mr Butler to Mr Calbeck, reflecting on the Rebels in Strong Terms –

Question 3d Do you remember that the Lieut Governor said Sir, "Is it Mr Butler's Letters in England you Mean"

Answer Yes, Mr [Michael] Francklin Used those Words, and I replied No Sir, Mr Butler's Letters at Cambridge –

Question 4th What do you think he Mean't by that Expression –

Answer That he did not think any letters of Mr Butler's could be at Cambridge. –

Question 5th What do you think was the reason that the Lieut Governor said, "You don't want this Person any More.["] (Meaning Mr Harris)

Answer He looked on him as being One of my Hands, & did not appear as an Officer of a Man of War. –

Question 6th Did you know, or hear of any other Letters or Papers of Mine being at the Congress or Cambridge, and what were their Contents. –

Answer I heard General [Charles] Lee say there were several of Mr Butler's Letters at Cambridge, & further said he was damn'd Fellow, & so said Mr [Horatio] Gates Adjutant General of the Rebel Army. –

Question 7th Was not your Mate sent for to prove the Butter brought to me as Agent Victualler, and that he saw it, deliver'd the Kings Troops, out of my Stores. –

Answer Yes, he was sent for, for that purpose, but he did not Arrive, –

Question 8th Have I any concerns with you in Trade, or had I any heretofore –

Answer No, not any

Question 9th Did you ever hear or know of my being disloyal to my Sovereign –

Answer, No – On the Contrary Mr Butler said that if the Rebels were to come here, he would Turn out with the Regiment of Militia and Fight them as long as he could stand, and prove himself to be an Englishman. –

Then Mr Calbeck was Questioned by Mr Butler as follows, Vizt

Question 1st Sir, you will please to declare to the Governor and Council the purport of the Letter I wrote you last Fall, and which you declared on Thursday last Fell into the Hands of the Rebels, and was carried to the Congress at Cambridge –

Answer Being in the Administration of the Government of the Island of St Johns by the Absence of Governor Patterson, a Scarcity of provisions being there, I wrote to Mr Butler for a supply, And Also to give me information of News from Europe, to which Mr Butler signified his Willingness to give any relief; – But he was unable, as he expected there would be an extraordinary demand on him, for the King's Troops, that reinforcements for the Army and Navy were expected from Europe, and further expressed himself to the purpose I related before the Council the other Day –

Question 2d Was that Letter returned to you. –

Answer It was, among other Papers by the Rebel Secretary, –

Question 3d What became of it,

Answer I destroyed it fearing I might be Searched by the Country People, and Ill treated on that Account

Question 4th Did you hear of any other Letters or Papers of Mine being at the Congress or Cambridge, what were their Contents and to whom directed. –

Answer Yes, a Letter you had Wrote as Contractor for a supply of Pease to be obtained in this Province, which had by some Means been intercepted by the Rebels. –

Question 5th Did you ever hear of my being disloyal to my Sovereign. –

Answer No – But the Contrary –

Mr. Newton was Questioned by Mr Butler Vizt

Question, Sir, you will please to inform the Governor and Council what Conversation passed between you and me at my Accompting House the Morning of Mr Higgins Arrival from Winter Harbour

Answer. – Hearing of the Arrival of Mr Higgins in the Schooner *Lively*, I went to enquire of Mr Butler what News he had brought, Mr Butler informed me that no great Judgement could be formed of what he said; as through a Fatigue from his Voyage and joy at his escape, his Mind seem'd disturbed: But, Mr Butler said he understood that himself had got into a scrape, as a Letter of his had been intercepted by the Rebels, in which he had talked roughly, and that if ever they came here, and were able to do any thing, he would be the first to Suffer –

Mr [Thomas Am] Harris was then Questioned by Mr Butler Vizt –

Question 1st You'll please repeat the conversation that passed at my House, the Morning you called upon Mr Higgins, as expressed in your declaration of Thursday last

Answer, This Question was Answer'd to the same purpose with his declaration on the 8th Instant in Council –

Question 2d Who was in my Pa[r]lour when you first came in.–

Answer Mr Higgins & a Short lusty person in a Lac'd Coat

Question 3d Did you make any Report in Consequence of hearing the Conversation, and to whom did you make it, and When

Answer. – I made it the same Morning to Capt Bromwich [Hugh Bromedge] on board the Ship –

Question 4th What Answer did Captain Bromwich make in consequence of Your report

Answer. – He said it was very well –

Question 5th As you heard no More of this Matter for more than five Weeks. – What inducement had you to give the information to the Governor on Thursday last, who were the Persons. –

Answer I Informed an old Ship Mate of Mine who is Now an Officer in the Governor's Regiment who asked if I had any Objection to his mentioning of it to the Governor, to which I said No –

Question 6th Did not Mr Higgins appear to be in an Elatted and Confused State of Mind, when you first saw him on Board, And Also when speaking at my House –

Answer I do not know, I had never seen him before –

Question 7th Did you ever hear any report concerning my Loyalty to my Sovereign, or that it was under any doubt or Suspicion before the Arrival of Mr Higgins –

Answer None whatever, that I remember.–

On all which the Governor and Council were unanimously of Opinion that Mr Butler had given the fullest satisfaction in regard to the whole enquiry, and had Clearly Acquitted himself of any imputation whatever respecting his Loyalty, Fidelity, and Attachment to the King.–[2]

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1. Council Minutes, N.S. Arch.
2. See footnote to the Council meeting of February 8, 1776.

LOSS CLAIM FOR BRIG *Sally* AND CARGO [1]

Dr. The loss sustained in the Brige *Sally* & cargo, owned by Saml Cutts, from Tortola, Saml Stacy Mastr drove upon the Rocks at Edgertown, July 11th 1775 by two Tenders, as pr Protest.

1775 July. To the Brige *Sally* & appertenances as appraised by Messrs. Purcell, Wentworth & Clap	£600. 0. 0
To the Cargo on board as pr Invoice, viz.	
19 hogsd of light Muscove Sugr wt 187c:0:1 at 55	514: 5:0
12 hogsd of Rum, only 85 gals, lost 3s 3	13:16:3
7 Bales Cotton saved	0: 0:0
To the charge of saving the Intr	39:10:4
To the charge of transporting the Part saved	10: 0
To the Protest	0:15
	£1178: 6:7

Cr.

1775 July. By a Cable & Anchor & part of the Brige & sails saved valued at	40
Balle being the real loss in the Brige *Sally* & Cargo	1138: 6:7
Lawful money	£1178: 6:7

Portsmouth, Feby 12th 1776, Errors Excepted

Sam^{l} Cutts.

Portsmo Feby 12th 1776. We the subscribers were well acquainted with the Brigt *Sally,* Saml Stacy master, lately drove ashoar at Edgerton by two British Tenders as by the Capt. & Peoples Protest, are of opinion that said vessel was worth, when she sailed from hence last April, Six hundred pounds Lawful money.

G. Purcell Josh^{a} Wentworth Supply Clap.

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[1] Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire,* VII, 393.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M. BRIG *Hope* [1]

February 1776 Remarks &c on bd the *Hope* in Manchester Road

Sundy 11th Fresh Gales and Squaly at ½ Past 6 AM Weigh'd and Came to Sail at 8 AM Cap Ann NEBN 3 Lgs at 10 Closs Reeft the Topsails at ½ Past Handed the Topsails at 11 AM Set the Fore Topsl At Noon Cap Ann S B W½W 6 Leagues

Hard Gales and Squaly

at ½ Past Saw a Sail to the Eastward, Made Sail and Chaced the Chace Set T–G–Sails and Steering Sails at 3 Fired 3 four Pounders Shoted at Do Vessel at ½ Past 3 Came up with the Chace, found hir to be a Brigg from Piscatuay Loaded with Fish and Lumber, Named the *Frendship,* it Blowing hard Could not Board the Prize.

Mondy 12th	Do Weather at ½ Past [4] Wore and Stood to the Noward [at 6] Wore and Stood to the Westward [at 8] More Modt Sent the Boat on Bd and took Charge of the Prize, Sent the Sailmaker on bd to Repair hir Main Topsl [2]

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1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1823.
2. While the *Hope*'s log on February 15 records the prize arriving in Boston, it is not included in any of Shuldham's prize lists.

STEPHEN MOYLAN TO WILLIAM BARTLETT [1]

Sir Cambridge 12th Feby 1776

I Laid your Letter of the 10th instant before his Excellency, he was much Surpris'd at your fresh demand for 2000 dollars, indeed So was I, there is now upwards of 10,000 dollars advanced upon these armed vessels, & very few Accounts yet brought in – it is his Excellencys will, that you Send in yours as Soon as possible – Let the Owners of the Schooners make out Abstracts for their vessels from the time of their being engaged in the Service, to the 31st of december, for amount of which warrants will be given them, inclosd is a form for their government – by this means you will not want money to pay them & when you Send your accounts if money is necessary, it will be given you –

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1. Washington Papers, LC.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES [1]

[Watertown] Monday, February 12, 1776.
Afternoon.

The Committee appointed to consider the Account of Capt. Jeremiah Obryan, reported:

That by examining said Obryan's Account they find the whole of the provision, &c. for Billeting the men under his Command, amounts to no more than *Five Shillings* and *Six Pence* per Week each, and as said Capt. OBryan has no other Vouchers, the Committee are of Opinion, that his Account is just; said Account being *Three Hundred Seventy-one Pounds*, and the Account for Cordage, Tallow, Iron, &c. belonging to the Vessels, by said Obryan's Account, is the further Sum of *One Hundred Twenty Five Pounds, Five Shillings*, . . . out of which sum he, the said Obryan, has received the Sum of *One Hundred* and *Sixty Pounds*, which leaves the Sum of *Three Hundred* and *Thirty Six Pounds, Five Shillings*. The said Committee therefore, report the following Resolve, viz.

Read and accepted.

Resolved, That there be paid out of the Public Treasury of this Colony to the said Capt. Jeremiah Obryan, the Sum of *Three Hundred* and *Thirty Six Pounds Five Shillings*, in full discharge of said Accounts.

Further *Resolved*, That there be paid out of the Public Treasury of this Colony to Capt. Jeremiah Obryan, his Officers and Seamen, under his command since the 21st Day of August, 1775, on board the Sloop *Machias Liberty*, and the Schooner *Diligent*, the Sum of *Eight Hundred* and *Four Pounds, Four*

Shillings and *Two Pence,* in full discharge for their Services on board said Vessels, until the first Day of February, 1776.

[1] Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch.

Boston Gazette, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1776

Watertown, February 12.

We hear "that as Capt. [John] Manley was coming out of Plymouth, Jan. 30, an armed brig[1] (which went from Boston for the purpose of taking him, as is supposed) gave him chase; upon which he ran his vessel on shore, a little South of the North River in Scituate. The brig came to anchor, and fired not less than 400 times upon the privateer; but, very remarkably, no man was even wounded. One ball entered the stern, and passed but about six inches from Capt. Manly, who was confined by sickness in his cabin. The next day, 130 balls were found upon the adjacent shore."

Besides the above, which is from a correspondent near where the affair happened, we hear, that after the brig ceased firing she manned her boats, boarded Capt. Manley's vessel (the people being ashore) and endeavoured to set her on fire; but seeing our people coming upon them, they were glad to get off without effecting their design. She has since been got off, is refitting, and nearly ready for another cruize.

[1] H.M. Brig *Hope.*

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Centurion,* CAPTAIN RICHARD BRAITHWAITE[1]

February 1776 Moored in Nantaskett Road.

Monday 12th At ½ past 12 AM Deserted with the Long Bt Robt Sebastian, Jno. Hanson & Gilbort McCarty, Sent the Boats in Search of the Boat & Men at 4 the Boats retd without being Able to gett any Intelligence of them, At 7 Saw the Long Bt on shore at Puttocks Isld, Sent all the Boats Mann'd & Armed Under the Command of Lieut Despard to Bring Her off, with the Boats from the *Renown.*

Modt with a Sharp Frost, pm Came onbd the Boats with the Long Bt, . . . Hauled the Long Bt up on Georges Isld to repair, She Being Buldged

[1] PRO, Admiralty 51/177.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Niger,* CAPTAIN GEORGE TALBOT[1]

Febry 1776 Cape Cod SE 3 or 4 Leagues

Sunday 11th at 7 AM spoke a Brig from St Eustatia to Boston ordered the Vessel to keep Company, at 8 Cape Cod SSE 3 leagues – at Noon the Brig in Company –

at 4 PM fired 3 Guns shotted to bring too the Brig; sent an Officer and 9 Men on board her, being informed the Master had just fell overboard & was drown'd ½ past the Boat retd with 7 of the Brigs People, hoisted the Boat in & bore away to the So wd of Cape Cod; at 6 anchrd with the small Bower in 16 fathoms and veerd to a whole Cable;

Monday 12th At Single Anchor Cape Cod NW 3 Leagues
at 2 PM sent the Brigs People on board their Vessel – ours retd

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/637.

JOURNAL OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO BUILD TWO CONTINENTAL FRIGATES IN RHODE ISLAND [1]

[Providence] Feby 12th 1776

Meeting in being according to adjournment –

Voted. That Coll Wm Russell, Mr Sylvester Bowers & Major [Benjamin] Tolman give Lists of the Names of all the Carpenters that are at Work in the Ship yards and that they affix the price that each man is to have P Day according to their several abilities as Workmen and make Report to the next meeting

Voted. That Messrs Clarke & Nightingale deliver Nine Tons of Pig Iron to Thos Arnold, Daniel Thornton & James Appleby [illegible] on the Acct an Resque of the Continent.

Voted, That Mr Manly agree with Mr Lee for all the Sparrs he has on hand on the best Terms he Can.

Voted. That Mr John Brown write a Letter to Mr. Hezekiah Sabin Merchant in New Haven and Request him to purchase for the use of the Continental Ships Two Hundred & Fifty Barrels [of] Poark and one hundred & fifty Barrels of Beef the price of the Poark to be at 54/ and the Beef a 40/ P Bbl at New Haven, that if it cannot be procur'd at the above prices, that he write to Mr John Brown on the same subject immediately, that he be allowed Two & an half P cent for doing the Business, and tha[t] Mr John Brown Draw on Messrs Jos. Dolb, Russell and Nichs Cooke to pay to the said Mr Hezekiah Sabin the Sum of three Thousand Five Hundred Dollars, to pay for the same, and that he purchase Two Hundred Bushels of Beans & Pease, that a Majority of the Committee sign the Order. –

Voted. That we send a Messenger to Connecticut to procure Draught of the Ship to be Built there immediately. –

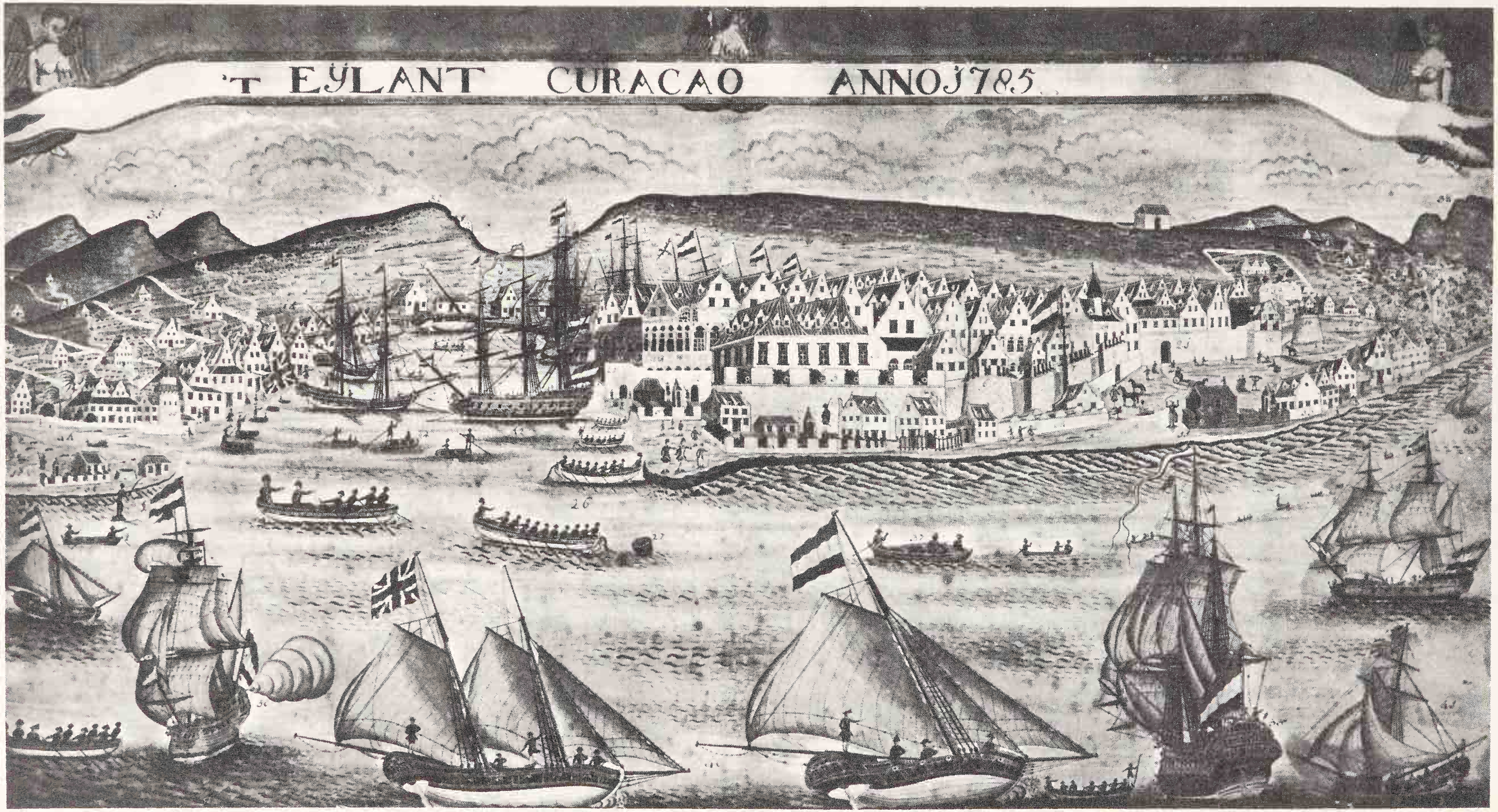
Reckoning 28/6 paid by [blank]

Meeting Adjourned to Wednesday evening 6 o'clock.[2]

1. Journal R.I. Frigates, RIHS.
2. Meeting held on February 14 and 16 showed no business transacted with reckonings of 20/ and 17/ respectively with the payees blank.

OWNERS' BOND FOR THE SLOOP *Enterprise* ON A VOYAGE TO THE WEST INDIES [1]

Known all Men by these presents that we Nicholas Brown, Joseph Russell, William Russell and Gideon Young all of Providence in the County of Providence and Colony of Rhode Island &c. Merchants are held and firmly bound unto Joseph Clarke Esquire General Treasurer of the said Colony in the Sum of Twelve Hundred Pounds Lawful Money to be paid to the said Joseph Clarke in his said


'T EYLANT CURACAO ANNO 1785
26

Curacao, Dutch West Indies.

Capacity or to his Successors in said Office for the Use of the said Colony to which Payment well and truly to be made we bind Ourselves Our Heirs Executors and Administrators firmly by these Presents. Sealed with Our Seals Dated the Twelfth Day of February in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Seven hundred and Seventy Six.

Whereas the said Nicholas Brown, Joseph Russell, William Russell and Gideon Young have equipped the Sloop *Enterprize,* burthened about Seventy five Tons whereof James Westcott is Master and have obtained Permission of the Honorable Nicholas Cooke Esquire Governor of the said Colony for him the said James Westcott to proceed with the said Sloop and her Cargo to any of the Foreign Islands in the West Indies to purchase Powder and other Military Stores. Now therefore the Condition of the above Obligation is such That if the said James Westcott shall well and truly lay out the whole proceeds of his Cargo on board the said sloop in Gunpowder, Saltpetre, Sulphur, Duck or Arms and shall import the same into this or any other of the United Colonies in America the Danger of the Seas and of the Enemy only excepted and also further excepting that in Case the said James Westcott shall not be able to invest the whole Proceeds of the Sperma Coeti Candles in the Articles abovesaid that then he shall be permitted to lay out and bring back the remainder in Paper Ozenbriggs, Ticklenburgh, Lead, Flints, Twine Steel Jesuits Bark, Rhubarb, Cotton, Linnen, or Woolen Cloths, and shall also upon his Return to this Colony lodge a true account or Manifest of his Cargo in the Office of the Secretary of the said Colony; and further shall not go to any Port or Place in the British West-Indies (the Danger of the Sea and Seizure by an Enemy always excepted) then this Obligation shall be void or else in full Force [2]

Sealed and Delivered in the Presence of
George Benson Rufus Hopkins

Nich° Brown Gideon Young
Jos & W^m^ Russell James Westcot

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1. Maritime Papers, Bonds, Masters of Vessels, R.I. Arch.
2. See Nicholas Brown's instructions to Westcott, February 13, 1776.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL SETH WARNER [1]

Sir. Albany Feby 12th 1776.

As many of the Men that you raised in Consequence of my Orders of the 14th January last, were not marched by the first of February and as I informed you in my Letter of the 25th Ult: that I would not allow any Bounty except to such as were marched by that Day and as you now inform me that many more are marched than what you have received the Bounty for, I will supply you with a further Sum on Condition that such as were not marched by the first of February but are since marched do engage to remain in the Service in Canada or procure others in their Stead for the ensuing Campaign unless sooner discharged. You are therefoe to make me a Return of the Names of all such Men as were marched before the first Day of February and also another Return of all such Men as are since marched.

As soon as you arrive in Canada you will try what Number of Men you can get to remain in Canada out of those that you have sent and send me their Names –

All such as will remain for the Campaign you will form into Companies agreeable to the Continental Regulations – If any of the Men that are gone under Major [Jeremiah] Cady will remain you are also to send me a separate List of them perhaps there may be a sufficient Number out of both Corps to form a Regiment – These Returns should be sent me immediately that I may not be at a Loss to arrange the Army. I am &c Ph: Schuyler

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, I, 538, NA.

Minutes of the New York Committee of Safety [1]

[New York] Die Lunae, 10 HO. A.M.
Feby. 12th, 1776.

Mr. Nichs. Low came into the Committee and informed the Committee that he desires to go on lading the brig *New York*. The Committee informed him that they think he may proceed to lade the said brigantine. Mr. Low also requested a permit to lade the schooner *Polly,* Wm. Montanje, master, on account of Mr. Nichs. [*sic*] Governeur with flaxseed and lumber. Thereupon a permit was given him in the words following, to wit:

"Mr. Nichs. Low is hereby permitted to lade the schooner *Polly,* Wm. Montanye, master, with flaxseed and lumber on account of Mr. Isaac Governeur."

1. *New York Provincial Congress,* I, 291–92.

New-York Gazette, Monday, February 12, 1776

New York, February 12

Last Sunday Week [February 4] his Majesty's Ship *Mercury,* Capt. Graham [Alexander Graeme], of 24 guns, arrived here from Boston, having General [Henry] Clinton on board, and a light Transport Brig under Convoy: The Arrival of these Vessels alarmed the Inhabitants of this City very sensibly; and last Friday the Transport Ship *Ketty* [*Kitty*], with 200 Soldiers on board, came into Port; 'Tis said she sailed from Boston in Company with the *Mercury,* and is supposed to be Part of the Fleet that lately left that Place destined for the Southward.

In Consequence of the above Manoeuvre, his Excellency the Earl of Stirling, arrived here from New-Jersey, with about 1000 Men, 2000 are daily expected from Pennsylvania; 1000 from Dutchess County, in this Province; and 2000 from Connecticut; so that we may this Week have an Army of near 8000 effective Men.

Narrative of Sir Henry Clinton [1]

[January 6 to February 12, 1776]

Defensive Situations are at all times unpleasant. But ours in Boston & on the Heights of Charles Town was accompanied with some mortifying Circumstances, which heightened the Satisfaction I felt at finding myself released from it by an order from Sir Wm Howe to take upon me the Command in the Southern District, and to proceed to Cape Fear River to meet an Armament coming from Ireland, in order to support the Loyalists & restore the authority of the Kings Government in the four Southern Provinces. For it seems the Governors of those

Provinces had sent home such sanguine and favorable Accounts of the loyal Disposition of Numbers of their Inhabitants (especially in the back Country) that Administration was induced to believe "that nothing was wanting but the appearance of a respectable Force there to encourage the Kings Friends to shew themselves, When it was expected they would soon be able to prevail over those, who having contrived to get the Sword into their hands had hitherto kept them in awe & effected their rebellious purposes without Controul."

This Force the Commander in Chief was told would be sent from Corke by the first of december, so as to arrive on the Carolina Coast sufficiently early for operations in that Climate; and to finish the Services expected from it in Time for its joining the northern army before the Campaign opened. He was accordingly directed to instruct the General officer, who should be sent thither, "to leave each Colony, as it should be reduced to Obedience, to the Support & Protection of the well affected Provincials, that might take up Arms in the Kings Cause, and to join him with the whole of the regular Troops as soon as the Navigation of the Northern Coasts of North America became practicable."

Instructions conformable to these Commands were delivered to me by Sir Wm Howe on the 6th day of January; and as soon as the Ships could be got ready I embarked in the *Mercury* Frigate, and sailed from Boston on the 20th in company with two Transports and a Store Ship having on board the light Companies of the 4th and 44th Regiments, and a few officers for a Corps intended to be raised among the Highland Emigrants in North Carolina. It had been Part of my Instructions to call at the different Ports in my way to the Southward, that I might have an opportunity of picking up Pilots, consulting Governors & other officers of Government, and Collecting Intelligence. We consequently put in to Sandy Hook, where we arrived on the 4th of february and immediately ran up to N York through the Ice. Here we found the *Asia* & *Phoenix* Men of War, lying in the East River, and the Governor (Tryon) residing on board Ship; none of them very pleasantly situated. For tho' they had been hitherto regularly supplied with fresh Provisions from the Shore, the Tumult of the Times rendered it rather dangerous for any Person to venture from them into the Town; the Inhabitants of Long & Staten Islands having been disarmed a little before our Arrival by a Detachment of Jersey Militia under Lord Stirling – and New York being kept in awe by a Body of those from Connecticut, who were also just joined by General [Charles] Lee from the Rebel army before Boston.

Having been detained by contrary Winds, it was the 12th of February before we could sail from Sandy Hook;

1. Manuscript history of the Revolution by Sir Henry Clinton, CL.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Mercury,* CAPTAIN ALEXANDER GRAEME [1]

Feby 1776	Sandy Hook Light House WSW diste 5 Miles
Monday 12	at 6 A M weighed & came to sail *Kitty* *Glascow Packet* *Three Sisters* in Co. 11 A M Discharged the Pilot. . . . *Three Sisters* parted Compy being for England.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/600.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS [1]

[Philadelphia] Monday, February 12, 1776

A letter from Major General Lee, dated 9th February, was presented to Congress and read, wherein he informs that a transport with troops was arrived there at New York, that more might be expected, and, therefore, that a farther reinforcement was necessary to secure and defend that place: Whereupon,

Resolved, That it be recommended to the convention or committee of safety of New Jersey, immediately to send detachments of the minute men equal to a battalion, under proper officers, to New York, there to put themselves under the command of Major General Lee:

That it be also recommended to the committee of safety for Pensylvania, immediately to send detachments of the four batallions of associators in this city [Philadelphia] equal to a batallion to New York, there to put themselves under the command of Major-General Lee.

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be directed to send to New York, one ton of the powder belonging to the United Colonies, and that the same be delivered to the order of General Lee.

Resolved, That the said committee be empowered to purchase what powder and arms arrive belonging to private persons, on the best terms they can, for the use of the United Colonies;

[1] Ford, ed., *JCC,* IV, 127–29.

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH [1]

[Philadelphia] Monday 12 Feb. our Comee sent to N York made Report of their Proceedings – A Letter from Gen. Lee by Express,[2] it appears that he will have soon above 5000 Troops & Militia at New York, Debates whether to send Him more Force and from whence . . . Hewes made a Report which was accepted, on the Mode of getting Naval Stores conveyed from N Carolina to the Northern Colonies – [3]

[1] Richard Smith's Diary, LC.

[2] Lee's letter of February 9, 1776.

[3] The mode of conveyance of naval stores from North Carolina was not passed in Congress until the next day.

FRANCIS LIGHTFOOT LEE TO LANDON CARTER [1]

My Dear Colonel, Philadelphia Feb. 12 1776

I intended to have devoted yesterday to answer your kind Letters by last monday's post; but unexpected business intervened, which prevented me and this day I find my obligation increased by the receipt of yours of the 1st Inst – I must now content myself with assuring you that I am very sensible of your Friendship, and acquainting you with the occurrences in this part of the world; the only return in my power for your kindness. Genl Washington having intelligence that Genl Clinton with a body of troops had sailed from Boston, & suspecting their intention was to make a lodgment in N.York; dispatched Genl Lee, to prevent it.

Lee arrived there last week with 1100 men; & on the same day in pops Clinton, who had been seperated from his fleet in a snow storm. finding Lee there, he & Tryon assured the town upon their honor that the troops were not destined for N York & nothing hostile was intended agst them. Lee knowing the cue of the Ministry & all their agents, continued to call in more forces. this day he sent us an e[x]press that one of the transports full of soldiers was arrived & several others seen at the hook. however as Lee had 4000 men, it is immagined Clinton will comply with part of his honorable engagement, & attempt nothing agst N.York; but proceed to Virga which place, some Gentlemen (in pretended confidence) were assured, was the original destination of the fleet so that perhaps old bess will not long remain lean. Clinton's pretended rendezvous is at Hampton road, where he is to be joined by a fleet from England with 5 Regiments. his present force is supposed to be 6 or 700 men. I fear your want of Arms & good Genls will make this little army very formidable to you. We have not yet apply'd to Congress for yr Genl Officers, nor do we know where they will be got; those that are good for any thing seem to have their hands full to the North & Eastward. whenever they are appointed, you may be assured I will not fail to put in a good word for my young friend Landon. Had we not been deceived in our intelligence respecting the 30 tons of powder, Boston in all probability, wou'd now be in our possession; but alas! for want of that necessary, the favorable season has passed away, without anything being effected; & now the nest must remain probably till next winter. however we have now in hand 117 tons of saltpetre, 13 of powder & 300 stand of arms; the utmost dispatch is using to manufacture the Saltpetre, which will soon enable us to answer all demands, wch are now very great from all quarters; but we expect in the present scramble for the 13 tons, to get one or two for Virga Our affairs in Canada are in as a good a situation as we cou'd expect since our unfortunte attempt upon Quebec. we have no doubt of having a sufficient force there to render a good acct of Carlton before he can be reinforced. Capt Manly of the *Lee,* now of the *Hancock,* is daily taking some of their supply transports; in return for which two Ships loaded by the Congress to procure military stores, have fallen into the Enemy's hands.

I find Ld D[unmore] is endeavouring to perswade the settlers on the Rivers to remain quiet, & not remove their stocks & provisions. no doubt till he is enabled to come & ease them of them all. tis strange that this monster, & the rest of his infernal tribe shou'd expect to be credited by a single person; after the innumerable instances of cruelty, rapacity, & perfidy, fresh in every ones mind, which they have exhibited in every part of the world. The Minsterial scheme agst [Stephen] Sayre & others was this. The workmen leaving the docks, demanding higher wages, applying to the American friends to supply them with money to convey them out of the Kingdom; was all under the direction of Ld Sandwich, in order to bring the Americans under the penalty for inveigling the King's workmen out of the Kingdom. It was about to take effect when One more honest than the rest of his fellows, disclosed the whole affair to the Alderman [2] – This failing, their next plan is, to make one Richardson a native of this City whome they have made an officer in the Guards, swear away the life of Sayre, & it is apprehended

[of] the other also. Is it possible that any one can expect any thing good from such abandoned Villains? from them & [all] their hellish plots Good Lord deliver us. Our best respects to sabine Hall, & believe me Dear Col. [&c.]

Francis Lightfoot Lee

To Col. Landon Carter of Sabine Hall
Richmond County Virginia

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1. F. L. Lee Letters, VHS.
2. William Lee, brother of the writer, and an alderman in London.

SAMUEL SWAINE TO JOHN BOSLEY [1]

[Extract] Philada Feby 12th 1776

. . . This City I think is pretty secure, we have thirteen Row Gallies which carry one Gun a Ps from 18 to 32 Pounders, besides Swivels & Small Arms, & these can go into Creeks & Shoal Water where the Men of War cannot follow them, we have also a Floating Battery of 10 Guns nearly finished, besides a Number of Sheveaux de Frize sunk in such a Manner as will certainly annoy Shiping very much, add to these we have a long, crooked, narrow, intricate Channel, which perhaps is as great a Security as all the Rest; you no doubt have been told that the Quarrel on this side, has been Fomented by a few Factious Men but I assure you this is not the Case, the People throughout the Colonies are as generally for the Measures pursued, as we can suppose such a Body of People to be, for we know that in all Matters done for the Publick Good, some Individuals are affected in their Property in a greater or less Degree, who never fail to cry out against the Measures, with all the Family & other Connections they can Muster, & in the unhapy Troubles now subsisting, there is a striking Instance of the City of New York, where I believe there are more Opponents to the Measures pursued here, than in half the Country besides, owing in my Opinion, to that City's having been for a Series of Years the Head Quarters for the Navy & Army, the supplying of which with Provisions Stores &c. &c: must have been Lucrative employments for a Number of the Citizens of New York, besides which a Number of Officers both Civil & Military have intermarried with the Inhabitants of that Province & all these have their Connections, I am therefore no way surprised when I hear there is some Opposition given to the Measures from a few Persons in that Province – You have heard too I dare say that the Americans are aiming at Independance, what they may be drove to aim at by & by I don't know, but can it be supposed that a People destitute of Arms & Ammunition cou'd have such a thought as with-standing the Force of Great Britain, I may be mistaken, but I am of Opinion that there were not six Men in America, if there was one, who entertained an Idea of the kind, & though I have no pretentions to the Secrets of the Cabinet, yet I have had an Opportunity of conversing with Gentlemen of a Number of the different Provinces, who have a great share of Public Esteem: when I say the Americans were destitute of Arms & Ammunition, I mean that there were none belonging to the Public, or next to it; but the Case is different now 3000 Stand of Arms are come in in one vessel & 1500 in another, besides small Quantities that are daily arriving, add to this that in this single Province there have been made Weekly for six Months past 200 Stand of Arms; Powder & Salt Peter have also been got in, in considerable Quantities, & very handsome Cannon are now casting.

To Mr John Bosley at Mr Benjamin Bower's Mercht Manchestor

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/40. An intercepted letter.

Pennsylvania Packet, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1776

[Philadelphia] February 12, 1776.

For JAMAICA, The Brigantine *George* William Pennock, Master, Will sail on Thursday, weather permitting. For passage (only) apply to said master on board, at Huddle's wharf.

"A LIST OF SHIPS AND VESSELS FITTED OUT BY THE REBELS AT PHILADELPHIA TO CRUIZE AGAINST THE ENGLISH WHICH WHERE READY TO PUT TO SEA ON THE 12TH FEBRUARY 1776. –" [1]

Ships Names	Masters Names	Guns	Men
Alfred	Ezekl Hopkins Commodore	32	100

A Ship with a Man head, Yellow painted sides Square and Taunt rigged without quarter Galleries

Columbus	Jno Whipple [2]	32	100

A Ship without a head, black all over and resembles a Collier, excepting that of being Square and Taunt rigged. – The above Ships carry Guns between Decks, but so Crank, that in Sailing down Delawar river with their Ports open, they shipp'd a considerable quantity of Water. –

Cabbert[Cabot]	Bittle [3]	14 or 16	70

A Brig with a Woman head, yellow painted sides with white drifts on her Quarters; Taunt and Square Rigged. –

Andw Doria	Hopkins Commodrs Son	14 or 16	70

A Brig a black with no head. Square and Taunt Rigged.

Providence	Hazard	10	[cut off]

A Sloop, all black, low and long with Crane Irons over the Quarters for Oars. –

Fly	Hacker	2 &	30

A Sloop, scraped sides paid with Tar as a Tender to the rest.

Of their Colours

An Union Jack in a Canton with a [cut off] consisting of 13 Stripes, red and White or blue &c

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 1/240; enclosed in Barkley to Gayton, March 21, 1776.

[2] Abraham Whipple

[3] Nicholas Biddle was captain of the *Andrew Doria,* while John Burroughs Hopkins, the "Commodrs Son" was captain of the *Cabot.*

William Neil to Charles Carroll, Barrister[1]

Sir. Baltimore 12th Feby 1776.

Before this no doubt you have heard of ill fate of the schooner *Nancy* at St Eustatia, I have as yet no letters from my Capt or supercargo I daily expect to hear from them – as soon as I do shall advise you – as to the vessels being taken that account is confirmed different ways which I am sorry for – I have provided a Cargo of flour some time ago expecting the Schooner in and had no doubt of her bringing ammunition which would have got me a permission to have loaded her out on my own accot – I have a good deal of money due me from St Croix a Dennish Island near St Statia. if your honourable Council would give me liberty to send a Schooner I now have here, to that place where I have a number of Correspondence which I know to be true friends to our cause and will go any lenths to serve us with such things as we may want I would load her with 3 or 4 m Red Oakstaves some flour and Indian meal and corn and send her immediately to St Croix, where my Capt with the assistance of my friends there, would get all the powder that could be got in that Island – and could go over to Statia leave my vessel at St Croix, purchase such goods as I wanted order powder &c if to be got and take it to St Croix in a small craft where it might with great safety be put on board my vessel – the money that is due me there and the Cargo I would send out would I think buy near 2000 £ value of a back Cargo – so eligible is this plan to me that I have laid before you that if you give me permission I will risque it all on my own accot and will give all the arms ammunition &c I may get in, the first offer of all to the Council of Safety – should you be afraid that by granting me this premition you would be troubled with many other applications it need not be known to any but that she goes on accot of the province.

Sir. you will please excuse me troubling you as your the only gentleman of the Council I have the honour to be acquainted with – pray favour me with an answer by the first oppty and you will much oblige Sir your [&c.]

William Neill

To the Honble Charles Carroll a member of the Council of Safety

[1] Correspondence of Council of Safety, Md. Arch.

Minutes of the Baltimore Committee[1]

Monday 12 Feby 1776 – The Committee met –

Application being made by Captain Daniel Adams of the Schooner *Hawke* for Liberty to take in a Cargo of Flour for Beverley or Newbury Port in New England, it was granted to him on his producing a proper Certificate from the Committee of Beverley in Essex County in the Massachusets Bay –

[1] Baltimore Committee, LC.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M.S. *Roebuck* [1]

Febry 1776	Remks &ca on board [H.M.S. *Roebuck*]
Thursday 8	[at noon] Vrd 2 reef Maintops Sound 18 fa brown sand and small Pebbles Fresh gales & fair [P. M. at] 2 Saw the Land from W N W to W S W [at] 7 Anchord in 5½ fath Cape Henry bearing W b S 1½ Mile ½ past 10 weighd and made & turnd within the Cape
Friday 9	[at] 9 His Majestys Sloop *Kingsfisher* & three Tenders joind us Do Weighed & made sail & got a Pilot out of the *Kingsfisher* [at noon] turning thro the Narrows First and latter parts mod. & cloudy Middle heavy squalls & rain P M at 2 Anchord in 13 fath Point Comfort West ¾ of a Mile . . . begun to fire the evening & Morning Gun
Saturday 10	at 10 weighd and made sail Moderate and fair at ½ past 1 Anchord in 6½ fa Sewel Point S E b S 1½ Mile Point Comfort
Sunday 11	A M employd in getting up & starting Salt water Moderate and fair
Monday 12th	A M at 4 Anchord here a Brig from Dominica A M at 9 Moord the Ship Little wind and fine weather P M at 6 The Earl of Dunmore came on board.[2]

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 52/1965. The master keeping the log was James Holroyd.

[2] *Ibid.*, the Virginia governor visited on board until February 15, when the *Roebuck* "Saluted the Earl of Dunmore on his going out of the Ship with 13 Guns."

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

In the Council of Safety,
[Charleston] Monday, Feb. 12th, 1776.

Read a letter from Capt. [Alexander] Gillon, of this date.

Ordered, That the committee at George-Town do deliver fifty pounds weight of the public gunpowder in their custody to Capt. Gillon

In the Council of Safety,
Feb. 12th, 1776.

Permit Capt. Charles Morgan to lade, under your immediate inspection, twenty-one hogsheads of tobacco, and one hundred and ten barrels of rice, on board the sloop *Swift,* himself master, in Stono river; but not to sail before calling on the Council of Safety to report his load, and to receive a certificate for his departure.

By order of the Council of Safety.

Henry Laurens, President.

The Committee of James Island.

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[1] *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society,* III, 256–57.

Journal of the South Carolina Provincial Congress [1]

[Charleston] Monday, February 12, 1776.

Ordered, That Col. Gadsden, Capt. [Thomas] Shubrick, and Capt. [Alexander] Gillon, be a Committee to examine a ship now on the stocks, at Capt. [Robert] Cochran's; and to report whether it is a proper Vessel to be purchased and armed in the colony service.

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[1] *Provincial Congress of South Carolina*, 27–28.

Journal of H.M.S. *Raven*, Captain John Stanhope [1]

February 1776 Laying in Savanna River

Friday 9 (AM) sent an Officer wth a Corporal and 18 Men up to 4 Mile point to fill the Water Casks
First and Latter moderate middle fresh gales with hard rains Came in and Anchored here the *Symmetry* an Armed Ship wth Troops from Boston

Saturday 10 (AM) Manned and Armed the Long boat and sent her on board the *Scarborough*, Came down the Sloop wth water and a Schooner with Damaged Rice on board which she took [2]
First middle and Latter mode breezes and fair Came on board the Long boat

Sunday 11 (AM) Armed Do again and sent her on board the *Scarborough*
Empd getting Water out of the Sloop
First middle and Latter mode and fair

Monday 12 (AM) sent the Boats Wooding Came down from Town Sir James Wright with his Family, and went on board the *Scarborough* Saluted him with 15 Guns The Captns Signal on board the *Scarborough* Answered it Sailed the *Hinchinbrook* Schooner at 12 Anchd here the *Whitby* Transport with Troops from Boston with the above Schooner

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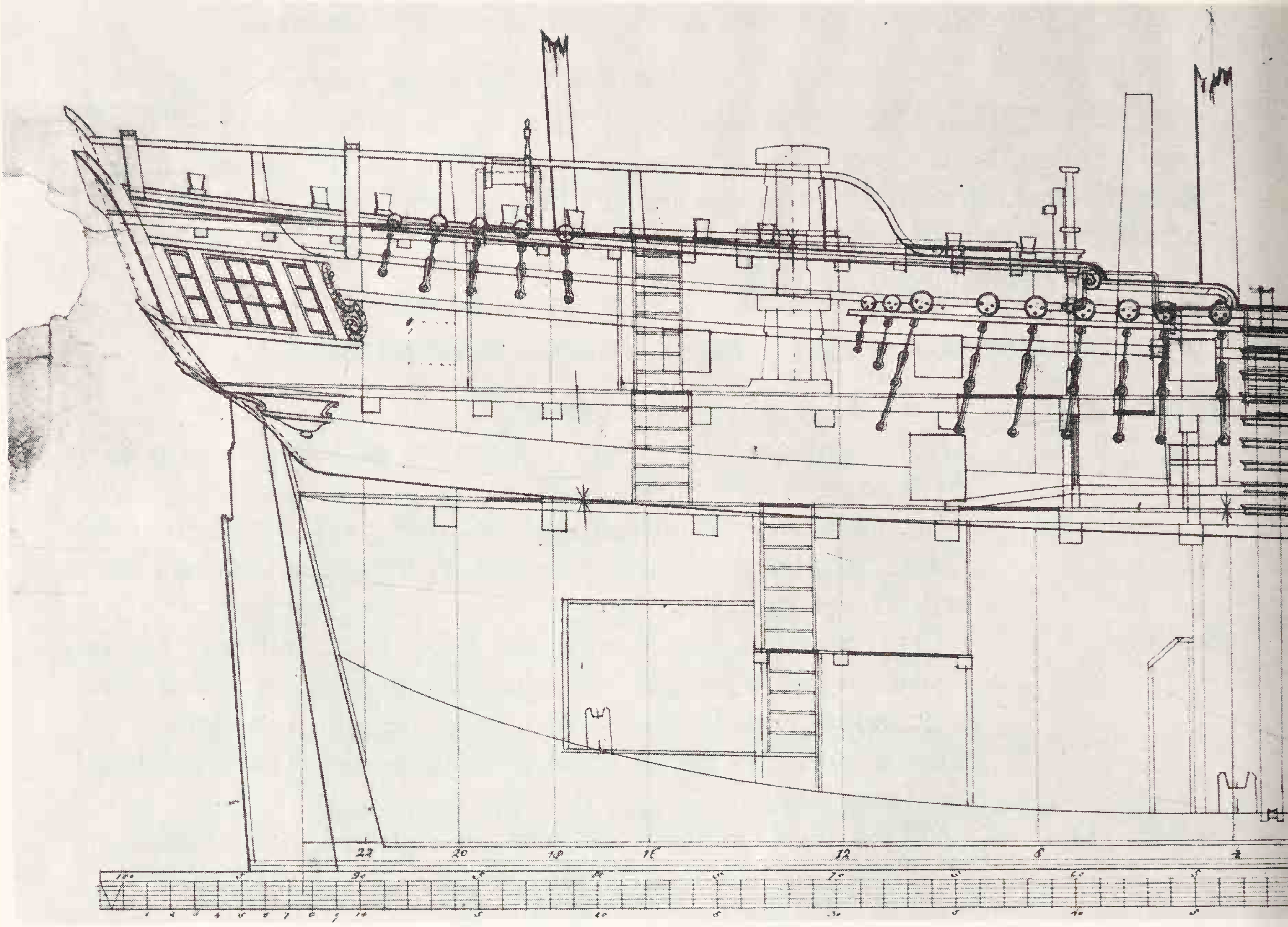
[1] PRO, Admiralty 51/771.

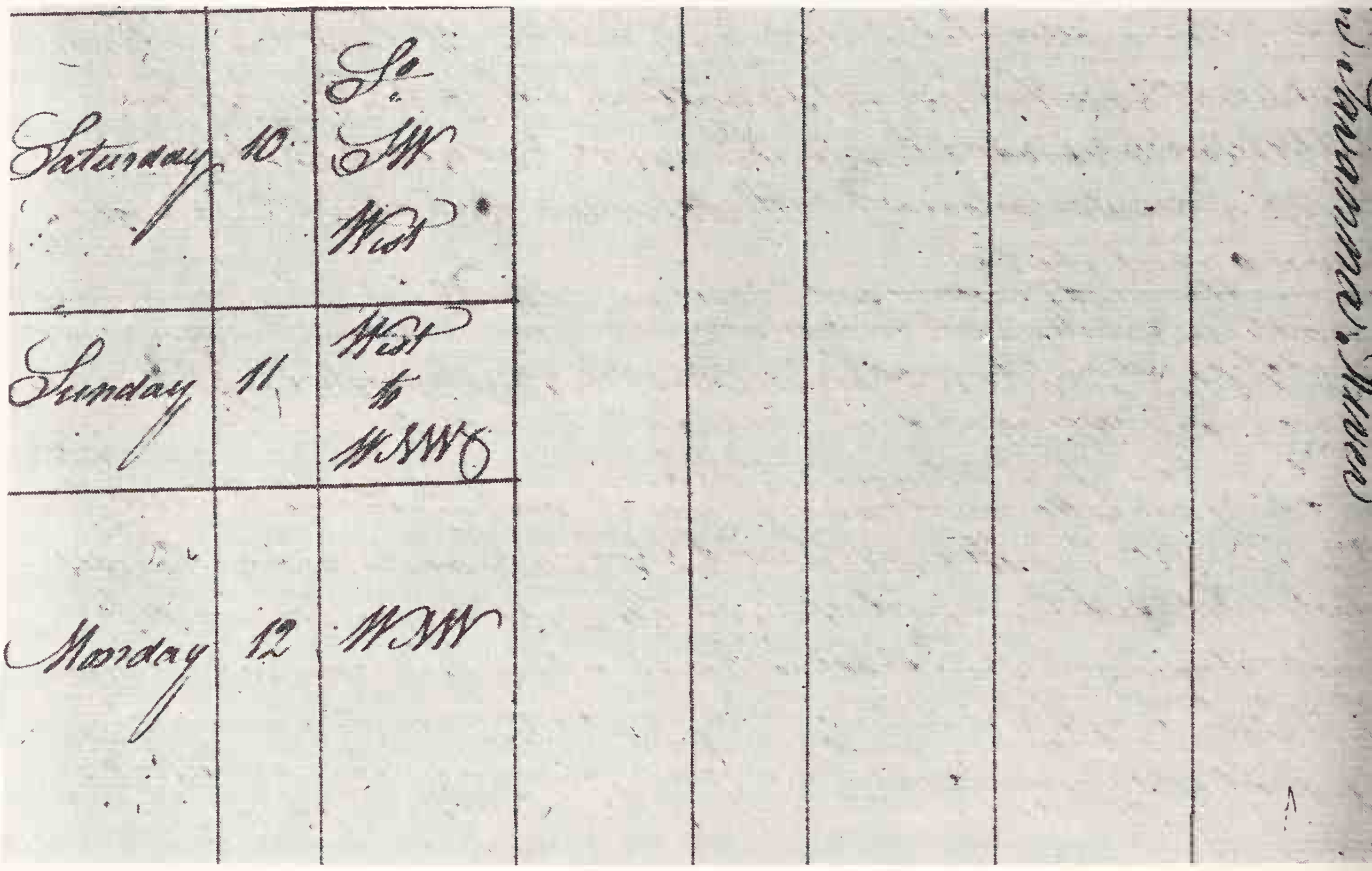
[2] The schooner *Jane*, William Mills, master, from Sunbury to Savannah, cut out of Augustine Creek. Shuldham's Prize List, April 24, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

Journal of H.M.S. *Scarborough*, Captain Andrew Barkley [1]

Feby '76 Moored in Savanah River Georgia

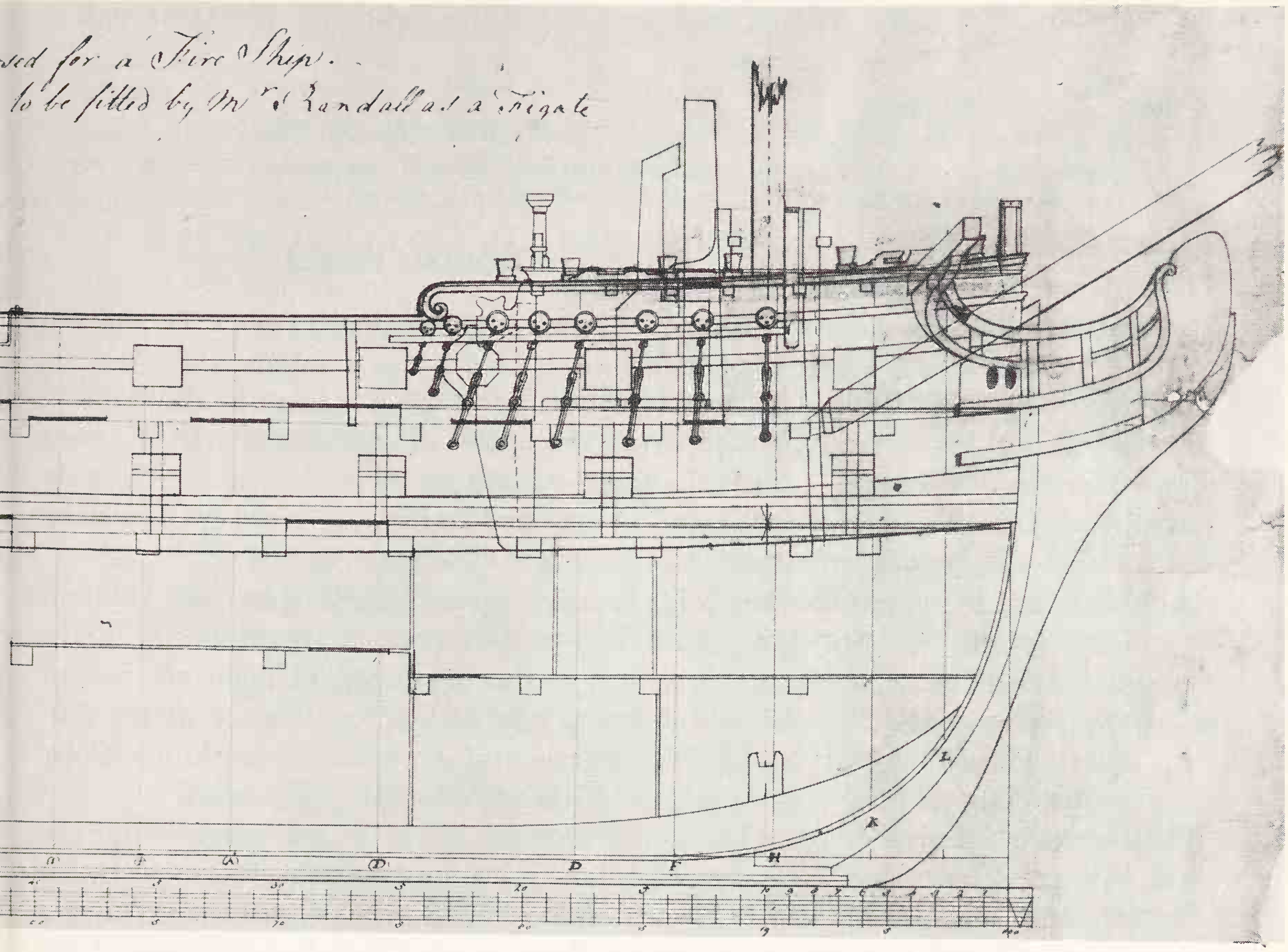
Monday 12th at 9 AM came on board Govr Sr Jas Wright & Family with several of His Council for protection from the Rebels saluted him with 15 Guns, made the *Tamer, Raven* & *Cherokee* Sigls for Captains; sail'd hence His Majys Schooner *Hinchinbrook*, Got the fore & Topmts . . . Rigging up, at ½ past 11 saluted His Excellency Govr Sr James Wright with 15 Guns at his going out of the Ship, sailmaker empd repairing the Jibb, paid the sides with Tar.

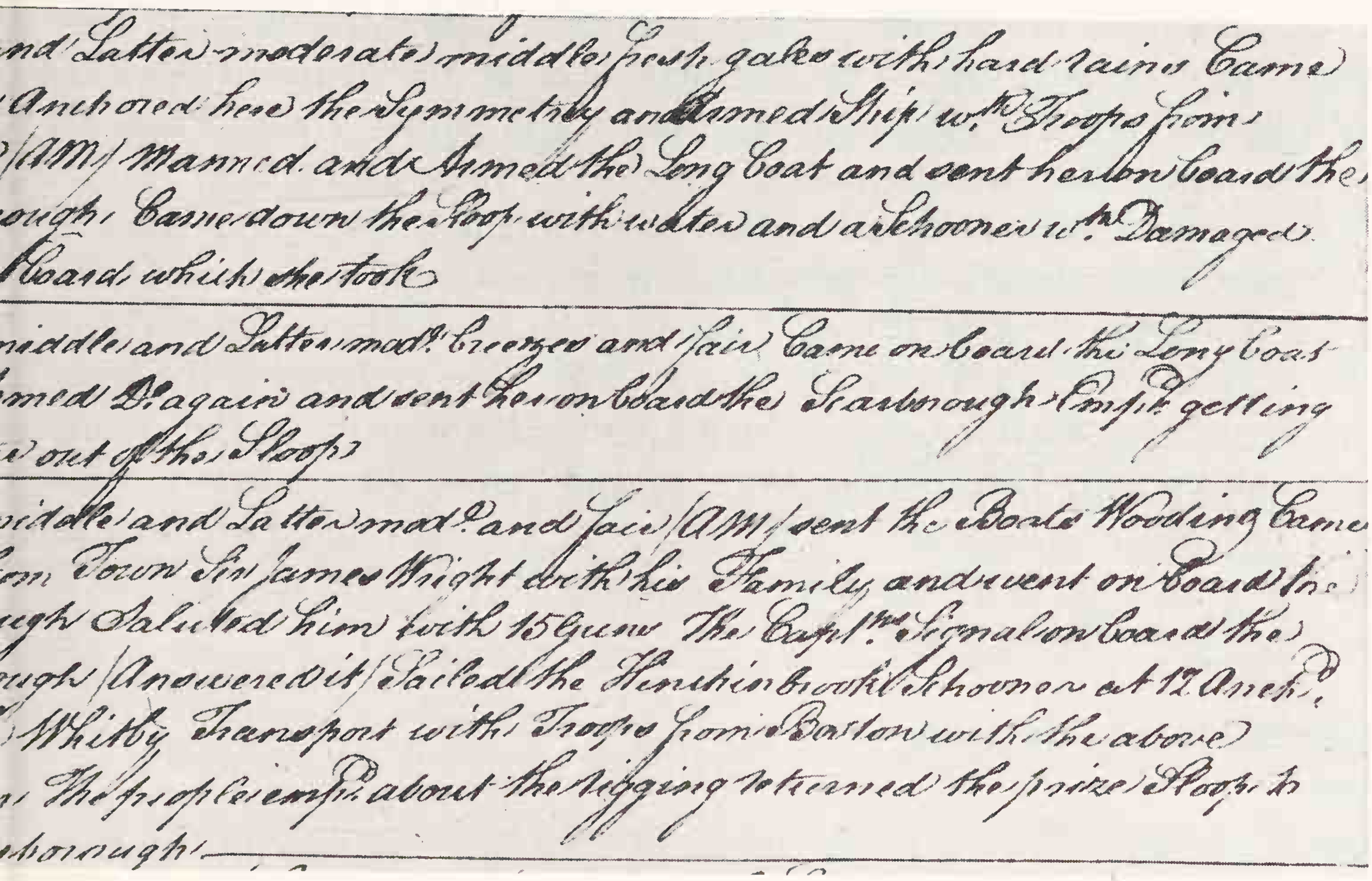




Saturday	10	So. SW West
Sunday	11	West to WSW
Monday	12	WNW

(Top) Sheer draft of HM Sloop Raven. *(Bottom)* Raven *log entries, February 10–12, 1776.*





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ugh Saluted him with 15 Guns The Capt Signal on board the
ugh (Answered it) Sailed the Hinchinbrook Schooner at 12 Anchd
Whitby Transport with Troops from Boston with the above
The people empd about the rigging returned the prize Sloop to
rborough

Do Wr PM Anchd here H: Majys Schooner *Hinchinbrook* & *Whitby* Transport,[2]

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1. PRO, Admiralty 51/867.

[2] *Ibid.*, another of the transports, the *Symmetry*, had arrived February 9, and H.M. Schooner *Hinchinbrook* on February 6. H.M.S. *Scarborough* and her convoy had been separated in a storm on January 6, 1776, the second day out of Boston.

Petition of John Kennidy to Edward Webley [1]

Jamaica ss To His Honor Edward Webley Esquire Chief Justice of this his Majestys Island of Jamaica –

The Humble request of John Kennidy of the Parish of Kingston in the County of Surry in the said Island Gentleman on the behalf of William Clarke Mariner John Werden Mariner and James Young Merchant now Prisoners in the Custody of Admiral Clarke Gayton Esquire and so detained by him on Board his Majesties Ship called the *Antelope* under his Command in the Harbour of Port Royal –

Humbly Sheweth That the said John Kennidy on the behalf of the said William Clarke John Werden and James Young did between the Hours of Eight and Ten of the Clock in the forenoon of the Ninth day of February instant apply personally unto the said Admiral Clarke Gayton Esquire at the Admirals Pen in the Parish of Saint Andrew and demanded from him a Copy of the Warrant of Commitment and Detainer of the said Prisoners

That the said Admiral Clarke Gayton did then acknowledge and declare that the said William Clarke John Werden and James Young were the Prisoners in his Custody and detained by him on Board the said Ship called the *Antelope* under his Command and that he did so detain them in his Custody by Virtue of his Orders or Instructions or to that Effect: But positively refused to deliver to your Petitioner any Copy of such Orders or Instructions or of any Warrant whereby he detained the said William Clarke John Werden and James Young Prisoners as aforesaid as by the Affidavit hereunto annexed more fully appears.

The said John Kennidy on the behalf of the said William Clarke John Werden and James Young doth therefore hereby humbly request your Honor to Order and Grant his Majesties Writ of Habeas Corpus upon the Statute of the Thirty first Year of King Charles the Second to be directed to the said Admiral Clarke Gayton Esquire returnable immediately before your Honor to have the Bodies of them the said William Clarke John Werden and James Young before Your Hono[r] together with the Day and Cause [of] their Caption and Detention to the End that your Honor may examine the Legality thereof and do there w[?] to Justice and Right sha[ll] appertain

John Kennidy

Witness James Munro Ja^s Hall

A True Copy

[Endorsed] Let Writts of Habeas Corpus issue directed to Admiral Clark Gayton returnable immediate

Edw^d Webley 1776 Feby 12

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1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240.

EDWARD WEBLEY TO VICE ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON [1]

Jamaica ss George the Third by the Grace of God of Great Britain France and Ireland King and of Jamaica Lord Defender of the Faith and so forth To Clark Gayton Esquire Admiral and Commander in Chief of our Fleet on the Station of this Island of Jamaica Greeting We Command You that the Body of James Young Merchant (now in your Custody on Board our Ship the *Antelope* as it is said) under safe and secure Conduct together with the day and Cause of his Captain and Detention by whatsoever Name or Names he May be therein named or called You have before our Chief Justice of the Island of Jamaica immediately at his House situated in the Town of Saint Jago de la Vega then and there to do Submitt to and receive all such Things as shall be Considered of by our said Chief Justice in this particular and have then there this Writ hereof fail not at your Peril Witness The Honorable Edward Webley Esquire Chief Judge of our Supreme Court of Judicature and Chief Justice of our said Island at Saint Jago de la Vega the 12th day of February in the Sixteenth Year of our Reign

Edw^{d} Webley

William Singer C[C] Corona. 1776

February 12th

Per Statutum tricesimo primo Caroli secundi Regis

Expences bringing to Spanish Town	£ 1..0..0	
returning if remanded	1..0..0	
Let Security be given according to the Statute in		50..0..0

E W

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1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240. Similar writs were issued the same day for William Clarke and John Werden, mariners.

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13 Feb.

BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID WOOSTER TO MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER [1]

Sir: Montreal 13th Feby 1776.

I received your Letter of the 2d Instant with the inclosed Resolves of Congress and observe the Contents and shall attend to the Instructions.

Mr Hare shall be used with every Civility – a Return of the Names of Commissaries in Canada shall be sent you when I can get a Return from General Arnold.

I am inform'd there is great plenty of Salt in this part of Canada more than sufficient for a twelve Month.

I will enquire and find out what Quantity of Cloth fit for Tents can be procured in this Country but dont expect to find much, I inclose you a Return of Tents and Nails &c that are in the Stores in this place. As a Number of Gondolas will be greatly wanted in the River St Lawrence and as we have a Quantity seasoned Timber & Plank – and you will see by the inclosed Return a Quantity of Spikes and Nails and as it will be difficult to get such as are built on the Lake, and perhaps dangerous, if they are any Ways large down the Rapids of Chamblé – Will it not be well to build them here, yet the Articles of Pitch Tar, Turpentine & Oacum must in that Case be sent from the Colonies, as there is none of either in the province, – some Master Carpenters would also be much wanted – good Workmen – poor ones are to be had here.

A proper person shall be appointed to frank the Army Letters – A Return of Ordinance in this province is already sent you – The Addresses are & shall be published.

I shall send you by this Conveyance General Montgomery's papers except the Accounts of Disbursements which must be first copied. Capt Van Renselour [James Rensselaer] is at present gone to Quebec to muster the Troops there, when he returns I shall direct him to proceed on to Albany.

With Regard to the two Regiments to be formed out of the broken Corps now in this province I hardly know what to say, I rather imagine it would be very difficult if not impossible to persuade but very few of them to engage for a longer Time than their present Inlistments – Yet I should be sorry that those Officers who are willing to continue in the Service should not have an Oppurtunity – The plan you propose though calculated to prevent Jealousies between the provinces I fear will be impracticable; besides the Difficulty of placing younger Officers before older ones they will never consent to serve together in Companies as that arrangement will place them – Suppose Sir that the Troops from [New] Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Connecticut should form one Regiment and the different New York Batallions another and the Officers be ranked according to Seniority from some Conversation I have had with several of the Officers – I am persuaded the other plan cannot be effectuated – I shall therefore be obliged to you for your Thoughts upon this and am in Haste [&c.]

Dav^{d} Wooster

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, I, 560–61, NA.

BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID WOOSTER TO JOHN HANCOCK [1]

Sir, Montreal Feby 13th 1776 –

Since writing the Letter to Congress enclosed with this – I have been considering of the force intended by Congress to be sent into this Country – perhaps I may be mistaken, but I can not but be of opinion that the Ministry will send a great force into this province in the Spring and our every thing depends upon our having a force upon the Spot superior to them – In that case we shall keep the Canadians in our Interest, otherwise we may depend upon their being our Enemies – They will think it necessary to exert themselves against us, in order to make their peace with their former Masters – I need not mention to you the almost infinite importance of keeping this province Mr Walker & Mr Price will tell you what dependance is to be placed in the Canadians – I would wish that Ten thousand men might be pushed into the Country by the first of May, which will be a respectable Army – Much depends upon the good or ill success of the first encounter should there be any – I hope Sir that vigorous exertions for keeping this province will be properly represented to Congress – Quebec must be taken before May – Yet we have neither proper Artillery nor Amunition. However a sufficient number of Men of Resolution I hope will effect it – I am Sir [&c.]

Dav^{d} Wooster

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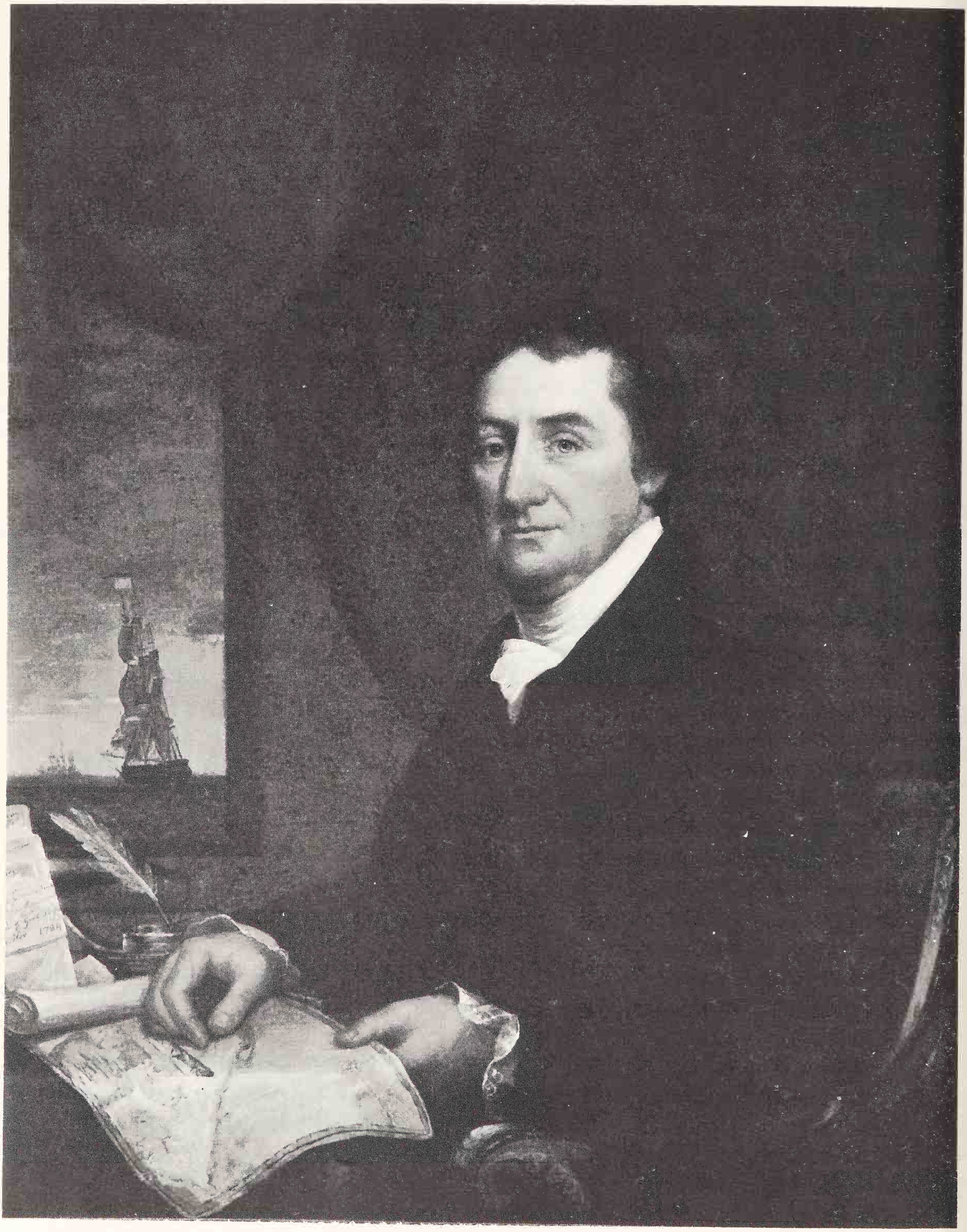
1. Papers CC (Letters from General Officers), 161, II, 297–98, NA.

Elias Hasket Derby to Nathaniel Silsbee [1]

Salem 13 Feby 1776

I Received a Letter from you by Capt [Wyatt] St Barbe, acquainting me that you was Ready to sail with Both Vessells for Dominica which I am somewhat sorry for, as I fear you will meet with some dificuilty at Domin[ica] or in your sending your Sloop Back, I at Present think it Prudent if you can Confide in Mr Collins to Order him to sell the Vessell & Cargo & to Keep it in his hands for my or your Order hereafter & I would have you write him unless you have given any other Orders & have not time to alter it, if I have any oppertunity I shall write him to that affect but it is uncertain

You write me you are surprized that I have not wrote you, but you must be a judge of the Risque, I once wrote you my mind very fully by Capt [Nathaniel] Nowell of Newbury & sent Abel Tree on Purpose to take care of it, but he got into Boston, in that Letter I wrote you the danger of comeing home again till Spring, Takeing all affairs into Consideration I must conclude it not safe or Prudent for me or you to Venture such an interest on this Co[a]st, so late as you must Provided you thought of comeing but in your Letter you think as I do about it, if this Letter should meet you at the Mole you may ship me by any Vessels bound to Cape Ann, Newbury, Ipswich, or near to it, some Cotton Cocoa, Sugar, Molasses, Duck, Cordage, Powder, or any other Article you think will answer; as I make no doubt but any goods will make at least 100 pc & for y[our] government I have set the Prices here & no doubt they will be much higher if times holds as they do at Present, but do not send any Indico as it is Contrary to the [Continental] association, but any fren[ch] Goods you have a Rite to bring, I do not mean at this time to Rite any Posetive Orders as affairs may alter in the Spring, but at Present it appears to me to be best to sell both Vessells & Cargo (tho it is much against my will to sell the Vessells) and to Settle all your affairs that is left unsettled, & either Tarry yourself in Jamaica or leave the whole stock in the hands of Messr Dolbears in Cash for my or your Order – If you had Rather I have no objection to your comeing home & leaveing the Interest as above, but I think the times cannot last long [as] they now are & belive you had better tarry some time at least, the N[ort]h side as it is more Healthy then at Kingston, & you need not be under any conceirn about your Familys wanting for any thing, there is many diffiecullties in carrying on business at this time & should be sorry to hear of your going back to Halifax, or of your doing any thing however small Conterary to the Assosiation of the Continent, Another Reason is & you may depend on it that if the Present dispute should Contineu the next summer that there will be not less then one hundred sail of Privaters out from the Continant – & I suppose the Interest of yours as Jamaica or Halifax Property, must share the fate of others if taken, but may the Almighty



Elias Hasket Derby.

dispose of all things [and] Order the Councill of the wicked administration to come to nought, if you have any oppertu[nit]y write me by way of Philadelphia, under Cover to Messr Cabot & Goodhue Merchants there & write me as often as you can & keep all your affairs settled as Clear as you can so that if any accident should happen to you I might know how to settle the Voyage.

Coppy by Cape Ann
from yr Friend
Elias Hasket Derby

Good Sugar	£25 – none here will be soon £30
Common Rum	35/.
Cocoa	£45 –
Cotton	28/ to 30/.
Molasses	20/, none at market
Cordage	25 to 27 P[er] 112 lb & will be £30 –
Russ[ian] Duck	£40 – p[er] Bolt and small Duck in that Propor.

Worsted stockings & Middleing Linen is at Present worth at least 150 pct more than formerly, but they must be bought at the Mole as the Committees & one & all are very wachfull in all affairs of that kind, some few Boxes of Pins as those that used to be sold at 5/. the Paper is now sold at 30/. the Paper & good writeing Paper is likewise much wanted

1. Elias Hasket Derby Papers, vol. 10, 5, EI.

ROBERT HANSON HARRISON TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL [1]

Sirs
Cambridge Feby 13. 1776

I take the liberty to Inclose you a letter which I received a few days ago from Captain William Wood [2] upon the subject of his parole & confinement to the Town of Glocester – As some of the Captains who have been taken by the Continental armed Vessels have been & are allowed a greater Indulgence than what he is, he seems to be uneasy & hopes that your Honourable Court will permit the Committee to Enlarge his parole – I have been long & Intimately acquainted with Captain Wood and in justice to him beg leave to Inform you, that I think him exceedingly worthy of any favours that you can do him consistent with the Good of the Great cause we are embarked in, and that any further Indulgences you may Incline to grant him, he will gratefully acknowledge & not abuse – he would wish to have the liberty of going to some of the Other Towns where some of his Acquaintances are – If Sir[s] It shall not be Incompatible with any determination of your Honourable body I could wish his request to be complied with – I shall be much Obliged by a Line from you that I may give him an answer, and pray as this application is founded in principles of Humanity, that you will excuse It. I am Sirs [&c.]

Rob H: Harrison

[Endorsed] In Council Feby 17th 1776 Read & ordered that the said William Wood be admitted on his Parole to pass & repass at Pleasure from & to Cambridge and Newbury Port – Perez Morton D Secry

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1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 247–48.
2. Master of the ship *Jenny*.

THOMAS CUSHING TO ROBERT TREAT PAINE [1]

[Extract] Watertown Feby 13th 1776

Dear Sir I have receiv'd your Favor of the 30th of January Am oblidged to you for the Intelligence it contained, & hope you will Continue your Favors & particularly Inform me, as far as you consistently can, what is doing at Congress ? how they are disposed since the reception of the Kings Speech ? & whether they are like to get any Powder ? an Article much wanted here, pray forward it to the Camp as fast as possible. . . . you cannot well conceive how much every man in [General] Court, any ways capable of Business, is crouded with it. we have hardly time to Sleep eat or drink. The settling of our Government, the Appointment of civil & military Officers & other Provincial matters are amply sufficient to Employ the Whole of our Time, What Can you think must be our Situation then, When the General Court are oblidged to take upon them, as it were, the department of a Quarter Master General to the Army, There is hardly any thing wanted for the army but we are oblidged to Sup[ply] it If Men, Money, Guns, Blanketts, Wood or Hay are wanted the General immediately Applys to the Court for them & the Members Are Appointed upon Committees & sent thro'out the Province to procure them. This I hope will serve as an apology for us, if we do not write so frequently & particularly as you might other ways expect –

Mr [John] Adams & Mr [Elbridge] Gerry will deliver you your Appointment & Instructions.[2] The General Court have passed a Militia Act Which I inclose you, They are about repealing the Act they lately passed with respect to Admiralty Matters & passing one Conformable to the Resolutions of the Congress – They have Resolved to Build Ten Sloops of War of about one hundred & fifteen Tons & have appointed a Committee to put this Resolve into Execution . . . I can get the Heavy Cannon for the Ships [3] cast by Mr Aaron Hobart of Abington, but must have the Pig Iron from Philadelphia. The Furnace at Providence will not be able to Cast more than is wanted for Rhode Island Government – I remain with respect [&c.]

Thomas Cushing

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[1] Robert Treat Paine Papers, MassHS.
[2] His reelection to the Continental Congress.
[3] The two Continental frigates building at Newburyport.

OWNERS' BOND FOR THE SCHOONER *Catharine* ON A VOYAGE TO PHILADELPHIA [1]

Know all Men by these Presents, that I Robert Stevens of East Greenwich in the County of Kent in the Colony of Rhode Island &c. Merchant am held and firmly bound unto Joseph Clarke Esquire General Treasurer of the said Colony in the Sum of Four Hundred Pounds Lawful Money to be paid to the said Joseph Clarke in his said Capacity or to his Successors in said Office for the Use of the said Colony to which Payment well and truly to be made I bind myself my Heirs Executors and Administrators firmly by these Presents. Sealed with my Seal Dated this Thirteenth Day of February in the year of Our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Six.

Whereas Thomas Cotterell Master of the Schooner *Catharine* burthened about Fifty five Tons is bound by Permission of the Honble Nicholas Cooke

Esquire Governor of the said Colony on a Voyage with his said Schooner with Fifty barrels of Oyl from this Colony to Philadelphia in the Province of Pensylvania. Now the Condition of this Obligation is such that if the said Thomas Cotterall shall proceed to the Colony of Pensylvania and there discharge his Cargo and take on board the Produce of the Country or other Articles under the Direction of the Committee of Inspection of the City Town or County where he shall lade and take in his Cargo and bring back proper Certificates both of Exports and Imports from them and lodge the same in the Office of the Secretary of the said Colony within three Days after the Return of the said Schooner and further shall not proceed to any Port or Place not being within the United Colonies (the Danger of the Sea and Seizure by an Enemy always excepted) then this Obligation shall be void or else in full Force.

Sealed and delivered
in the Presence of
Henry Ward Esther Ward

Rob^t Stevens Jur [2]

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1. Maritime Papers, Bonds, Masters of Vessels, R.I. Arch.
2. *Ibid.*, on the same day Stevens took out a bond for the sloop *Diamond*, 45 tons burden, John Morris, master, on a voyage in ballast to New York.

NICHOLAS BROWN TO CAPTAIN JAMES WESTCOTT [1]

Sir Providence Febry 13th 1776

You being Master of our Sloop *Enterprize* Our Orders are that you proceed to Rhode Island and Clear your Vessel at the Custom House, and then Imbrace every Good Wind to gain your Passage to the Granards, and there Sell your Cargo to the Best Advantage for Our Interest Not to Trust out Any of Your Cargo but to sell for Cash only, and lay out the Nett proceeds In such produce as you May Judge Will best Answer, Excepting Sum Oil for our Table Use, Sum Sweetmeats, & a few pounds of Dunford pins for Famaly Use & then proceed home with all possable Dispach – Your Commissions for doing the Buisness is to be Five pCent for Sales and Two & a half pCent for Returns, and Ten hhds Priveledge Home – If any thing should happen that you should do Otherways than well your Mate Mr Colvin, is to take the Command & follow these Our Orders –

We are your friends & Owners
Nich^o Brown
for himself & Owners

N B, you are not to speak with Any Vessel during the Voyage if you Can help it –

1. Nicholas Brown Papers, JCBL.

BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM WEST TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE [1]

Head Quarters Rhode Island 13th Feby 1776.

Hond Sir. I take this Opportunity to acquaint You Colo Wanton is returned to Head Quarters upon his Parole, being set at Liberty till the Sitting of the Genl Assembly; at the first Sight of Him my Blood felt warm & continued so for some Time in every Vein in my Body. I can truely Say with Job, had he "been sent back by my Enemies I could have born it;" but for Men, from whom I expected the greatest Protection, to set so lightly by me, my Officers & Men as to think it not worth while to detain such a Gentleman as Colo Wanton a few Days at Providence until I could be heard on the Matter: When I reflect on the Subject, and see my Enemies exulting, my Officers & Men dejected, & the grand and glorious Cause we are engaged in so much injured by it, am much put to it to bear up under my Burthens. Had not Colo Wanton been a Man well known to be an Enemy to his Country by every Person who has had the least Acquaintance with him, should not have taken it so hard. Had Colo Wanton been Commander in Chief in this Colony, & I had treated him & his Men in the same Manner he hath treated me & my Men, I should have been put in Irons & confined in close Gaol; as long as there are so many Compliments paid to our inveterate Enemies because they are Men of Fortune, not considering their Connections are so much more extensive, & have it in their Power to do us vastly the more Mischief, which is the present Case; in my Opinion we shall make but poor Progress in the Cause of Liberty: I thank God, that he hath endowed me with Spirit & Resolution to discharge the Trust reposed in me with an honest Heart, & that I have the Testimony of a good Conscience on that Account – However I may be censured by my Superiors, I must say, when Men's Lives are threatned for endeavouring to perform their Duty, when at the same Time they are obliged to do it, that a Person who hath been evidently guilty of all this, should be permitted to return where he can prosecute his traiterous & murderous Designs is astonishing to me –

I had much rather go into the Field with one Hundred Men & engage with Two Hundred of Capt [James] Wallace's Men, & fight four Hours, than undergo the Feelings I have felt for an Hour past, looking upon myself as a Subject of Ridicule for my Enemies, and of the Disregard of those whom I have always taken to be my best Friends. As I remain here seemingly only as a Cypher, I desire to be called from this office as Commander in chief here, as soon as possible, as I have no Desire of tarrying where I can be of no Service to the Government, or the grand Cause we are engaged in; & sincerely wish some Person may be appointed in my Stead, who will fill the Station with Honor & Fidelity, & a Person who will have some Notice taken of him.

Capt. Devol whom I sent to conduct Col. Wanton to Providence, is Just returned but not a Line sent me from the Governor; it seems I am a Person not worth writing to.

Capt Devol informs me Colo Wanton complained much to you, of my harsh & ill usage to him, & that I would not allow him to come before me & treat upon the Matter, & that General [Charles] Lee did not use him as I had done; I would just say a Word or two in Answer to that, it so happened that I was in Company with Genl Lee when he first sent for Colo Wanton, who came immediately, offering no Threats against the Person sent to him, not requiring an armed Force to bring him, but came immediately on the first Notice, & when he was before the General, gave him no Challenges, but treated him with Deference & Respect. – When General Lee ordered him to be sent out of Town, He sent Him to me at Head Quarters, gave Orders that I should take Charge of the sd Wanton, which I accordingly did, sent him to Mr Irish's, & ordered him to be Supplied with every Necessary he wanted; the Colo then said he was well treated by me.

I shall now give You a short Account of the Usage Col Wanton hath recived from me in taking him up this Time; A Day or two before he was taken, He came with a Complaint to me, against the Troops Stationed on Jamestown, of their burning the [torn] &C. on his Farm there, committing great Waste, upon which I immediat[e]ly Sent over or[ders] to Colo Hoxsey [Gideon Hoxie] not to Suffer any Waste to be committed on sd Island, always treating Colo Wanton as a Gentleman. After his insulting me, as you may see by the Papers I sent You, I in a genteel manner sent a Serjeant to him with a Billet, ordered him to take his Horse & Chaise & come to Mr George Irish's, which he refused to comply with, in a very Haughty Manner, Scrupling my A[u]thority. I then Saw plainly I must try whether I had any Authority or not, & accordingly sent an armed Force into the Town of Newport, which I was very loth to do, for many Reasons without the greatest Necessity: When the Col was brought out of Town, I ordered him to be conducted to mr Irish's, & sent to Mr Irish requesting him to let the Colo have every thing he wanted to make him Comfortable as to Lodging Diet, &C. About 7 oClock next Morning I sent him a Billet informing him I was about to send him to Providence, and that he must set off at Ten of the Clock, & if he wanted any Thing from Home for his Journey, he might send for them so as to be ready by that Time; this Billet He also treated with Disdain, never sent me a Scrip in Answer, nor ever asked to come before me: A Number of his Friends came to vizit him, on the Occasion, some of them came to me and desired to know if there was no Way the Affair could be settled, I told them he must go to Providence; Much more might be added, but lest I should tire your Patience I forbear. If I have said any thing amiss in the above Epistle I humbly ask Your Honor's Pardon, and at the same Time assure You I only mean to Communicate to you my Sentiments freely as to a Friend – I am with Respect [&c.]

W^{m} West

N:B. Since I finished this, Yours of the 14th Inst. I've recieved P Lieut Riggs, by which I find You take Col Wanton's bare Word Rather than all I wrote you, with all the positive Evidence I Sent You – Ever since I came here, the greatest Concord & Unanimity hath existed both with the Officers & Men, so that we have been very happy on that account, and notwithstanding they are all greatly Chagrin'd by Col Wanton's being Sent Back, You may be assured I will use my utmost Influence that Peace & Harmony may still remain among the Officers & Soldiers Col Wanton's Return opperates more on our Friends in the Town of Newport than Elsewhere; Twenty Men have been kept as a Watch in the Town, (being all Inhabitants of Newport,) their Business is to patrole the Wharves Night & Day, that Nothing may go on Board the Ships, who think they are now in great Danger of being kill'd or taken on Board the Ships in a private Manner. – Yrs as above

W:W

1. Letters to the Governor, 1776, vol. 8, R.I. Arch.

WILLIAM APLIN TO THE SOUTH KINGSTON, RHODE ISLAND, COMMITTEE OF CORRESPONDENCE [1]

Gent So Kingston Febry 13th 1776

Agreeable to your requisition of Yesterday I now sit down to give you a faithful & true narrative of my proceedings in Point-judith. –

On Saturday the fourth instant I went upon a Visit to Mr Stephen Hazard's at Point-judith & stayed at his House the Night following, on Sunday Morning I went from Mr. Hazard's with some Company to the House of Mr Stephen Champlin who is in the Neighbourhood of Mr Hazard's soon after I arrived at Mr Champlin's the Fleet from Newport was descried steering Southward from the Light-House, the Company I was in made many conjectures concerning their destination, most of the People imagining their destination was for Block-Island; none I believe thinking they were a going to Land in Point-judith, until We observed that one of the Ships wch I beleive was the *Rose,* stood in for the Land, upon wch the Women & Children, who were present were very much affrighted & began to screech & Cry, wch much affected me to see their distresses, and I proposed that it would be proper for some Person to go down upon the shores & see if Capt Wallace could not be prevented from spreading destruction & devastation through the Point, (as there were no Armed Men present to oppose him, & the distance of the People one from another are so great that it would take a very considerable time to collect any force to Repel the Enemy) I then not seeing any Person to go down to the shore, went myself, & got upon the Point of Land just as Capt Wallace was Landing, I called out & asked for Capt Wallace upon being told were he was, I Requested that he would not Land his Men, & frighten the defenceless Women & Children, – and asked him his demands, he said he wanted two Loads of Hay, & then asked me for a Team, & said if he could have the Hay Carted down to the Shores he would pay for the Hay, & the use of the Team – I told him the Hay belonged to Mr Niles who lived upon the Farm, upon wch he said he should be glad to see Mr Niles, & requested that I should desire Mr Niles to come down to him – upon wch I told him that as soon as the alarm spread thousands would come down & prevent his taking the Hay he replied he would have the Hay at the risk of his Life I then left him & went to Mr Niles's in order to consult the People that might be assembled whether it would not be better to give the two Loads of Hay than to have the Neck ravaged; upon my going to the House I could see not any Person whoever & I then went to Mr Stepn Champlins in order to see if Mr Niles was there & not finding him I went to Mr St: Hazard's, & at Mr Hazard's I saw not any Person saving Mr. Hazard & some part of his famely. Mr Hazard had then got a Horse saddled with a Pillion on in order to go as he said for a Midwife, the fright Mrs Hazard had received he said he apprehended would be attended with bad consequences, as she was not in a state to be moved, upon wch seeing my Brother Joseph Aplin's Horse there I mounted him & rode down to were Capt Wallace was in order to let him know that I could not see Mr Niles, upon my coming up to Capt Wallace I told him I could not see Mr Niles he said he is here upon wch I then replyed I am dismissed he said No you are to stay one Quarter of an Hour – I then discovered Mr. Jos. Aplin Doct Gleeson, Mr. Silas Niles & Mr Robert Hazard but did not hear any Conversation that passed.

I can assure you Gent that I acted from [mo]tives of compassion for the defenceless Women & Children & did not intentionally mean to give the least offence to any Person, whatever, & If my conduct has been Wrong, the Error was undesigned – for I have at almost every Alarm shouldered my Musket & Marched with my Neighbours in defence of my Country & when I found that there was no person to oppose Wallace I thought I was acting for the Public good if I could be any ways instrumental in saving my Neighbours Houses goods &c – Upon the whole Gent I beg you will pass this matter over & think, as I really did act from principles wch I thought was then best. I am very sorry that my Conduct has given the least offence, & the whole was done through my not thinking it would be construed into a Wrong. I am Gent [&c.]

William Aplin

[Endorsed]

Questions asked Wm Aplin by the Committee

Question was you asked by any Person or Persons to go to Capt Wallace, when he was Landing at Point Judith, & by whom?

Ansr I am not certain, as to that,

Question was you there before Capt Wallace Landed or not,

Answer, before he, or any of his men Landed

Question Did you inform your brother Joseph Aplin that you had been at the Point with Wallace, before your sd brother had been down, & when did you inform him

Ansr Yes & the same Evening that Wallace Landed being with my brother at Stephen Hazard's – William Aplin

The aforesaid William Aplin, being before sd Committee, this 13th day of February A D. 1776 Declared that the aforegoing Declaration by him given, & the aforegoing Answers by him made, to the aforegoing Questions, are the Truth.

Witness J Peckham Clerk of sd Committee

To the Committee of Corrispondence in Southkingstown

1. Letters to the Governor, 1776, vol. 8, R. I. Arch.

Minutes of the South Kingston Committee of Correspondence [1]

At a Meeting of the Committee of Correspondence held by adjournment in South Kingstown the 13th day of February A D. 1776 –

This Committee having received information that William Aplin of sd Town, was in Company with Capt Wallace, at the Time of his Landing at Point Judith, On the fourth day of this Instant, upon which this Committee immediately caused the sd William Aplin to appear before them, to answer to sd Information, who declared he was with sd Wallace at sd Time & place, & that he had conversation with him, agreable to a Narrative, this day delivered to this Committee, by him subscribed with his Name Upon due Consideration It was thereupon ordered by this Committee, that the Clerk of the Committee, immediately transmit a Copy of the proceedings of this Committee, in the Premisses, together with the sd Narrative of sd William Aplin, to his Honour the Governor of this Colony, and this Committee appoint Mr Thomas Hazard Potter, to convey the same, as soon as may be, to his Honour the Governor –

A True Copy extracted from the Minute Book

Witness J Peckham Clk of said Committee

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1. Letters to the Governor, 1776, vol. 8, R.I. Arch.

J. Peckham to Governor Nicholas Cooke [1]

Sir So Kingstown Feb. 13th. 1776

It appearing to the Committee of Correspondence of this Town, upon recollecting the Examination of John Patterson the Deserter from Capt Wallace at Point Judith 4th Feb. Instant, That a Person prior to Mr Joseph Aplin, Doctr Gleason, Silas Niles & Robert Hazard, had been to the Shore singly & conversed with sd Wallace previous to his Landing – Upon interogating Mr Joseph Aplin last saturday, He declared to the Committee, that he knew nothing of any Person going to Wallace, before himself, together with Doctr Gleason, Niles & Hazard aforesd, The Committee thought it their duty to make the strictest enquiry into sd Matter, & was soon informed that the Person alluded to by the Deserter was Mr William Aplin, brother to the aforesd Joseph, & who upon Examination proved to be the Person, & the sd William declared before the Committee, the whole affair (as he says) of his going to sd Wallace, & declared that he told his sd Brother at Mr Stephen Hazard's in the evening of sd 4th Instant, that [t]he sd William Applin had been down to sd Wallace, & conversed with him, previous to his sd Brother Joseph's going to Wallace, on the same day, I here inclose Mr William Aplin's relation of the affair, with some Questions asked him by the Committee & his Answers thereto,[2] knowing your Honours most fervent Zeal in the Grand Cause of Liberty, The Committee have not the least doubt, but your Honour will immediately, do everything in your Power, that the truth of this unhappy affair, may very soon appear, all which is submited for your Honour's Consideration, By order & behalf of sd Committee by Yr Honours most Obediant and Humble Servt–

J Peckham Clk of sd Committee

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1. Letters to the Governor, 1776, vol. 8, R.I. Arch.
2. See William Aplin to the South Kingston Committee of Correspondence, February 13, 1776.

Governor Jonathan Trumbull to Governor Nicholas Cooke [1]

Sir Lebanon Feby 13. 1776

As I have received a most pressing Request from Genll Washington to forward to Him all the Powder we can possibly spare, I have therefore concluded to send Him what We have lying at Providence supposed to be about 6000, weight. as it is in the common Cause, You will I dare add to your other Favors, in ordering the Powder You was so kind as to send for to Bedford in Dartmouth to Genll

Washington as spedily as possible, in secure Packages, the Charges of transporting these, with the others arising on that Powder, You will be so good as to transmit to me with your Order thereon which will be readily answered.

The Intelligence We have from Canada is at present favorable. Brigr Genl Arnold keeps up the Blockade of Quebec, expects to hold out 'till reinfor[ce]ments arrive, some Companys from the northward had passd Montreal, others on their march near there & many others hard following on, so that we have great ocason to hope he will very soon be sufficiently reinforced. Such ready Support in the depth of Winter by the march of our Troops at so great a Distance over those bleak Lakes & uninhabited Shores into the frozen Regions of Canada, must astonish our Enemies & will not have a parallel in History. I have the pleasure also to inform You that Genll Lee has at length obtained free admission into New York, where He is determined to gain a firm footing & possession with its Environs. Lord Stirling with his Jersey Battalion has also joind him. about the same Time Genl Clinton arrived at New York & finding Himself defeated in his Plan gives out that He had no Design of landing Troops there, but is bound further southward.

thus Providence seems in every way to operate for the Salvation of a too ungratefull People, & to the Confusion of our Enemies. I have transmitted to you inclosed a Copy of my last from Genll Lee, for your perusal, & in consequence of it have orderd the Regiment as requested. and am with sincere Respect & great Esteem [&c.]

Jonth Trumbull

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1. Letters to the Governor, 1776, vol. 8, R.I. Arch.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO JOHN HANCOCK [1]

[Extract] Albany February 13th: 1776.

Sir Mr. Macarty who is just arrived from Canada delivered me the inclosed, he is capable of giving Information to Congress which has confirmed me in my opinion of the Necessity of sending immediately a Committee into Canada.

The New York Congress have sent me twelve thousand five hundred Dollars to raise a Regiment in this Quarter for the Canada Service; I have already too much Business on my Hands without this addition but as the General Committee of this County meet on Thursday, I will lay the Request before them and if they think it can be complied with I will do my Endeavours.

I have an Infinity of Trouble with those people to whom I promised a Bounty to march into Canada. Inclose a Copy of a Letter which I yesterday delivered Col. [Seth] Warner – I hope what I have here recommended will meet with the approbation of Congress. If he should be able to form a Regiment out of the people mentioned the Number of Troops in Canada will notwithstanding be less than what Congress intended, as the two Regiments cannot by any Means be raised out of the other Troops now in Canada – It will besides save a very considerable Expence which must necessarily accrue by his Men coming away and others being sent in Lieu.

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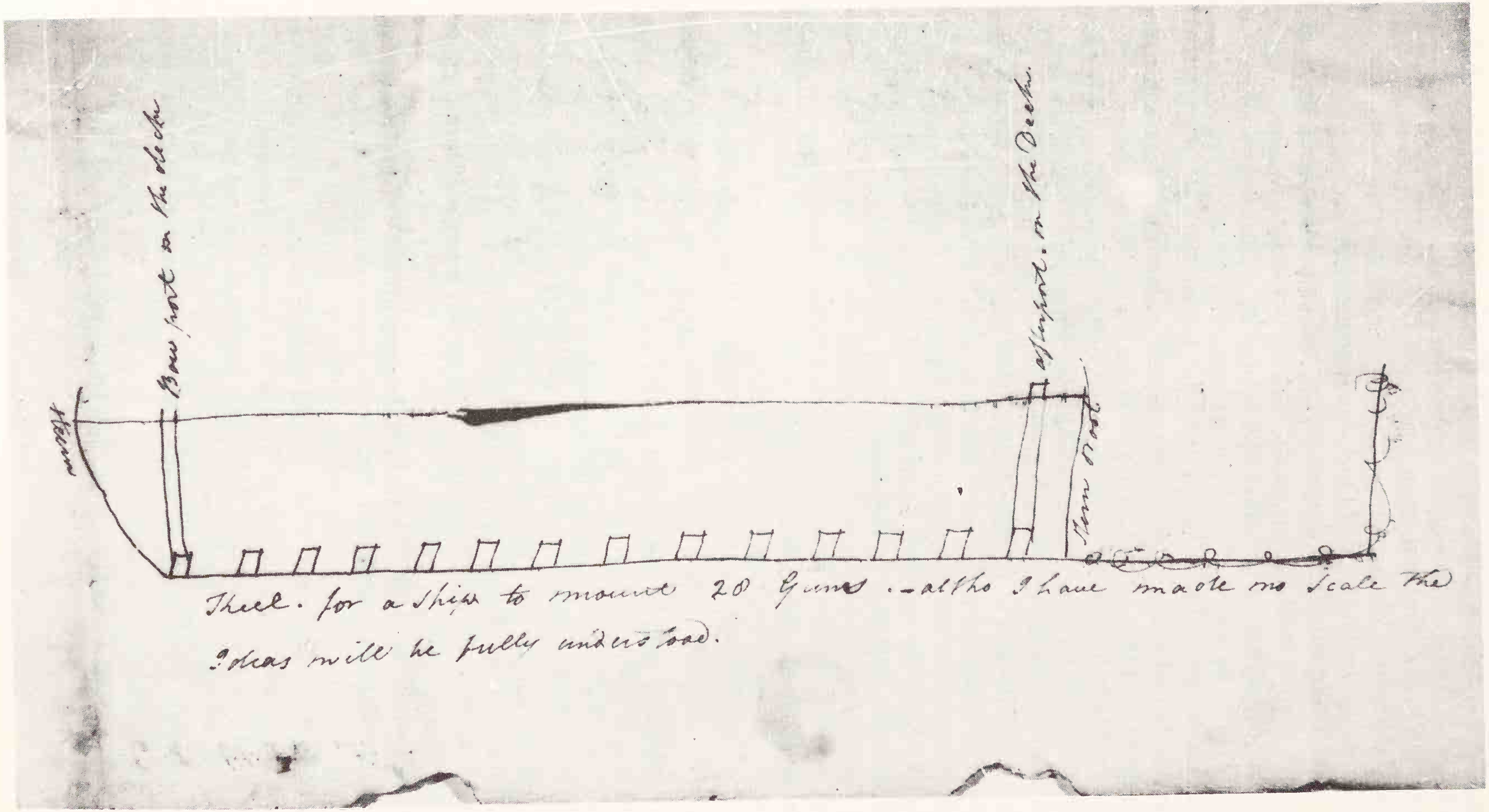
1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, I, 532–34, NA.


Stem
Bow port on the deck
Sternport. on the Deck
Stern Post

Keel. for a Ship to mount 20 Guns. — altho I have made no Scale the Ideas will be fully understood.

Colonel Alexander McDougall's "ruff Diagram" of a keel for a 28 gun ship, included in a letter to John Jay, February 13, 1776.

Colonel Alexander McDougall to John Jay [1]

Dear sir

Newyork Feby 13th 1776

Yesterday we made a Convention. I have the pleasure to inform you it will be a full one in a day or two. They have such a Spirit as will maintain the reputation of the Colony and the Common Union. When Mr [Silas] Deane was here in the Course of the winter, on the business of the Navey; I suggested to him the Propriety of geting a Copy of Lieut O Brien's Naval evolutions, to be reprinted. He approved of it, but I could not then obtain a Copy. I have Since procurd one and Sent it this morning by Col [Lewis] Morris to Congress which I beg them to accept. As this is the only tract on this Subject, in our language, and but one other Copy of it in this City, I think it Should be reprinted at Public expence. If this Should be the opinion of Congress, great care ought to be observed in the work. The Copy Should be corrected, by the Errata before its begun, for if the work is not clear, as those for whose use it is designed are not the most intelligent, the end of the republication will not be answered. From the diminssion transmitted to Newyork for the building the Ships in our Colony, I fear the Construction of them will be improper for the force designated for them. All the modern Frigates English as well as French, which carry Nine or Twelve Pounders, have their Ports Seven feet distant in the Clear from sill to sill of the Ports, and each Port from 2 feet to 2 feet three inches clear, and the Bow gun Stand in its proper Place not farther forward than the Scarf that is not over the Strait part of the Keel. And the aftermost Gun, is generally the distance of one port, from the Scag, that is from the aftermost part of Keel. From whence it will necessarily Follow, that the whole length of the Keel Should be equally to the dimensions of the Ports and their distance for the Number of the Guns a ship is intended to Carry on the Lower Deck. This will be Clearly understod by the ruff Diagram, on the other side.[2] My Solicitude for the reputation of the united Colonies, is the motive that induced me to make this hasty address in Convention, which I hope will plead my excuse. I am with great truth and regard [&c.]

Alex^{r}M^{c}Dougall

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1. Manuscript Collection, No. 161, USNAM.
2. See illustration opposite.

Journal of the Continental Congress [1]

[Philadelphia] Tuesday, February 13, 1776

The committee on the petition of Stacey Hepburn, brought in their report, which was agreed to as follows:

That the said petitioner be permitted to load the sloop *Dolphin,* with the produce of these colonies, (live stock and lumber for making casks excepted) and to transport the same to Hispaniola, he promising to use his utmost endeavours to remit the amount of such cargo in military stores, into some port of this continent, as soon as possible.[2]

The Committee appointed to prepare a resolution for the exportation of naval stores, brought in the same, which was agreed to as follows: [3]

Resolved, That when navel stores shall be wanted in any of the United Colonies, the assembly, convention, or committee of safety of such colony, may entrust a proper person or persons to import the same, taking sufficient security of him or them, that they will faithfully use their best endeavours to import the same into such port or ports as the said assembly, convention, or committee of safety shall direct, and, as much as possible, to avoid all British men of war and cutters; giving him or them, a certificate or certificates of the naval stores wanted, and also of his having given the said security: And that it be recommended to the convention, council of safety, and committees of observation and inspection of North Carolina, upon receiving such certificates, to permit the person or persons producing the same to export the naval stores wanted by the colony applying for the same to such colony.

That it be further recommended to the said convention, council of safety, and committees of inspection and observation in North Carolina, to give permission to such vessels as may have arrived in that colony, for those articles, or such of the vessels belonging to that colony, as they may think proper, to export naval stores to any of the United Colonies, they taking security as in the other cases above mentioned.

A petition from Mr. Bernard Romans, was presented to Congress and read:

Resolved, That it be recommended to the convention of New York, to pay Mr. Bernard Romans up to the 9th day of this month.

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1. Ford, ed., *JCC,* IV, 129–34.
2. Hepburn's memorial was presented on February 9, 1776, and referred to a committee of three: Thomas McKean, Thomas Nelson, and John Penn.
3. The draft from which the resolutions were drawn is not in the Papers CC, but in the Hayes Collection, NCDAH, and is apparently in the handwriting of Joseph Hewes.

Diary of Richard Smith [1]

[Philadelphia] Tuesday 13 [February]. [Samuel] Chase gave Notice that he would move tomorrow for Orders to Admiral Hopkins to seize all Ships of Great Britain & to recommend to all the Colonies to fit out Privateers – agreed to continue the Pay of Capt Bernard Romans during his Stay in Philada on public Business

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1. Richard Smith's Diary, LC.

"Private Intelligence from Philadelphia 13th Feby 1776." [1]

1776		
January	8th	Forty Ton of Salt Petre Arrived from Saint Croix.
	17	Fleet sailed to Reedy Island and Seventy Hands arrived from Rhode Island to help them.
	20	Twenty two of the Cheveaux de frizes drove by the Ice from their Moorings. –
		Eighty hands more for –

February 12th Fleet sailed in the Morning under old [Esek] Hopkins from Reedy Island, destination a Secret.

Four Frigates on the Stocks, the Keels 140, 136, 124 and 120 Feet – to carry they say from 36 Guns to 28 Do but not quite Certain –

A Guard Ship on the Stocks of 18 Guns, to be launched in about three Weeks, to be Stationed just below the Cheveaux de frize.

The Deserters that are here would very willingly return to their Duty, if they were sure of a Pardon, and could be informed when they would be received; and it is believed would bring many with them –

Copy/

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1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484. Enclosed in Shuldham's letter of March 8, 1776 to Philip Stephens.

MARYLAND DELEGATES IN CONGRESS TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

Gentlemen. Philada Feby 13th 1776.

be pleased to pay unto Messrs Saml Purviance Junr, William Lux, & David Steward or their Order three hundred pounds Common Money for Value received of them, being so much Money belonging to them & which We received to be applied for the purchase of Guns for the *Defence* –

Sam^{l} Chase R. Alexander
W^{m} Paca [John] Rogers

[Endorsed] Receved the Amount of the Within Order in full £300

David Stewart

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1. Executive Papers, Box 2, Md. Arch.

NORTH CAROLINA DELEGATES IN CONGRESS TO THE NORTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

Honorable Gentlemen Philadelphia 13th Feby 1776.

We received information from Genl Washington about ten days ago that the *Mercury* Ship of War and several Transports with General [Henry] Clinton and a number of Soldiers on board had sail'd out of Boston harbour and that he was informed they were bound to New York, in consequence of this intelligence he had sent of[f] General Lee to take the Command of such forces as could be immediately marched into that City for its defence. General Clinton arrived before the Town in the Man of War on the same day that General Lee marched into it, we are this day informed that one of the Transports full of Soldiers has got into the harbour, it seems to be doubtfull wether Clinton intended to land in New York had he arrived there in time, some think he is to proceed to the southward, his going in there has occasioned much Speculation, it is generally believed by those who get the best information and we have not the least doubt of the fact, that he is on his way to North Carolina and that he called at New York to confer and advise with Governor Tryon respecting the situation of our Colony, the Number & temper of the people, and in what manner he might best attack them with a probability of success, the particulars as far as we have been able to obtain information of them are these: that seven Regiments were to embark from Great Britain about the first of december and proceed to Hampton Road in Virginia, there wait till Genl Clinton Joins them with the troops from Boston, settle the plan of opperation with Lord Dunmore and proceed to make impressions into North Carolina and the adjacent Colonies in such places and Manner as may best suit their purposes by dividing their forces, We thought it absolutely Necessary that you should be informed of these matters that your best efforts may be exerted to defeat the purposes of them, should Governor [Josiah] Martin supported by a body of these troops, introduce himself amongst the highlanders and Regulators the Consequences might prove fatal to our Colony,

We recommend it to your consideration whether it will not be prudent to call a meeting of your Congress early in April or sooner if it can be done with propriety, will it Not be proper to appoint several General officers to command the Militia in case large bodies of them should be called forth? Seven Regiments of 680 Men each with the Accession of Tories and perhaps Negroes will be a very formidable force and will require your greatest abilities to oppose, you will see by Lord Norths Motion in Parliament on the 20th of November what the Colonies have to expect from that quarter, we earnestly hope our Colony will stand firm and oppose the Tyranny of that Corrupt Parliament to the last extremity,

we wrote to you three days ago when we expected to have sent of[f] the Waggon, but meeting with a disappointment in the powder (that in the Magazine being all Cannon powder very coarse and ordinary) we Judged it improper to send any till the best kind can be got, we are obliged to detain the Waggon a few days 'till a Vessel arrived in the River (with Sixty Tone of Saltpetre Thirteen Tons of powder and 1300, Arms) gets up to Town, a copy of that Letter with sundry papers therein referred to we now enclose, we shall be glad to know the time you fix for the meeting of your Congress, and are with the utmost respect Honble Gentlemen [&c.]

The honble Corn[eliu]s Harnett Esq and the
other members of the Council of Safety of No Carolina

[1] Hayes Manuscripts, NCDAH.

Joseph Hewes to Samuel Johnston [1]

[Philadelphia, February] the 13th

I mentioned to you some time ago that a Vessell was arrived here with near Sixty Tons of Salt Petre on board and that several quantities of powder had been brought in, a few days since another Vessell arrived in this same River and is now kept below by the Ice She has Sixty Tons of Saltpetre, 13 Tons of Powder & 1300 muskets on board, These supplies appear considerable and yet we find by experience they are quite trifling when compared with our demands. Powder Mills being scarce the manufacturing goes on very slow and powder wastes excedingly in a large Army even where little is fired away, the Cartouch Boxes get wet, Soldiers are careless and much is lost in dealing it out in small parcels – notwithstanding all our Supplies we now find both Powder & Arms greatly wanted at our Camp at Cambridge, by our army in Canada, by the Troops in New York, in this Province, Maryland & Virginia, give us powder or we perish is the language of all applications are made every day to Congress for powder & Arms, it is astonishing to think what pains the British Court has been at to prevent every Nation in Europe from supplying us with these articles, Several person who have lately come from France, Spain, Portugal & Holland say every Port every Town and almost every public house has spies from England to watch the motions of the Merchants so that scarcely anything can be brought away even by a Circuitous Voyage but they find it out, by the ingenuity of some dutch & French smugglers a little is sometimes brought away so that we meet with more difficulty in our supplies than could be expected, Americans ought to be more industrious in making these articles at home, every family should make salt Petre every Province have Powder Mills and every body encourage the making of arms.

1. Hayes Manuscripts, NCDAH. Continuation of February 11 letter.

JOSEPH HEWES TO SAMUEL JOHNSTON [1]

Dr Sir [Philadelphia, February 13, 1776] [2]

The Bearer Mr Goddard intending to go as far as Georgia to establish A Continental Post office under proper regulations thro the Southern Colonies I embrace the opportunity to entertain you with a line or two on politicks

By Numbers of Letters from Great Britain & Ireland the Colonies [are] threatened with inundations of Roman Catholick, Hanoverian, Hessian and Russian Soldiers, from the best accounts we have been able to procure (for we have nothing since the Parliament met) a plan has been formed by Administration to send over 20 m Russians early in the Spring, the *Empress of Russia* it is said does not chuse to hire them as she dont expect one of them would chuse to leave the rich fertile Fields of America and return home to the frozen Mountains of the North, but is willing to Sell them to great Britain for a certain Stipulated Sum, this is to be agreed too and they are to be conveyed by a British Fleet into these Colonies, some say into Pennsylvania first as being the most fertile, best improved and richest Country and to punish its inhabitants for entering to deeply in [to] the present Rebellion wherever they Land they are to have such parts of the Country as they can Conquer and to become British Subjects, if those formidable Savages should enter America they will not possess much of it without a severe contest having very little hopes of a reconciliation we are endeavouring to make all the defence in our power against this dreadfull Storm we have ordered 53 Regemts to be raised in the different Colonies each to consist of 728 men including Officers, many of them are now compleat and they will all be so early in the Spring, you may add to this Double the number of Regiments of well regulated Militia who no doubt will struggle hard for those rights & privileges which they consider as their birthright Gen Lee in a Letter to Congress recd. yesterday says he expects a large Number of British Troops will be sent to

New York as early as possible that he intends to Fortify the City in the best manner he can & calls for more Troops, wishes to have a Battalion of the Philada militia that they might be instructed in Pilage Fortification, camp duty, &c. & his desire was immediately made known to the City, the Colo of the four Battalions instantly applied to Congress for the command of the detachment should one be sent, the Pennsylvania Farmer on Duty being the first Col.[3] insisted on his right and will have the command the four Battalions were this day drawn out when it was proposed that two companies from each should turn out for that Service so as to make a compleat Battalion from the whole, they did it with great chearfullness it was diverting enough to see both officers & men soliciting to be employed on the Service, some of the Companies will march to Morrow – today I might say for the watchmen are this moment saying past one oClock the express will call on me at eight. [William] Hooper in Camp gone & [John] Penn not very well I intended to have wrote Mr. [James] Iredale & Mr. [Wiley] Jones, I am much fatigued and cannot do it, excuse me to them, they have my best wishes.

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1. Hayes Manuscripts, NCDAH.
2. The date is set by the Journal of Congress for February 12, 1776.
3. John Dickinson.

JOSIAH BARTLETT TO JOHN LANGDON [1]

[Extract] Philadelphia Feby 13th 1776.

. . . The draft [2] goes this day with the money to the Camp at Cambridge.

As to your being further impowered, I have took the opinion of many of the Committee separately (for there has been no meeting since I rec'd yours) and they are all of opinion that you are already authorised to build, rig, equip and fit for sea the ship to be built in our Colony and that you will do it according to your discretion, except where you have particular orders: what orders are sent to you are the same that are sent to the other builders and where any thing cannot be supplied in the Colony they will inform the Committee by a letter to the Chairman. Hemp and cordage you say are high; as to that I would inform you that Mr. [Francis] Lewis has procured a considerable quantity: Russia hemp at 65s and this country do from 56s to 58s per hundred York money so you will see whether it is best to buy with you or send to New York

I expect the Committee will meet tomorrow evening; when they meet I will try to procure an order for more money to be sent you and hope to send it off this week and will enquire concerning the length of cable and weight of anchors – as for cannon I believe a Committee of Congress have contracted for them.–

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1. William Whipple Papers, Force Transcripts, LC.
2. Draft of the frigate to be built in New Hampshire.

SECRET COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS TO THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

Philadelphia, Committee Chamber, Feby 13th, 1776.

Agreeable to a resolution of the Continental Congress, we, the subscribers, by them appointed as a Comm'ee of Secrecy, do hereby authorize and impower

Benjamin Harrison, of Virginia, Esquire, to load the Brigantine *Fanny*, Capt. —— [William Tokeley] Master, with the produce of that colony and to export the same.

Sam. Ward,
Thomas McKean,
John Alsop.
Josiah Barlett,
Robt. Morris,
Joseph Hewes,
Francis Lewis.

To the Comm'ee of Safety or Comm'ee of Inspection and Observation of the Colony of Virginia.

[Endorsed] I do hereby certify that the subscribers to the above order are a quorum of the Commit'e of Secrecy appointed by Congress, and have full power and authority to issue the above order by them subscribed John Hancock, P.

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1. *Virginia State Papers,* VIII, 125, 126.

BENJAMIN HARRISON TO EDMUND PENDLETON [1]

[Extract] Philada Feby 13th 1776

I left New York on Wednesday last [February 7], Genl Clinton was then there and I beleive on his way to Virga to meet a fleet which he expected from England, he gave out that he was to go to the Southward but you must prepare for him, for I think he will most assuredly Stop with you, as he certainly intends to Hampton Road to wait for his Troops which are to Rendezvous there, should he land them God knows what will become of you even if you have your 9 Battalions Raised, for I understand you have not Arms for a Quarter part of them, the Congress have done every thing in their Power to procure them with out Effect, and this will forever be the Case as long as we carry on this war and no War, we shall Start at Shadows till we are undone, and shall never see our error till the Shackles Gingle on our Feet and awake us out of our Fatal Lethargy, I could fill a Volume on this subject but it will avail nothing, the sooner, I conclude therefore the better.

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1. **PML.** Harrison was a Virginia delegate in the Continental Congress.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF JOSHUA BARNEY [1]

[October 23, 1775 to February 13, 1776]

On my arrival at Balt[imore] I found the whole country had taken up arms against the Injustice of England, my heart soon caught the flame; there was then fitting out at Philadelphia a small Squadron of Vessels under Commodore [Esek] Hopkins & orders had been given to fit out two small Vessels from Balt. one a sloop of ten guns called the *Hornet* commanded by Capt Wm Stone (a Bermudian by Birth) I immediately offered myself & was received as Master's Mate,[2] a few days afterwards the American Flag was sent from Commodore Hopkins for our Sloop, early the next morning I put it on a staff, & with drums & fifes beat up for Volunteers & in one day engaged the crew for our Vessel, this was the first flag of the U States & the first time it was seen in the State of Maryland & which I had the honour of carrying.[3] The latter end of Novr 1775, we sailed in company with the *Wasp* Schooner to join Comr Hopkins in the Delaware [4] & proceeded to Sea without seeing any thing of the Enemy, who were laying in

Hampton Roads we, in a few days joined the fleet then at Anchor at the mouth of the Delaware, consisting of the *Alfred* of 30 Guns, the Comr Ship *Columbus* of 30 Guns, the *Cabot* Brig, of 16 Guns, the *Andrew Doria,* Brig of 14 Guns, the *Providence* Sloop of 12 Guns, The *Fly* tender, our Sloop *Hornet* of 10 Guns, & the Schr *Wasp* of 6 Guns.[5]

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1. Manuscript Autobiography, DARL.
2. As in most autobiographies written long after events recalled, there is a discrepancy in dates as well as a tendency to anticipate occurrences. It was not until December 2, 1775, that Congress instructed the Naval Committee "to confer with Captain Stone and engage him and his vessel, &c." Ford, ed., *JCC,* III, 395. Hence, it was after that date Barney was signed on as master's mate.
3. The flag Barney used for recruiting was the Grand Union – thirteen alternating red and white stripes with St. George's cross in the canton. This was the flag of the United States until the adoption of the Stars and Stripes in 1777, although it began as the flag of the thirteen United Colonies.
4. Instead of sailing from Baltimore late in November 1775, the *Hornet* and *Wasp* did not clear port until after January 13, 1776, as indicated by a letter of that date given Captain Stone to deliver to Hopkins. See William Wall to Commodore Esek Hopkins, January 13, 1776.
5. According to the *Andrew Doria* journal, the *Hornet* and the *Wasp* joined the fleet in Delaware Bay, February 13, 1776. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

WILLIAM LUX TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

Gentlemen. Baltimore 13 Feby 1776.

Capt Charles Wells of the Pilot Boat *Chatham* has applied to me to be excused from taking onboard the Flour which he had engagd to take in on Accot of the Province, as the Gentlemen who are Concerned in the Adventure, are afraid it might subject the Vessell to a Seizure, in case a Tender shoud happen to meet her, either here, or going into Statia. The Flour is Purchased by us, & has been ever since you were here, and we have been waiting every day for his order to send it down. We cannot undertake to grant the Indulgence without your directions, And he now waits on you for that purpose.

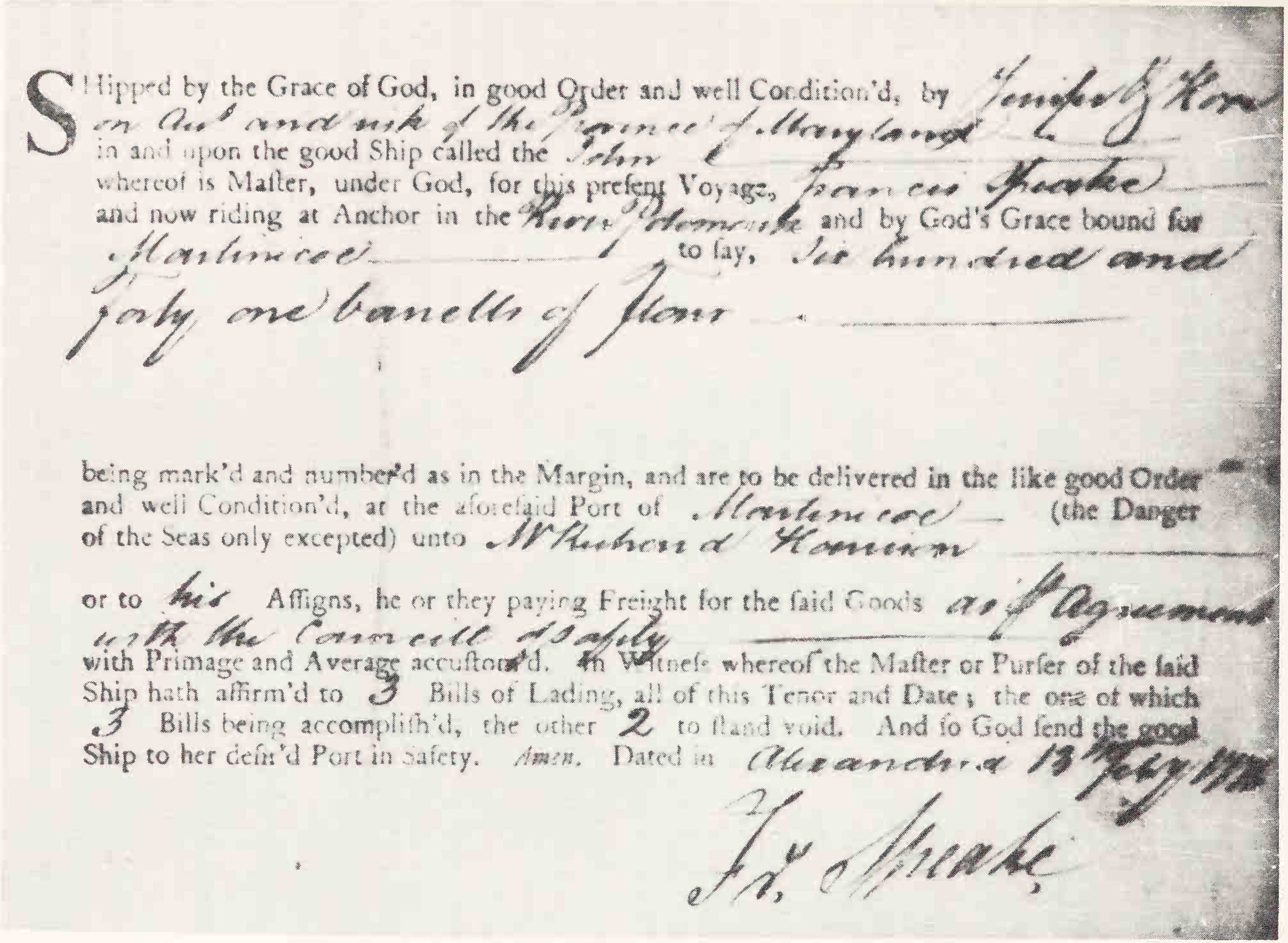
If you can allow us to load the Sloop I mentioned, this Flour may be a part of her Cargo, in case you permit Capt Wells to leave it out. And I shall be glad to have your Answer by him. I am most Respectfully [&c.]

Will^{m} Lux

1. Red Book, XV, Md. Arch.

CARGO MANIFEST OF SHIP *John* [1]

Shipped by the Grace of God, in good Order and well Condition'd, by [Jenifer & Hooe on Acct and risk of the Province of Maryland] [2] in and upon the good Ship called the [*John*] whereof is Master, under God, for this present Voyage, [Francis Speake] and now riding at Anchor in the [River Potomack] and by God's Grace bound for [Martinicoe] to say, [Six hundred and forty one barrells of flour] being mark'd and number'd as in the Margin, and are to be delivered in the like good Order and well Condition'd, at the aforesaid Port of [Martinicoe] (the Danger of the Seas only excepted) unto [Mr



SHipped by the Grace of God, in good Order and well Condition'd, by Jenifer & Hooe on Acc^t and risk of the Province of Maryland in and upon the good Ship called the John whereof is Maſter, under God, for this preſent Voyage, Francis Speake and now riding at Anchor in the River Potomack and by God's Grace bound for Martinico to ſay, Six hundred and forty one barrells of flour

being mark'd and number'd as in the Margin, and are to be delivered in the like good Order and well Condition'd, at the aforeſaid Port of Martinico (the Danger of the Seas only excepted) unto M^r Richard Harrison

or to his Aſſigns, he or they paying Freight for the ſaid Goods as p^r Agreement with the Commitee of Safety with Primage and Average accuſtom'd. In Witneſs whereof the Maſter or Purſer of the ſaid Ship hath affirm'd to 3 Bills of Lading, all of this Tenor and Date; the one of which 3 Bills being accompliſh'd, the other 2 to ſtand void. And ſo God ſend the good Ship to her deſir'd Port in Safety. *Amen.* Dated in Alexandria 13^th July 1776

Fr^s Speake

Cargo Manifest of ship John.

Richard Harrison] or to [his] Assigns, he or they paying Freight for the said Goods [as P Agreement with the Councill of Safety] with Primage and Average accustom'd. In Witness whereof the Master or Purser of the said Ship hath affirm'd to [3] Bills of Lading, all of this Tenor and Date; the one of which [3] Bills being accomplish'd, the other [2] to stand void. And so God sent the good Ship to the desir'd Port in Safety. *Amen.* Dated in [Alexandria 13th Feby 1776]

Fr^{s} Speake

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1. MdHS.
2. This is a printed form, with the inserted handwriting between brackets.

Lord Dunmore to Lord Dartmouth [1]

[Extract] [On board the *Dunmore* off Norfolk]
[No. 34] February 13th

The Ship not yet having Sailed, I am desirous to give your Lordship by this opportunity (as I doubt it will be the last) every information in my power; a Brig arrived here a few days ago, which was boarded by one of our Tenders, the Master denied having a Single letter on board, but being the Brother of a Noted Rebel in this Country, I had her very strictly searched, and found concealed in the lineing and different parts of the Vessel, a vast quantity of Letters, all of which I have opened and examined; those of a public Nature that I thought of any importance I here inclose to your Lordship (Nos 24, 25, 26, 28, and 29) your Lordhip will see by comparing the interliniations of No 28 with the hand of No 27 that they are from the same person and that person I beleive is no other than Doctr Arthur Lee.

I have also to inform your Lordship of the Arrival of Captain Hamond in His Majesty's Ship the *Roe Buck*. The Tenders are every day bringing in Vessels from the New England Colonies, sent here for Grain and Flour; if we can but prevent them from being supplied with that most essential Article of Life, thousands of them must inevitably perish or return to their duty.

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1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/1353.

Captain Andrew Snape Hamond, R.N., to Captain James Montagu, H.M. Sloop *Kingsfisher* [1]

In consequence of Orders from Vice Admiral Graves. You are hereby required and directed to observe and punctually obey and follow his additional Orders and directions, during the present Rebellion, or untill you receive contrary Orders from me, or any other your Superior Officer Vizt.

You are to Seize (see those Additional orders from commodore Arbuthnot &ca[)] Given under my hand on board his Majesty's Ship the *Roebuck* at Virginia the 13th February 1776 –

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1. Hamond, Orders issued, UVL.

GOVERNOR JOSIAH MARTIN TO MAJOR GENERAL HENRY CLINTON [1]

No Carolina *Scorpion* Sloop of War in
Cape Fear River Feby 13th 1776.

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th of January by Captain Evelyn, signifying your appointment to the Command of His Majesty's forces intended to act in the Southern Colonies; and I beg leave Sir at the same time to offer you my congratulations on your nomination to this important Command, and to assure you that I receive the intelligence of it with the greatest pleasure, in the firm hope that it will prove as honorable, and glorious to yourself, and to the British Arms, as advantageous to His Majesty's Service and the Publick interests – I have only to lament that the measure of sending succour to these Provinces was not adopted sooner; before the power of Rebellion had bec[ome] established in system, and before the good Spirit that existed among the friends of order and Government in them had been broken, and subdued by a series of Oppressions, checks, and discouragements; when the Success of it would have been certain.

In obedience to His Majesty's Commands signified to me by the Earl of Dartmouth, I have taken every measure in my power to exhort and prepare The King's loyal Subjects within this Province to join the Troops in expectation immediately on their arrival; and calculating that to happen about the middle of this month, I appointed them a Rendezvous in this neighbourhood on the 15th instant: but from the remoteness of those People, from whom I expect most aid, I hardly believe they will appear so soon; which I shall rather think fortunate, as neither troops, or arms, are yet arrived; and that there is some reason to apprehend a Contretems, from Captain Evelyn's account of the decampment of Mr Lee, with a body of the Rebels from Boston.

Pursuant to Instructions I have received from His Majesty's Secretary of State, I have, by the aid of the Commanders of the King's Ships here, made every possible provision of Pilots; some of whom are now arriving in the *Syren* Frigate for the Men of War and Transports expected on this Coast, and Captain Linzee of the *Falcon* to whom I have communicated your wishes with regard to this important object, is making every further arrangement in his power, for their safe conduct to this Port; where I shall impatiently expect the honor of kissing your hand.

I have received the highest satisfaction in the acquaintance of Captain Evelyn, and consider myself exceedingly indebted to his politeness and intelligence. I have the honor to be, with great respect, and regard, Sir, Your most Obedient and most humble Servant

Jo. Martin

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[1] Clinton Papers, CL.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA PROVINCIAL CONGRESS [1]

[Charleston] Tuesday, February 13, 1776.

A petition of Henry Aitkin, master of the ship *Port-Henderson,* and Nathaniel Russell, of Charles-Town, merchant, was presented and read.

Ordered, That the said petition be taken into consideration to-morrow.

Ordered, That Mr. [Daniel] De Saussure, Col. [John Lewis] Gervais, and Mr. [Francis] Salvador, be a Committee to extract such parts, as they shall judge proper to be made generally known, from the intercepted letters lately taken from Moses Kirkland, and laid before this Congress on the 3d inst. and also from a letter formerly written by John Stuart, Esq; to the Committee of Intelligence, dated ———, 1775. And that the Secretary do cause copies of such extracts, certified by him, to be forthwith printed and published.

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[1] *Provincial Congress of South Carolina,* 29–30.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

In the Council of Safety,
[Charleston] Tuesday Evening, Feb. 13th, 1776.

Capt. [Joseph] Turpin attended; and having requested an order for certain articles wanted for the brigantine *Comet,* and for the return of the seamen lately removed from the said brigantine *Prosper.*

Ordered, That the seamen lately removed from on board the colony brigantine *Comet* into the ship *Prosper,* be now returned on board the said brigantine, under the command of Capt. Joseph Turpin

Ordered, That Capt. [Edward] Blake do supply Capt. Turpin, with such sails and other articles as shall be necessary for completely fitting and equipping the brigantine *Comet* for the sea, with all possible expedition.

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[1] *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society,* III, 258–59.

HENRY LAURENS TO ARCHIBALD BULLOCK [1]

[Extract]

Charles Town So Carolina
13th ffebry 1776.

Colonel [Christopher] Gadsden lately coming from Philadelphia in one of our Pilot Boats was driven on Shoar on the Coast of North Carolina by a Schooner tender to a Man of War in the offing supposed to have been the *Syren* [2] himself his eldest son the Master of the Boat & all the Crew escaped with all papers of consequence & many other articles but the Boat was hove off by the Enemy & carried to Sea Colo Gadsden brought with him a pamphlet lately published in Phliadelphia & which has already gone through three Editions, a Copy of which "Common Sense," you will receive by this conveyance & that Gentleman begs your acceptance of it.—

By order of the Council of Safety

[To] Archd Bullock Esqr for the Provincial Congress or Council of Safety at Savanna

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[1] *South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine,* IV, 87–88.

[2] See journal of H.M.S. *Syren* for February 5, 1776.

GOVERNOR SIR JAMES WRIGHT TO THE COUNCIL AT SAVANNAH [1]

On his Majesty's service.

To the Hon. James Mackay, Esq; and the rest of the members of his Majesty's Council at Savannah.

On board his Majesty's ship *Scarborough*
at Cockspur, February the 13th, 1776.

Honourable Gentlemen, After using my best endeavours for upwards of 3 weeks, to prevail on those in whose hands the present ruling powers are, that the commanders of his Majesty's ships here might obtain assurances that they might come to town, and have a free intercourse with me, without receiving any insult from the people assembled in and about the town, also that the King's ships might be supplied with provisions, on paying the full price or value of it; and finding that the last message relative to these matters, which I desired the representatives of the town of Savannah to deliver to the persons exercising those powers, was so lightly treated and so little regarded, as that, although delivered on Tuesday morning the 6th instant, yet I received no kind of answer to it for five days, nor did I understand whether it was meant to give me any answer or not; and well knowing it was essential to his Majesty's service, and the welfare of this province, that I should have an interview with the King's officers here; for these reasons, and many others which you were made aquainted with, and approved of, I determined, at all events, to attempt coming down here, where I arrived safe at 3 o'clock yesterday morning. And after having examined, and duly weighed and considered, my several letters from England, and General [William] Howe at Boston, and after having had a full conversation with his Majesty's officers here, I have the greatest satisfaction to be able to affirm, from the best authority, that the forces now here will not commit any hostilities against this province, although full sufficient to reduce and overcome every opposition that could be attempted to be made; and that nothing is meant, or wanted, but a friendly intercourse, and a supply of fresh provisions. This may be entirely relied upon; this his Majesty's officers have an undoubted right to expect, and what they insist upon; and this I not only now solemnly require in his Majesty's name, but also as (probably) the best friend the people in Georgia have, advise them, without the least hesitation, to comply with, or it may not be in my power to insure them the continuance of the peace and quietude they now have, if it may be called so.

His Majesty has been graciously pleased to grant me leave to return to England, and (whatever may be thought) my regard for the people and province is such, that I cannot avoid (and possibly for the last time) exhorting the people to save themselves and posterity from that total ruin and destruction which (although they may not yet) I most clearly see it at the threshold of their doors; and I cannot leave them without again warning them, in the most earnest and friendly manner, to desist from their present plans and resolutions. It is still in their power, and if they will enable me to do it, I will (as far as I can) engage to give, and endeavour to obtain for them, full pardon and forgiveness for all past crimes and offences; and this I conjure them to consider well, and most seriously of, before it is too late. But, let things happen as they may, be it remembered, that I this day, in the King's name, offer the people of Georgia the olive branch, that most desirable object, and inestimable blessing, the return of peace and happiness to them and their posterity.

Captain Barclay has desired me to notify, that he is willing and ready to give every assistance in his power to the Captains of all such merchant ships as may be legally cleared out to enable them to proceed on their respective voyages. I am also to acquaint you, that the detention of the schooner on Friday or Saturday last proceeded entirely from a mistake by the officer who commanded the armed sloop, and that, if the owner will send down, the schooner will not only be delivered up, but any reasonable price paid for the damaged rice that was on board, part of which had been used to feed hogs and poultry; or they may take it away again. I am also to mention, that the same armed sloop will be sent up tomorrow to Four Mile Point, in order to get fresh water, and for no other purpose.

This letter, which I consider of the utmost consequence and importance to the whole people of Georgia, I must desire you will be pleased to communicate to the Congress, if sitting, and if not, to those who are called the Council of Safety, and especially to the inhabitants of the town and province in general, and acquaint them that I shall expect their full and clear answer to every part of it in a reasonable time. I am, with perfect esteem, Gentlemen [&c.]

James Wright.

[1] Dixon and Hunter's *Virginia Gazette,* April 6, 1776.

MARTIN JOLLIE TO GOVERNOR PATRICK TONYN [1]

Copy of a Letter from Mr Jollie

Sir

St Mary's 13th February 1776

I am just arrived from Savannah and fully intended waiting upon your Excellency with the utmost Dispatch, but Matters of the last consequence to my little Settlement lays me under an absolute necessity of being here a few Days.

The Governor and Council of Georgia have been under Arrest (by orders of the present Rulers of the Province) these five Weeks past and I had it in charge from the Governor to acquaint you of his Situation; he bid me present his Respects to your Excellency and he would have wrote to you by me, but he saw no likelihood of a Letter's getting safe to your hands through any Channel whatever: This violent Step of these deluded people has made every prudent thinking Man withdraw from the Party. They expect the Kings Troops now every Day and which is a cruel Circumstance and makes the Governors Situation as well as the Gentlemen of the Council much to be lamented is that these petty Tyrants have already declared that they mean to carry these Gentlemen into the back Country the Moment the King's Troops have got footing in the Province. A Division of His Majesty's Forces from hence, would therefore be attended with the worst consequence to these Gentlemen; the Business as far as I may be allowed to Judge should be done at once and effectually, and if it was possible to get up some Troops as far as Augusta the safety of Governor and Council might be easily effected.

I had an Opportunity of being in company with some of the heads of the Party. Their Colonel Lieut Colonel &c &c and as I was formerly pretty well acquainted with most of them, I spoke my Mind to some of them very freely: I find they are bent on making an Excursion into this Province; they heard they said, that Your Excellency intended making them a Visit in Georgia but they would save you that trouble by giving you the Meeting on your own Ground, and one with whom I had been particularly intimate for some Years past bid me in confidence look to myself, for it had been absolutely determined in their Councils that East Florida should be attacked – Indeed a Mr [John] Rutledge one of the Charlestown Delegates on his arrival from Philadelphia expressed great Surprise that Augustine was not taken and truly could not conceive what their Southern Army had been doing. – I mention these Matters to Your Excellency in confidence it is indeed my Duty to do so: But I must intreat they may not go farther for the present at least, for Reasons which I shall acquaint your Excellency with when I have the honour to wait upon you in Town.

Tho' I do not believe the Georgia Rulers will find Men to compose their Battalion of which the Officers have been just appointed; Yet I have do [no] doubt but some Villians from the Altamaha will come this way soon and give us on this River a great deal of uneasiness perhaps much Mischief: I should hope therefore that your Excellency will be of the Opinion that some protection should be afforded us without delay. – If Captain [John] Graves or any other Officer of the Navy was round here in any of the King's Sloops they could with great ease and without running the Risk of losing a Man range up and down the River for 20 to 25 Miles, this would make the lower Settlements perfectly secure and a common rough Stockade Blockhouse which might be run up at a mere Trifle of Expense and in a few Days to be built near the Ferry or thereabouts would with a prudent, sensible Officer and twenty five or thirty Men make the upper Settlers easy and quiet and at same time serve for a tollerable Barrier for the whole Province. If something of this kind is not immediately gone upon, I would not be answerable for one Settler remaining here a few Weeks hence. I have not been able to secure a single Barrel of Rice or Bushel of Corn tho' I made every attempt that I thought any way practicable. Savannah is the only Mercat for Corn in this Province, but the Avenues to and from the River are all so well guarded and looked after that no Provisions of any kind are allowed to come this way – Some may find its way here by stealth, but at the utmost Risk of the Exporter and Master of the Vessel. –

The Bearer Captain Mowbray from Grenada was with me part of the way to Savannah – I beg leave to introduce him to your Excellency, he has been bred in the Navy and can inform you what we saw doing at Frederica and other places, and with what facility a very small Tender, or even a Man of War's pinnace may at this very time scour the whole inland Navigation from this to Savannah River— If this was attempted we might have Rice at least in abundance with which we might make a Shift untill we are relieved by the arrival of the King's Forces. I have the honour to be &ca

(Signed) Martin Jollie

[Endorsed] In Govr Tonyn's of 16 Febry 1776 (No 39)

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/556, 261–68.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM ST. JOHN'S IN ANTIGUA, DATED FEB. 13." [1]

. . . An act of Parliament arrived here the 10th instant, by a ship from London in four weeks, which prohibits all connection with the United Colonies under very severe penalties; all vessels and cargoes for the future are to be legal prizes, that are found trading to or from those Colonies, till the rebellion, so called, is at an end. – No vessels can have a clearance from the custom house for any part of America, not even to those colonies that do not oppose government, without liberty from the Admiral, and giving such security as he shall require. And all North-American vessels and cargoes, wherever found, that did not leave America before the first day of January last, under certain restrictions, will be lawful prizes, so that the communication is entirely cut off between us. – Capt Kirby, who was taken in the ship *Sally,*[2] is still here, having given a very large security for his appearance when called up.

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[1] *Pennsylvania Packet,* March 18, 1776.

[2] The *Peggy,* not the *Sally.*

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Pomona,* CAPTAIN WILLIAM YOUNG [1]

February 1776	West end of Martinico NE dist 3 Leagues
Monday 12	11 A M Fired 3 Swivells to bring a Brig and Sloop too, found them to be Americans and sezed them as Prizes, sent on board the Sloop an Officer and 5 Men and on Board the Brig an Officer and 7 Men, and took their Crews on board us [2] Fresh breezes and Cloudy at 5 P M fired a Swivell Shotted to bring too a Brig at 7 Spoke her – from St Kitts bound to Barbadoes –
Tuesday 13	Light breezes and Variable at 3 P M urning in Prince Rupert Bay at 5 Hove too, hoisted long boat out and sent her on shore, half past Boat returned, Sent the Prizes to Antigua, and made Sail –

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 51/702.

[2] Brig *Dolphin,* Hugh Smith, master; and sloop *Diamond,* Peter Wilney, master, both from Philadelphia.

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14 Feb.

DEPOSITIONS OF CREW MEMBERS, H.M. BRIG *Gaspee* [1]

I the Subscriber being of lawful age, do testify and say that a Gentleman known by the Name of Colo. [Ethan] Allen was brought on Board the *Gaspee* Man of War, then lying before the Town of Montreal some Time in the Month of September one thousand and seven hundred and seventy five and pursuant to the Orders of Capt Ryall, who then commanded said Ship, I put a pair of Irons on said Allen's Legs, which he wore for seven or eight Days, during which he was kept by the Boatswain's Cabbin, afterwards the Irons were taken off his Legs in the Morning and handcuffs were put on his Hands; which was the practise for some considerable Time, then only one Leg was Ironed in the Night and Handcuffs in the Day farther saith not.

W^{m} Bradley Midshipman on board the *Gaspee.*

Sworn before me at Head Quarters in Montreal this fourteenth Day of February one thousand seven hundred & seventy six.

David Wooster, B: General.

I the Subscriber being of lawful age do testify and say that on or about the 24th of September 1775 being on Board the *Gaspee* Man of War, I see Colonel Allen with a pair of Irons on his Legs and a Century standing before him with a pistol in his Hand. Dated at Montreal 14t February 1776.

Levy Solomons.

Sworn before me Montreal Feb 14t 1776.
David Wooster B. General.

I the Subscriber being of lawful age do testify and say that some Time in the Month of October 1775, being on Board the *Gaspee* Man of War I saw Colonel Allen (as he was called) with a pair of Hand Cuffs on his Hands and farther saith not. Dated at Montreal this 14t February 1776

James Morrison

Sworn before me Montreal Feby 14t 1776
David Wooster B.General.

[Endorsed] Copy Depositions relative of Colo: Allen's Treatment

1. HUL, HM 1510.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M. SCHOONER *Halifax* [1]

Feby '76 Sambro Light House N 40° E Diste 28 Lgs

Wednesday 14th Modr Breezes and Cloudy Weather

at ½ past noon saw a strange sail standing to the Eastwd and Gave Chace cleared for Action at 3 the Convoy bore NNE came on thick Snow, fired several shott at the Chace at 4 Brt to the Chace out Yawl and sent Her on Bd she proved to be the Schooner *King Solomon* Danl Turner Master from Cape Persue laden wt salt Fish bound to Bilbo – made a prize of her not having any papers from the Custom House or a pass from the Governor at Halifax took the Master and people out and sent a Midd and 6 Men on Board at ½ past 6 made sail prize in Company [2]

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1775.
2. The *King Solomon* had 850 quintals of fish as cargo, and was sent into Halifax. Shuldham's Prize List, April 24, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO JOHN HANCOCK [1]

Sir Cambridge February the 14 1776

Through you I beg leave to lay before Congress, the Inclosed Letter from Lord [James] [Dr]ummond to General [James] Robertson, which came to my hands a few days agoe in order to be sent into Boston.[2]

As I never heard of his Lorships being vested with power to treat with Congress upon the Subject of our Greivanc[es] nor of his having laid any propositions before them for an Accomodation, I confess It surprized me much, and led me to form various conjectures of his motives, and Intended application to General Howe & Admiral Shouldam for a pasport for the safe Conduct of such Deputies as Congress might appoint for Negociating Terms of Reconciliation between Great Britain and us. – Whatever his Intentions are, however benevolent his designs may be, I confess that his Letter has embarrassed me much, and I am not without suspicion of Its meaning more than the Generous purposes It professes – I should suppose that If the mode for Negociation which he points out, should be adopted, which I hope will never be thought of, that It ought to have been fixed and settled previous to any application of this Sort, and at best that his conduct in this Instance is premature and Officious, & leading to consequences of a fatal and Injurious nature to the rights of this Country. his zeal and desire perhaps of an amicable & constitutional adjustment's taking place may have Suggested & precipitated the measure, be that as It may, I thought It of too much importance to suffer It to go in without having the express direction of Congress for that purpose, and that It was my Indispensable duty to transmit them the Original to make such Interpretations and Inferences as they may think right – .

Messrs [Aaron] Willard & [Moses] Child who were sent to Nova Scotia in pursuance of the Resolve of Congress, have just returned and made their Report, which I do myself the honor to Inclose you. they have not Answered the purposes of their commission by any means, as they only went but a little way into that Country, and found their Intelligence upon the Information of Others – You will see the reasons they Assign in excuse or justification of their conduct in the Report Itself.

Last night a party of Regulars, said to be about Five hundred, landed on Dorchester Neck and burnt some of the Houses there, which were of no value to us, nor would they have been, Unless we take post there; they then might have been of some service. A Detachment went after them as soon as the fire was discovered, but before It could arrive, they had executed their plan and made their Retreat.

Inclosed is a Letter for David Franks Esqr, from Mr [Daniel] Chamier in Boston, upon the Subject of victualling such of the Kings Troops as may be prisoners within the Limits of his Contract, which I beg the favour of you to deli[v]er him, and that proper agents may be appointed by him to see that It is done – I could wish too that Congress would fall upon some mode for Supplying the Officers with such Money as they may really stand in need of, and depute proper persons for that purpose & furnishing the privates with such Cloathing as may be absolutely necessary; I am applied to and wearied by their repeated requests – In some Instances I have des[ire]d the Committees to give the prisoners within their appointments what they should judge absolutely necessary for their support, as the only means in my power of releiving their distress – But I immagine that If there were persons to superintend this business, that their wants would be better attended to, and many exorbitant charges prevented and saved to the Continent, & the whole wou'd then be brought into a proper account, I am Sir [&c.]

G^{o} Washington

PS.
I send a Return of the strength of the Regiments –

[Enclosure – Report of Aaron Willard and Moses Child]

We the Subscribers being appointed by his Excellency general Washington agreeable to an order of the Continental Congress to Repair to the Province of Novia Scotia for the following purposes Viztt to Inquire into the Disposition of the Inhabitants of Sd Province Towards the common Cause of america. The Condition of their Fortications Quantity of warlike stores the number of Soldiers and Salors and Ships of war.

We beg Leave to Report as follows that agreeable to the above order, we did Repair to aplace Called Campobello about Twenty or thirty miles into the Province aforesaid, but could not cross the Bay of Funda for no Vessel could be hired or procured Except we purchase one as Every Vessel Even to a Boat that Crossed the Bay was seized as soon as they came into Port Except cleared from Hallifax and we could not Travel any further into the Country By Reason of governor Leggs Establishing Martial Law in Said Province and Isuing Several proclamations one Bea[r]ing date July the 5 1775 which is as follows I do therefore with the advice and consent of his Majesty's Council publish this proclamation hereby Notifieing and warning all Persons that they do not in any manner, directly or Indirectly aid or assist with any Supplies whatever any Rebel or Rebels nor hold Intelligence or Correspondence with them nor Conceal harbour or protect any Such offenders as they would avoid being deemed Rebels and Trators and be proceeded against accordingly also a proclamation dated december the 8 1775 forbiding any Strangers to be in Halifax more than Two hours, without making his Business Known to a Justice of the Peace upon the pain and Peril of being Treated as Spies also forbiding any person Entertaining any Such Stranger for more than Two hours without giving Information on the penalty aforesaid, from our own Knowledge and the Best Information from others about Eight parts out of Ten of the Inhabitants on Novia Scotia would Engage in the Comman Cause of america Could they be protected there are no Fortifications in the Province only at Halifax and those much out of Repair but they are at work on them they have Piquitted the Town in and have about one hundred and fifty peaces of cannon not mounted and about Twenty or thirty peaces mounted in the Town there was at Halifax about Two hundred Soldiers the Begining of January 1776 which were all that there was in the Province at that Time but we are crediably Informed that there are Two Regements arived there Since that time there was only one Ship of war of 60 guns at Halifax and one of 14 at annopolis [Royal] at the Time aforesaid

Aaron Willard
Moses Child

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1. Papers CC (Letters from George Washington), 152, I, 485–88, 495, NA.
2. Lord Drummond's letter of February 5, 1776.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES [1]

[Watertown] Wednesday, February 14, 1776.

An engrossed Bill for encouraging the fixing out of armed Vessels to defend the Sea-Coasts of *America,* and for erecting a Court to Try and Condemn all Vessels that shall be found infesting the same:

Read, and *Resolved,* That it pass to be enacted [2]

On one of the Petitions of Col. [James] Cargill, read Feb. 9th, *Resolved,* That he be allowed to detain the Schooner therein mentioned till further Orders of this Court, and be Accountable for her Earnings when required.[3]

Afternoon

Ordered, That a Message go to the Hon. Board to desire them to send down Capt. Obryan's [Jeremiah O'Brien] Muster Roll, if they have not passed upon it.

Jedediah Foster, Esq; brought it down accordingly. And it was re-committed to Capt. Epes, Capt. [Joshua] Hathaway and Capt. [George] Partridge.

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1. Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch.
2. The Massachusetts Council, the same day, read the act a second time and concurred with the House resolution that it be enacted, Mass. Arch., vol. 34.
3. The schooner *Dolphin.*

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Niger,* CAPTAIN GEORGE TALBOT [1]

Febry 1776 Gurnett Head WbN. 3 Leagues

Wednesday 14th Light Breezes & hazey with Snow

at 2 P M saw 5 Sail to the Soward – out all reefs and gave Chace, at 4 shortned Sail & brought too – spoke H. M. Brig *Hope* with another Brig (Prize) in Company; at 5 spoke the *Tryal* Schooner & 2 Prizes – sent 6 Men on board the *Tryal* and took 8 do from one of the Prizes – at 6 made Sail to the So wd the *Hope* *Tryal* & Prizes to the No ward [2]

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1. PRO, Admiralty 51/637.
2. The *Tryal*'s prizes were the *Peggy,* John Lothrop, master, and the *Grampus,* John Brackett, master, both from Baltimore for Barnstable with flour. The *Hope*'s prize is not identified, Shuldham's Prize List, April 24, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

MAJOR ENOCH HALLET TO JAMES OTIS [1]

Hond Sir Yarmouth Feby 14th 1776.

this may Inform you that, Last Satorday Morning a Vessell from the Mole was Cast on Shoar Neer the Herring River and Neer the House of Wm Chase [illegible] her Lading Consists of about one Hund Hogsheads Malasses, and One of sugar, with a few small articles on being Informd of it the Committee of Yarmo with Zenas Winslow and Joseph Nye Esqrs of Harwich met to Consult what to Do with regard to the affair, and on making Strict Inquiry, and Diligent Search, the Best Intelligence that we are able to obtain is that One Seth Pinkham of Nantuckt was master, (if they Could run Safe to Nantuckt[)] but if they Should be in Danger of an English man of war then they had a French Capt both of which Capts with 2 of the Crew Left Said Vessell abt 9 Days Past, and in a boat made for Nantuckt which we hear got safe there, before they left her they had lost both of their Anckors Riding to the Eastwd of Nantct & their Sails almost all Blown away and She Leakt very Much – the French Capt we Understand is the Owner of Vessell and Cargo. the Cargo we have Landed, the Vessell I be[l]eive will be Lost, as she is very old and weak. the Capts we Expect over to Day – in said Vessell Came Passengers a Gent from Germini [Germany] with a Waiter both of them we Propose to send to your Honr with this Letter, we have met with a good Deal of Difficulty to Understand his Business, and Could not git any Interpreter, till last Eveng when Luckily Mr Youst Came hear and Can talk and Conver[se] with him without Difficulty, the Gent has got with him a Numr of Letters for Doctr Franklin and says he is acquainted with him (for further Perticulars I Shall Refer you to Mr Youst) – the Gent it seems is bound to Philledelphia, – you will Do as you think Propper with him, I Suppose he is no Less than a Knight by a Gold Star which he has &c the Immige of which he wears on his Left Brest – the Gold Star he has shewn us &c –[2] we have found a Pockt Book with an English Regr and we Suppose a french One and Severl other Papers which we Suppose to [be] a Clearence &c and Capt Pinks Journal to Sunday before last. we Propose to take of them, and when they Come over, to make Strict Inquiry and if we find they were on a bad Diseign to send them altogether to your Honr to Examn – (if you think it Necessary Pleas to give us further Directions) I most think their wont be much Difficulty but if their Should we Shall Emmediately apply to your Honr – I am Sr [&c.]

Enoch Hallet

Honl James Otis Esqr Barnstable

P:S: Sr Since I wrote the above we have been Informd by Mr Yost: who was Converssing with the sd Gent in another Room whilst I was writing that the said Capt Pinkham, and the french Capt or Owner, were within four Days after their Coming out fully Determind to go to Boston, and it appeard so also by their having Divers Chances to go into Harbours from Cape May hear, but always tryd to avoid it, and he also says that they would have been Glad to meet with a man of war and he took it that they Endeavord to Do it, and Put themselves in their way, but Unluckey for them Could not meet with any; – I hope and beleive now, that we shall soon know the Truth, as I am this moment Informd that a Vessell is Coming its supposd to be Capt Downs who went to Nantuckt for the Capt & Owner, – this Gentn says the frenchman was Owner but Pinkham Commanded at Sea, – it seems the Gentn was Loath to Discover any thing about the affair untill he by Conversing with Mr Yost was Sattisfid that we were not friends to Government, but is now free to Discovr all that he knows Concerning it Sir I am [&c.]

Enoch Hallet

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1. Otis Papers, CUL.
2. The gentleman was the Baron Frederick Wilhelm de Woedtke.

AGREEMENT TO HIRE SLOOP *Enterprize* [1]

Providence Feby 14. 1776

Memorandum Of Agreement Between Messrs. Jos. & William Russells, & Nicholas Brown, on the one part, and Mr Gideon Young on the other part Witnesseth, That the said Young Doth frieght Letten the Sloop *Enterprize*, burthen about seventy five Tons(but subject to be Measured on her return which is to Determine her bigness) on a Voyage to the foreign West Indias, and back to Providence James Westcoat Masr Permitted by his Honour the Governor—the hire to begin from the fourth Instant at five Shillings lawful Money per Ton, Risqued as follows – One Quarter by said Young, Three Eighths by said Russells, & three Eighths by said Brown at Eight Hundred Dollars in Case of Loss by any means, no Hire Money to be paid, but the Interest to be paid on the Eight Hundred Dollars from the Time of her being in Pay as aforesaid till said sum valued at is paid by the Hirers in proportion as Risqued aforesaid, said Young is to be at the sole Expence of keeping the Vessel sails &c in suitable repair & Procure for her in the West Indias suitable small sails at his Expence – As Witness our Hands –

Gideon Young Nich° Brown Jos & Will^{m} Russell

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[1] Nicholas Brown Papers, JCBL.

NICHOLAS BROWN TO CAPTAIN JAMES WESTCOTT [1]

Sr Providence Febry 14. 1776 –

You being Master of the Sloop *Enterprize* with Our Cargo on bord Bound, As p his Honr the Governors Permit to Any of the Foreign West India Islands, Our Orders Are that you proceed with all Dispach, Wind & Weather Permiting May Touch first at St Loucie Martineco, or Guardiloope, and at Any of these places to Dispose of your Cargo & lay out the neet proceeds in Any of the Articles Mentioned in your Bond & hereto Annexed as You May think will best Ansr And you have liberty to get for Accot Mr [Gideon] Young who is Owner the Vessel Any Small Sails that May be Wanting, The Amount of which or Any Other Necessarys You May get to keep the Vessel in proper Repair is to be Chargd to him the sd Young & be setled as so Much towards his Q[uar]ter part of the Nett proceeds of the Cargo – You have full Liberty to Touch at Any of the Foreign Islands for Trade, and by all Means to keep a Constant look out so as to Eskape the Enemey – And On your return Home to be very Carefull to get Good Information before you Come into this Colony We advise your keeping a Number of Small Arms well fitted for Defence against An Enemey, If you Should fall in to the Westward May Touch at East Hampton on long Island & there Discharge your Cargo if you Should by Good Information find it very Difficu[l]t geting in here, or May go into Sag Harbore Sto[n]ingtown or Norwich

But we think it May be as safe to Come into the Eastward Vizt Bedford or any Harbore Eastwd of Secunet & know the state of the Times here before you Come in & we think secunet way May be the safest – What Linnens (if you get Any) for your Candles Must be all of the Cours Kinds Cutlasses, pistles & Swivels we Consider as within the Meang of your permit but small Arms we think will Neet More Profit than Powder, You Will Balist your Vessel with Brimstone if to be had German Steel is Much Wanted now here & What Cotton you Can get to half a Doz Baggs as part of the Proceeds of the Candl[e]s, if the Other things first Mentions Is not to be had

Upon the Whole We rely upon Your Judgment & Prudence to take every Means in your Power for the Good of the Voyage – Your Commissions is to be five p Cent for Sales & Two & a half for Returns –

If any thing Shod happen that you should do Other ways than well Your Mate Mr Colvin is to take the Command & follow these Our Orders – Wishing a Good Voyage & safe Return We are your friend

Nich^{s} Brown

[Endorsed] The foregoing is a Copy of my Orders which I Shall Indeavour to perform to the best of My Judgmt

James Westcot

[Appended by Nicholas Brown]

A list of those Articles permitted As Contained in the Bond Given in Secrey Office Vizt

Gunpowder
Salt Peter
Sulpher –
Duck of all Kinds

Arms, In which is Included
Brass field Pieces
Small Arms, Blunder bus[s]es & Wallpieces
Pistles –
Cutlasses, Swords & Hangers Steel

In Case the whole cant be laid out in the Above The proceeds of the Candles, is permitted to be laid Out in

Paper –
Ozenbrigs, or Ticklingbourg
Lead
Flints
Twine
Jesuits Bark
Rhubarb
Cotton
Linnen or Wollen Cloths

Not permitted to go to any British West Inda Isd P S. Memo[ran]dum Your Owners Will each want a Case of Good Florranc Oil, a Chest of Clarrot & a Ceg of the best Brandy & some [T]ancerins a Bottle or two of Capers, and perhaps as some [of] the Ventures May be Laid Out in the Stipulated Articles wch Amount May be supplyd In [several] Necessarys –

If Brimstone Cannot be got, but would Advise your sending to Domineco, or wherever it is & get it, if possable, as suppose sum Small Craft May be got Amongst the French to Fetch it but if it Cannot be got I would Advise to Balast with salt if to be had, without going to the ponds After it I am in behalf of your Owners Yrs N B

Feby 17. 1776

1. Nicholas Brown Papers, JCBL.

NORWICH COMMITTEE OF CORRESPONDENCE TO WATERTOWN COMMITTEE OF CORRESPONDENCE [1]

Gentm Norwich Feby 14 1776

A sense of the trust repos'd in Us, A Love of our Country, and the Duty We owe to Mankind – forbid a Neglect on our part of giving the earliest & best Intelligence of every Matter appearing to effect the Publick – How far the Publick may be affected by the Conduct of the Person who wrote the Letter of which the Inclos'd is a Coppy – and the Original in the Hands of the Bearer at your Service for the Purpose of making what Use of it you please You are the Judges,[2] You have the best Advantage to Call the Writer to put such reasonable Construction as He can on the Intent and Design He had in writing in a Stile so peculiar & why so cautious – Inclos'd also is a Stating of Facts & Circumstances attending the Lading Sailing & Capture of the Schooner in New York – commanded by Cap Howland about which the Letter is conversant – These Things compared wth the Letter render it (in our Opinion) Our Duty to notify you & as soon as could be authentically done – that a satisfactory Account may be had from the Owner of the Schooner & Author of the Letters why such Orders were given and how they can bear the Complexion they do & still be consistent with the honest Heart of a true Friend to the American Cause – A fair and reasonable Account of these Things will be for the Honour of the Writer & will most agreeably satisfy Gentlm [&c.]

Christ^{r} Leffingwell
W^{m} Hubbard.
Benj Huntington
} Committee of Correspondence for The Town of Norwich

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1. Jedediah Huntington Letters, ConnHS.
2. See Jason Swan to John Howland, January 25, 1776.

MAJOR GENERAL CHARLES LEE TO GEORGE WASHINGTON [1]

[Extract] New York, Febry the 14th 1776 –

. . . The Governor and Capt of Man of War had threatend perdition to the Town if the Cannon was remov'd from the Batteries and wharfs, but I ever considerd their threats as a *Brutum fulmen,* and even perswaded the Town to be of the same way of thinking – We accordingly conveyd them to a place of safety in the middle of the day, and no cannonade ensued – Capt [Hyde] Parker [Jr.] publishes a pleasant reason for his passive conduct – He says that it was manifestly my intention and that of the N England Men under my command to bring down destruction on this Town so hated for their loyal principles but that He was determin'd not to indulge us, so remain'd quiet out of spite – The People here laugh at his Nonsense – and begin to despise the Menaces which formerly us'd to throw 'em into convulsions – to do 'em justice the whole shew a wonderfull alacrity – and in removing the Cannon Men and Boys of all ages work'd with the greatest zeal and pleasure – I really believe that the generallity are as well affected as any on the Continent – the Provincial Congress have order'd in fifteen hundred Minute Men – a Num[ber] equal to two Battalions are coming from Pensy[la] and the Jerseys – Lord Stirlings Regt is already here but not compleat – when the Major part or a sufficient number arrive We shall begin our works – my intention is to pull down that part of the Fort on the Town side to prevent its being converted into a Citadel for the Enemy – and to erect a Battery on a traverse in the S W to prevent their Makg a lodgment in it – a redoubt and battery at the pass of Hell Gate will prevent their Ships and Tenders passing and repassing to and from the Sound – We have fixed on a Spot in Long Island for a retrenchd Camp . . . the batteries on the pass of Hudsons River will be secur'd as soon as possible, some of the heavy Cannon from here must be sent up for the purpose –

1. Washington Papers, LC.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS [1]

[New York] Die Mercurii, 10 HO. A.M.
Feb. 14th, 1776.

Messrs. Murray, Sansom & Co. sent in a request by Mr. Robert Murray, for leave to send provisions and certain other articles in their request mentioned, on board of the ship *Dutches of Gordon.*

The Congress consented that part of the said provisions be sent on board, together with the other articles. Thereupon,

Ordered, That Messrs. Murray, Sansom & Co. be permitted to put on board of the ship *Dutches of Gordon,* 5 barrels pork, 5 barrels beef, 1 box candles, 1 coil of 3 inch rope, some blocks, 1 bolt of canvas, No. 1, and 2 cords of firewood, for the use of the said ship and her crew.

Joseph Outen Bogert informed the Congress that the sentinels of the port guard have prevented him from supplying to His Excellency the Governor and the people on board of the ship *Dutches of Gordon,* the ordinary supplies of fresh provisions. Thereupon,

Ordered, That Joseph O. Bogert, butcher, be permitted to supply the ship *Dutches of Gordon* with a sufficient quantity of fresh provisions; and that the said Joseph O. Bogert do furnish Capt. Wm. Mercier with an account from day to day of the quantity of provisions so supplied by him, and that a certified copy of this order be given to the said Joseph O. Bogert.

Die Mercurii, 3 ho. P.M. Feb. 14th, 1776.

Ordered, That Mr. [Leonard] Lispenard be permitted to supply and put on board of the ship *Dutches of Gordon,* beer for the use of the said ship.

A letter from Major-Genl. Lee, respecting a report of a fleet at the Hook, was read and filed, and is [in] the words following, to wit:

> February 14th, 2 o'clock, P.M. 1776.
>
> Sir – I would humbly propose to the Congress not to lose a single instant in despatching a whale boat to the Hook, to reconnoitre the fleet whether they are friends or enemies, for should they be the latter, and intend a visit to this place, we should make an awkward figure, unless we are prepared for their reception.
>
> I am, sir [&c.]
>
> Chas. Lee.
>
> To the President of Provincial Congress
> of the Colony of New-York.[2]

A copy of the answer which had been immediately returned to the general by the President and Col. [Alexander] McDougall, informing that proper care has already been taken on that subject, was read and approved of by the Congress.

1. *New York Provincial Congress,* I, 298, 299, 300.
2. The original of this letter is in the collection of the late Frederick R. Kirkland, Philadelphia.

Memoirs of William Smith [1]

A Council [New York] Wed: 14 Feby 1776

Since Sunday last [February 11] the Intercourse to all who had not the Congress's Permit was interdicted by General Lee but Mr. Mayor having yesterday adjusted all Obstacles we proceeded to the Dock apprehending no Difficulties from the Guards – A centinel forbid the Clerk of the Council to set his Foot in the Boat upon which we retired & I went Home – The Congress took the Alarm apprehending that if we did not meet the Governor there would be no Prorogation & a Dissolution would follow – Within Half an Hour their Clerks sought for the dispersed Members & assured us there would be no further Obstruction & importuned us to repair again to our Boat urging it as an Apology that due Care had been taken to facilitate our Intercourse but that the Officer of the Guard had expected an Application to him from the Centinel upon our Approach – We met at the Coffee House Bridge & found at the Wharf with the Soldiers one of the Clerks of the Congress and no words were spoken to us on the second Attempt, of all which we informed the Governor.

At this Council there were present – [Charles Ward] Apthorpe [William] Smith [John Harris]Cruger [William] Axtel & [James] Jauncey.

The Govr. proposed us to return from the Hall after the Prorogation & dine with him.

He told me that he would have revealed General Clinton's Intention of sailing Southward if the Citizens had not injuriously suspected his Veracity in the Message by the Mayor, so that he was not apprized – what every Body supposed, – Mr. Clinton was gone to Virginia.

After Dinner we had much Conversation & the Colonies were charged by [John Tabor] Kempe & [Cortland] Skinner the two Attorney Generals with a fixed Resolution to set up Independency. I grew warm in the Debates upon this Subject. I charged the parliamentary Vote of the 20 Feby was a studied concealment of a Design to give up the Claim of taxing the Colonies as a great Fault on the Side of Administration dangerous to the general Interest of both Countries. Tryon who had not interfered before catchd Fire at this and said he was sorry to hear an Officer of the Governmt say so. I turn'd to him and insisted upon my Remark I appealed to himself whether the Minister had not informed him that the Taxing Power was given up. To which he answered, yes. I demanded the Evidence of it in any written explicit Declaration & he confessed that he would have declared the surrender with more Liberality – [Hyde] Parker and [George] Vandeput were present and the latter who sat by my Side declared that if he believed the Colonies intent only upon an Exemption from Parliamentary Taxation he thought them on the right Side in the present Controversy and seemed pleased with the Resistance I made to the Intemperate Partialities of the two Attorney Generals, occasionally supported (tho' with good sense & more Decency) by Mr. Paymaster Barrow who also betook himself to the Packet on the 10 of October. The Train I took was a Defence of the Continent from the Charge of aiming *ab Initia* at severing the Empire, admitting that the Congress had countenanced the imputation in 1774 & faulting Administration in listning to Misrepresentations & concealing the ultimate Terms to which they would yield for preserving the Union & thro' the whole Debates I indulged now and then a little Asperity at the Refugees to abate the Governor's Confidence in their Suggestions – The Rest of the Council said nothing but in the Boat after we had left the Ship at Night signified their Approbation of the Part I had acted and bore patiently some Censure for their Silence.[2]

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1. Sabine, ed., *Memoirs of William Smith,* 266, 267–68.
2. The Council meeting and the subsequent dinner were held on board the ship *Dutchess of Gordon,* where Governor Tryon had taken up residence the previous October.

Jacob Watson to Christopher Champlin [1]

Respected Friend New York 2d Mo 14th 1776

Yesterday I returnd from the Contenental Congress We presented a Memorial requesting they'd Either give posative Orders to the Committee of Norwich to let the Ship proceed on her Intended Voyage or give us leave [to ship] the Amot of the Wheat in produce from here or Philadelphia to Ireland or the English Islands in the West Indies and give thy Ship Imployment If agreable to thee raither then come here to take another Cargo,[2] the Affair was long debated in Congress at last all we could Obtain was an order that the Ship must proceed without any alteration of her destined Voyage the Committee only to Aprove the Master, but the time of her Sailing is out of their Controul.[3] We therefore desire the Ship may be got Rig'd with the Outmost dispatch Should thou Incline my Son should have the Command of her wod be very agreable to him and I believe wo'd be very Satisfactory to thy Self, he is weary of Staying at home. I will be answerable for his Conduct. I have wrote my friend Clements to propose him to the Comm[ittee] at Norwich If he is so recomended by our Committee or Provencial Congress whether they wo'd Approve him. As thy Ship will toutch at Falmouth thou can have her an English bottom, pray let me hear from thee Imediately and prepare the Ship, we Shall Wait on Capt De St Croix to do the Needfull with him the Charter party being only in his name If my Son gos in her I shall use my Interest at Every Port she gos to to procure her afreight. I forwarded duplicate of Protests &C. I am &c.

Via Philadelphia Jacob Watson

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1. Christopher Champlin Papers, Ms. 628, NYSL.
2. The ship *Peggy,* Captain William Barron, which had put into Norwich, Connecticut, in distress, but under suspicion of having a cargo intended for Boston, or to deliberately fall into British hands. She was owned by Christopher Champlin, of Newport, Rhode Island, and the shippers were three New York firms, Murray, Sansom & Co., Jacob Watson and Frederick's Rhinelander.
3. See Journal of Congress, November 15, 1775, February 7, 8 and 9, 1776.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS [1]

[Philadelphia] Wednesday, February 14, 1776

Application being made by some of the master carpenters employed in building the continental frigates, to some members of this house, informing, that about fifty of their journeymen and apprentices had engaged as volunteers to march with the batallion of associators for New York, and that their zeal for the public service is such, that they cannot be persuaded to desist by any arguments or influence of said builders.

Resolved, That the spirit and zeal of the said journeymen and apprentices is highly approved of by Congress, but, nevertheless, it is the opinion of this Congress, that the public will be more essentially served by the said associators continuing at their work on the said continental frigates; and that, therefore, all the carpenters, journeymen, and apprentices, employed as aforesaid, be requested to remain in that service, as there is no doubt but other associators will compleat the number wanted.

The Congress resolved itself into a committee of the whole, to take into consideration the report of the committee on the regulations and restrictions under which the ports shall be opened after the first of March next; and, after some time spent thereon, the president resumed the chair, and Mr. [Samuel] Ward reported, that the Committee had taken into consideration the matter referred to them, but not having come to a conclusion, desired leave to sit again.

Resolved, That the Congress will, to Morrow, resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to take into farther consideration, the report of the committee on the regulations and restrictions of trade after the first of March next.

[1] Ford, ed., *JCC,* IV, 147, 148.

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH [1]

[Philadelphia] Wednesday 14 Feb. Application was made from the Shipwrights at this Place in the Continental service praying Interposition of Congress to stop their Servants and Apprentices whom they cannot hinder from going on the Expedition tomorrow to N York accordingly a Recommendation took place to that Purpose . . . most of the Day passed in Grand Comee on Trade

[1] Richard Smith's Diary, LC.

JOHN ADAMS TO JAMES WARREN [1]

Dear Sir Philadelphia Feb. 14. 1776

I Shall inclose to a Lady of my Acquaintance all the News Papers which have been printed in this City, since my arrival, by which you will See, to what Point the Tide of Political Sentiment, Setts. – Scarcely a Paper comes out, without a Speculation or two in open Vindication of opinions, which Five Months ago were said to be unpopular. – A vast Majority of the People, indeed, I very well knew Secretly entertained the same Perswasion then, but injudiciously avoided Speaking out. The Restraint however, is now taken off. –

I expect to hear the New England Papers very soon chiming in with the Concert. –

I have written to Mr [William] Sever that Congress have ordered Ten Tons of Salt Petre to the Council, to be made into Powder and requested him to communicate it to the Court. I hope every Nerve will be exerted with the Utmost Vigour to sett up Powder Mills, compleat them, and procure Persons skilled in the Manufacture of Powder. I am not without Apprehensions that such Persons will be wanted.

I apprehend however, that there are Persons who are poss[essed] of the necessary Knowledge of the Composition and Proportions of Ingredients. Even Mr Reed of Weymouth I conjecture would be able to instruct others. The same Rule, which has made a small Quantity in a Family Mortar, applied to a large Mill will make a larger Quantity. – No Expence No Industry ought to be Spared.

Dont fail, my dear Friend, to inform me, of every Step in the Progress of the Manufactures of Sa[lt] Petre and Powder.

Measures are taking to make Cannon both of Brass and Iron – Some Experiments have been made in Maryland, Philadelphia and New York, with success. – I will acquaint you with Particulars as fast as I can. I am your Friend. –

Shall We be able to get Seamen to man our Navy when our Trade shall be opened? Will they not be all better employed?

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 250–51.

Joseph Hewes' Contract with the Secret Committee of Congress [1]

This Charter party made the 14th day of Feby in the year 1776 – Between Joseph Hewes Esqr of North Carolina Mercht one of the Owners of the Brigantine *Fanny* Captain [blank] of the Burthen of 150 Tons or thereabouts now lying in York River Virginia, the said Jos Hewes being now present in the City of Philada of the One part And Saml Ward, B. Franklyn, Thos McKean, Josiah Batlet [Bartlett], Jno Alsop, Francis Lewis, Robt Alexander & Robt Morris Esquires a Secret Committee appointed by the Honble the Contintal Congress, of the other part Witnesseth, That the said Jos. Hewes for the Considerations hereinafter mentioned, hath hired & hereby doth hire & let to Freight the sd Brigantine unto the Secret Committee aforesaid, for a Voyage to be by her performed in the Service of the United American Colonies, from York River in Virginia aforesaid to any Port or Ports, place or Places in Europe & from thence back to some Convenient Port in the United Colonys, and the said Jos. Hewes Esqr doth hereby agree that the said Brigt shall be Tight, stiff, Strong & Staunch, well & sufficiently fitted, found, Victualed & Manned for this Voyage & that the Owners of sd Brigt shall pay all charges & expences accruing or arising on said Brigt during this Voyage except such Port Charges as shall be hereinafter Specified to be paid by Said Freightors, also that the Master, Mate & Mariners shall at every Port & place give the customary assistance in taking in or dicharging Goods & otherways perform the Duties of their respective stations with proper dilligence & dispatch And it is further agreed by the said Jos. Hewes Esqr That the said Brigt shall receive onboard in Virginia aforesaid a full Loading of Tobacco & other Produce of that Colony from the agent or Factor of sd Secret Committee & when loaden therewith the Master shall set sail & proceed with said Brigt & Cargo for such Port or Place in Europe as the said agent or Factor may direct & there deliver the said Cargo to the Consignee mentioned in the bills of Loadg which the Master is to sign for the Cargo, unless sd Consignee shall direct him to proceed to some other port or place to deliver the same, which orders he is bound to obey & fulfill, and further when the said Cargo of Virginia Produce shall be so delivered, the Master of said Brigt shall receive onboard the said Brigt any Goods, Wares, Merchandize arms, & ammunition that the Agent or Factors of the said Secret Committee or any other persons on their behalf, either at the Port where the outward Cargo is Landed or at any other Port or place in the World that may be ordered & the said Master is to Ballast his Vessell If required & Proceed therewith to any Port or Ports, place or places to receive such par[s]ells of Goods as may be ordered onboard even to the full Loadg of sd Brigt the said Master to grant bills of Loadg for all Goods he receives onbd and when dispatched by the Agents or Factors of said Committee he is to set sail & proceed with all Care & dilligence for this Coast of North America, getting as soon as can be into some safe Port or place between Connecticut and North Carolina agreable to such instructions as will be given the sd Master by sd Committee their Agent or Factors. In Consideration whereof the said Saml Ward, B.F., Thos McKean, Josiah Bartlet, Jno Alsop, F.Lewis, R.Alexander & R Morris Esquires do in behalf of the United Colonys Covenant and agree that they will pay or cause to be paid unto the said Jos. Hewes Esqr His Heirs, Exrs or assignees, the Monthly hire or freight of four hundred Spanish Dollars for every Month the said Brigantine shall be employed in this Voyage which said hire shall Commence on the day, when the said Brigt first begins to receive onboard her Loadg in Virginia which shall be ascertained by a Certificate jointly signed by the Master & Agent or Factor employed to Load her & shall Continue untill the day after said Brigt shall have delivered her homeward Cargo in some Port or place of the United Colonys or if she returns in Ballast untill the day after her arrival in such port or place unless the said Brigt shall happen to be lost, sunk, taken Seized or destroyed before such arrival & in that case the Monthly hire shall Cease on the day such loss, sinking, taking Seizure or destroying happens – and Further the sd Secret Committee do agree to pay all Port Charges that may accrue or arise on said Brigt at any & every Port or place she may be ordered to, except in Virginia the Port of Loading, and her Port of discharge in Europe, likewise is excepted her discharging Port on her return to America –

It is also mutually agreed that said Brigantine with all her Tackle & apparel Boats &c shall be valued and she is hereby valued at the sum of Four thousand Six hundred Spanish milled dollars which sum the said Committee do hereby insure to the said Owners against any Capture or seizure of the said Brigantine that may be made by the Enemies of the said united Colonies or in any other manner whatsoever, agreeing to pay them the said Owners over and above the said monthly hire the said Amount of Four thousand Six hundred Spanish milled dollars if it shall so happen that, the said Briga is Seized or taken as aforesaid

For the true performance of all and Singular the Covenants & agreements aforesaid, the said parties do mutually bind themselves each to the other in the

Penal Sum of three thousand Pounds Pennsylvania currency to be paid by the party defaulting to the party complying.

In Witness

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1. Hayes Manuscripts, NCDAH.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a, 14th Feb'y, 1776.

Upon application of Francis Wade for a Sum of Money, an order was drawn in his favour on John Nixon & others, the Committee of Accounts, for £ 300, being towards the payment of Provisions Supplyed the Boats & Artillery Comp'y.

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1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records,* X, 484, 485.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS' SIGNALS FOR THE FIRST CONTINENTAL FLEET [1]

[Off Cape Henlopen, February 14,1776] [2]

Signals for the American Fleet by Day –

For Sailing – loose the Fore topSail and Sheet it home

For Weighing and coming to Sail – loose all the TopSails and sheet them home

For the Fleet to Anchor – Clew up the Main topSail & hoist a weft in the Ensign –

For Seeing a strange Vessel – hoist the Ensign and lower & hoist it as many times as you see Vessels allowing two Minutes between each time

For Chaceing – For the whole Fleet to Chace A Red Pendant at the fore top Mast head –

To give over the Chace – A white Pendant at the fore topMasthead

For the *Columbus* to Chace – Strike the broad Pendant half Mast to be answer'd by aweft in the Ensign and making Sail

To Chace to Windward – hoist the Ensign lowering the Pendant at the same time if to Leeward not – To give over the Chace a white Pendant at the Fore top Masthead & if at a great distance fire a Gun at the same time – this may serve for any of the Vessels to give over the Chace and return into the Fleet –

For the *Andrew Doria* to Chace – A dutch Flagg at the Fore top Masthead – To Chace to Windward hoist the Ensign lowering the Pendant at the same time if To Leeward not To give over the Chace a white Pendt at the Fore top Masthead and if at a great distance fire a Gun at the same time –

For the *Cabot* to Chace – A white Flagg at the fore topMast head to Chace to Windward hoist the Ensign lowering the Pendant at the same time – if to Leeward not – To give over the Chace a white Pendant at the fore top Masthead, and if at a great distance fire a Gun at the same time –

For the Sloop *Providence* to Chace – A St Georges Ensign with Stripes at the Mizen peak – to Chace to Windward hoist the Ensign, lowering the Pendant at the same time if to Leeward not – To give over the Chace a White Pendant at the fore top Masthead, and if at a great distance fire a Gun at the same time –

For a General Attack, or the whole Fleet to Engage – The Standard at the Maintop Top Masthead with the striped Jack & Ensign in their proper Places

To disengage and form into a Squadron A white flagg at the Ensign Staff & the same into a Weft for every Vessel to make the best of their way off from the Enemy for their own preservation –

For all the Captains to come onboard the Commodore – A red Pendant at the Ensign Staff –

To Speak with the *Columbus* – A white Pendant at the Mizen top Masthead –

To Speak with the *Andrew Doria* A dutch flagg at the Mizen topMthead

To Speak with the *Cabot* A weft in a Jack at the Mizen top Masthead

To Speak with the *Providence* – A white flagg at the Mizen top Mast head –

For any Vessel in the Fleet that want to speak with the Commodore – A weft in the Ensign and if in distress accompanied with two Guns

To fall into a Line abreast A red Pendant at the Mizen Peak

To fall into a Line ahead – A white Pendant at the Mizen Peak

For Meeting after a Separation A weft in an Ensign at the Main top Gallt Masthead – to be answered with the same and Clewing up the Main top Gallt Sail if they have any sett

To Speak with the Sloop *Fly* A dutch Flagg at the Ensign Staff

For the Sloop *Fly* to Chace A dutch flag at the Main top Gallt Masthead – to Chace to Windward hoist the Ensign Lowering the Pendant at the same time – if to Leeward not – to give over the Chace & return into the Fleet a white Pendant at the Fore top Mast head & if at a great distance fire a Gun at the same time

For the Sloop *Hornet* to Chace A red Pendant at the Mizen top masthead, to Chace to Windwd hoist the Ensign lowering the Pendant at the same time –if to Leeward not To give over the Chace a white Pendant at the fore top Masthead & if a great distance fire a Gun at the same time

For the Schooner *Hornet* [*Wasp*] to Chace A dutch flagg at the Mizen Peak – to Chace to Windward hoist the Ensign lowering the Pendant at the same [time] – if to Leeward not to give over the Chace a white Pendant at the fore top Masthead and if at a great distance fire a Gun at the same time

Signals in a Fogg or thick Weather

When it comes on foggy and the Commodore will continue the same Sail & Course fire a Gun every half hour

To bring too on the larboard Tack
fire two Guns

To bring too on the Starboard Tack
fire three Guns –

Any Vessel in the Fleet discovering an Enemy of Superior force shall fire four Guns and shall be answered by every Vessel in the Fleet with two Guns & then endeavour to Speak with the Commodore, And upon hearing one of the Fleet Engage an Attack must be made by the whole in the best manner possible

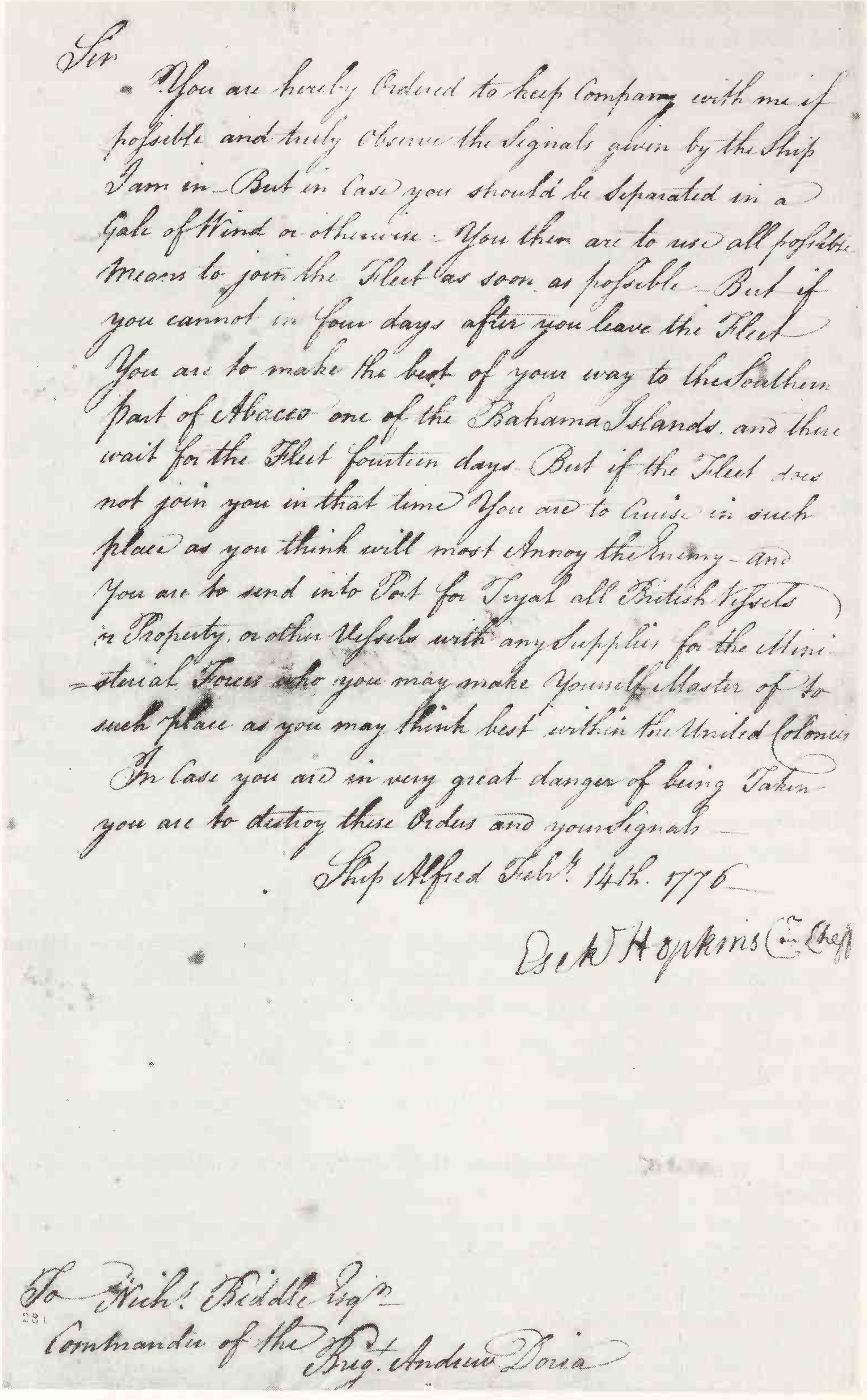
For the whole fleet to Anchor –
fire five Guns –
To haul upon a Wind on the Starbd Tack
fire six Guns –
To haul upon a Wind on the Larboard Tack – fire seven Guns –
To bear up or go before the Wind
fire eight Guns –
Any of the Vessels in the Fleet discovering Land or Danger – fire Minute Guns until the danger is over –

Signals by Night

To Weigh and come to Sail
three lights in the Mizen Shrouds abreast of each other – to be answered by each Ship with one light in the Main Shrouds –
To put about & stand upon the other Tack –
two lights upon the Ensign Staff to be answered by the other Vessels with one
To Ware and Stand upon the other Tack
three lights upon the Ensign Staff, to be answered by the other Vessels with two –
To Ware & Stand before the Wind –
two lights at the Mizen Peak, to be answered by three lights at the Ensign Staff –
For the Fleet to heave too with their Starboard Tacks onboard –
a light in the Starboard Main Shrouds with one Gun 1
To heave too with their Larboard Tacks on board a light in the Larboard Main Shrouds with two Guns – 2
For discovering strange Vessels –
A Light upon the Ensign Staff with a false Fire, and as many false Fires as Vessels discovered –
For discovering Land or Danger –
Show a great Number of Lights and fire Guns which is to be Continued untill every Vessel in the Fleet answer it by firing a Gun each –
For the Fleet to Attack or Engage the Enemy
fire a Gun, and as many false Fires as there is Ships in the Fleet –
For Meeting after a Separation
two false Fires – to be answered by the Same –
For the Fleet to Anchor
A light at the Main top Masthead to be answered by a light in the same place when safe at Anchor

1. RIHS, Mss., vol. 8, 4. There are also two copies with identical text but slightly different arrangements in the Hopkins Papers, RIHS.

2. The date is established by Hopkins' instructions to his captains. Undoubtedly some of the signals were set, if not distributed, while the fleet lay at Reedy Island in the Delaware between January 17 and February 11. One of the copies is headed "January," but it will be noted that instructions for the *Fly, Hornet* and *Wasp* were added later. The two latter vessels joined the fleet on February 13, according to the *Andrew Doria* journal. It is evident that signals for them would hardly be prepared before they joined, since there was no knowledge that they would rendezvous at Cape Henlopen. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.



Sir

You are hereby Ordered to keep Company with me if poſsible and truly Observe the Signals given by the Ship I am in—But in Case you should be Separated in a Gale of Wind or otherwise—You then are to use all poſsible Means to join the Fleet as soon as poſsible—But if you cannot in four days after you leave the Fleet You are to make the best of your way to the Southern Part of Abacco one of the Bahama Islands. and there wait for the Fleet fourteen days—But if the Fleet does not join you in that time You are to Cruise in such place as you think will most Annoy the Enemy—and You are to send into Port for Tryal all British Veſsels or Property, or other Veſsels with any Supplies for the Ministerial Forces who you may make Yourself Master of to such place as you may think best within the United Colonies

In Case you are in very great danger of being Taken you are to destroy these Orders and your Signals—

Ship Alfred Febry. 14th. 1776—

Esek Hopkins Comr in Chief

To Nichs. Biddle Esqr.
281
Commander of the Brig. Andrew Doria

Commodore Esek Hopkins to Captain Nicholas Biddle, February 14, 1776.

Commodore Esek Hopkins to Captain Nicholas Biddle [1]

Sir You are hereby Ordered to keep Company with me if possible and truly Observe the Signals given by the Ship I am in – But in Case you should be Separated in a Gale of Wind or otherwise – You then are to use all possible Means to join the Fleet as soon as possible – But if you cannot in four days after you leave the Fleet You are to make the best of your way to the Southern part of Abacco one of the Bahama Islands, and there wait for the Fleet fourteen days – But if the Fleet does not join you in that time You are to Cruise in such place as you think will most Annoy the Enemy – and You are to send into Port for Tryal all British Vessels or Property, or other Vessels with any Supplies for the Ministerial Forces who you may make Yourself Master of to such place as you may think best within the United Colonies

In Case you are in very great danger of being Taken you are to destroy these Orders and your Signals—

Ship *Alfred* Febry 14th. 1776—

Esek Hopkins Cmr Cheff

To Nichs Biddle Esqr Commander of the Brigt *Andrew Doria*

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[1] This letter in the Nicholas Biddle Papers, HSP, and another, addressed to Hoysteed Hacker in the Harbeck Collection, HUL, seem to be the only originals of the form letter which Hopkins sent to all captains of the fleet. The draft, undated, is in the Hopkins Papers, RIHS, and is endorsed, "Orders given the Several Captains in the Fleet at Sailing from the Capes of Delaware Febry 1776."

"A List of Names Run from on board the Brigantine *Andrew Doria* and likewise the time of People's Entry Since the 4th. January 1776." [1]

6 January	Thomas Harwood	Run 6th Janry
	John Harwood	
	John Gordon	Run 12th Janry
	Arthur Dancey	
	Samuel Moore	
	Robert Floreman	Run 15th Janry Heath Returnd 26th Janry
	James Heath	
	John Webb Gunners Mate.	Run 15th Janry
	William Green Carprs Mate –	Run 10th Febry [2]
	Benjamin Simpson Yoeman	Run 28th Janry
	Edward Barrett	Discharged 6th Janry not fit for Duty
	William Darby Boatswain	turned over to the Sloop *Providence* 12th February 76

People who Entered since the 4th January 1776

Barnard Garland	Entered the 14th January 1776
James McGuire	
William Hughes	
George McKane	Entered 16th Janry

George Kelly	Entered 18th Janry came on board the 26th Janry
John Moize	
John Chisnell	
James Willson	Run 28th January
John Swenney	Entd 4th Feby
Joseph Cheels	Boatswain
Timothy O harrow	
William West	Entrd the 12th February
Joseph Elding	
John Patten	
Jeremiah Mahaney	
John Dennis –	Entrd the 14th Febry

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1. Nicholas Biddle Papers, HSP.
2. See Biddle to Lydia McFunn, February 15, 1776.

RECEIPTS RELATING TO THE MARYLAND SHIP *Defence* [1]

[Baltimore]

Recd Feby 14. 1776 of Capt James Nicholson on Accot of Ship *Defence* one Months pay being Three pound Seven Shillings & Six pence Benjamin Simpson becomes Security for the same Witness my Hand

£ 3.7.6 James Heastie

Recd Feby 14. 1776 of Capt James Nicholson of the Ship *Defence* One Months pay being Three pound Twelve Shillings & Six pence Witness my Hand –

£ 3.12.6 Benjamin Simpson

Recd Feby 14. 1776 of Capt James Nicholson on Acct Ship *Defence* Twenty Three pounds Six Shillings & Six pence for Six Days Work of Six Carpenters on sd Ship & Two do Eight Days & Half Each One do Nine days & Two do five days Work on the Barges

£ 23.6.6 Joseph Cavely

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1. Account Book, Ship *Defence* Papers, MdHS.

MINUTES OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

[Annapolis] Wednesday 14 Feb. 1776.

Ordered That the Treasurer of the Western Shore pay to Mr Robert Craig five hundred Pounds common money to be lodged in the Hands of Col. John Veazey, to be by him laid out in the Purchase of a Ton of Gunpowder.

Copy of Letter No 18 sent to Col. John Veazey.

Mr Robert Craig agreed with the Council to load the Brig *Blanche* with Country Produce for the Importation of Salt agreeable to a Resolution of [the Continental] Congress. Copy of the Agreement filed.

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1. Browne, ed., *Arch. of Md.*, XI, 158, 159.

Captain Andrew Snape Hamond, R.N., to Captain James Montagu, H.M. Sloop *Kingsfisher* [1]

Roebuck at Hamton [Hampton] Road in Virginia 14th Feby [17]76

Sir In return to your letter of this days date enclosing Several demands for Provisions and Stores; I send you a list of the only Articles and quantities which are in my power to spare you from the Ship under my command: vizt

To be had of the Purser –	Bread	1500	pounds
	Pease	8	busls
	Shoes	50	pair
Gunner –	Powder	5	Barls
	Papr Cartdges 6 Prs	100	No
	Match	28	lbs
Carpentr –	A few Nails, some Tin & Leather		

I am yours [&c]

A S Hamond

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[1] Hamond Letter Book, 1771–1777, UVL.

Captain Andrew Snape Hamond, R.N., to Captain James Montagu, H.M. Sloop *Kingsfisher* [1]

By Andrew Snape Hamond Esqr
commander of his Ms Ship the *Roebuck*

You are hereby required and directed to use all possible dispatch in completing his Majesty's Ship under your command for Sea, and having so done to proceed without loss of time down to Hampton Road, and waite there for further Orders.

Given under my hand on board His Majesty's Ship the
Roebuck at Norfolk in Virginia the 14th February 1776

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[1] Hamond, Orders issued, UVL.

Journal of H.M.S. *Liverpool*, Captain Henry Bellew [1]

Febry 1776 Off Norfolk in Virginia.

Tuesday 13 AM sent the Marines under Arms and 30 seamen with part of the 14 Regiment and a Larg Body of Volunteers to throw up an Intrenchment to Secure the Watering Place from the Depredations of the Rebels –
modr and fair at 6 AM returned the people with 4 Prisoners

Wednesday 14 at 6 AM fird a Gun and made the signal for the Volunteers to repair on Shore – sent the marines and seamen to work at the intrenchment
Do Wr AM Returned – the People [2]

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 51/548.

[2] *Ibid.*, on February 15 and 16, 1776, the shore parties continued to work on the entrenchments and were withdrawn at nightfall.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Syren,* CAPTAIN TOBIAS FURNEAUX [1]

February 1776	Cape Fear West 5 or 6 Leagues
Tuesday 13	AM at 5 Exercised small Arms & fired at a Mark – Light Breezes – P M at 1 saw a Sail to the Et gave Chace, ½ past 2 fired a Shot & bro't to a Schooner from Nantasket bound to Charles Town, Sent a Petty Officer & 3 Men on board to carry her to Cape Fear, at 4 saw a Sail to to So ward: bore away for her, a 6 (having but 7 Fath's aback of the frying pan) TKd & stood to the N Et
Wednesday 14	A M at 5 TKd & stood in shore at 7 saw a schooner to the WNW; bore away after her, at 8 Wore & stood off the Chace having gone into Cape Fear, at 10 punished John Draper (Seamn with 12 lashes) for striking the Boatswns Mte Employed working up Junk Sailmakers repg Sails Carpenters repg Boats – Various Soundings Do Wr with Rain. P M at 1 set the Topmast Rigging & single Reeft the Tsls at 4 dble reeft the TPSls & struck Top Gallt Yards, at 6 TKd Ship, at 11 wore Ship

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[1] PRO, Admiralty 51/930.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA PROVINCIAL CONGRESS [1]

[Charleston] Wednesday, February 14, 1776.

Read a letter from the Committee at Beaufort, dated Feb. 11, 1776, relative to the shippers of the cargo on board the brigantine *William,* Capt. Mercier, detained there.

Ordered, That the said letter, with the papers that were inclosed, be referred to the Council of Safety; and that they do report thereon.

On motion, The following resolution was unanimously agreed to:

Whereas the Continental Congress, on the first day of November last, prohibited exportation from the United Colonies, until the first day of March next: And whereas by reason of the distance of several of those colonies from Philadelphia, the resolution of the said Congress, relative to exportation after that day, may not be known for some time: And it may be injurious to the common cause of America, if exportation should be permitted in any colony, before such resolution shall be known there,

Resolved, That the said prohibition shall continue, and be of force in this colony, until the first day of May next, unless an authentic account of the determination of the Continental Congress, relative to exportation, after the said first day of March, shall be sooner received and published by the Council of Safety.

Ordered, That the foregoing resolution be forthwith printed in hand bills and made publick.

Ordered, That Mr. President do transmit a copy of the foregoing resolution to the Conventions of Georgia and North-Carolina, recommending, that those colonies do pass one similar thereto; and to our Delegates at Philadelphia, desiring them to give the Council of Safety the earliest intelligence of the proceedings of the Continental Congress on this subject.

Ordered, That Mr. President's Letter to Georgia be forwarded by a Committee of two gentlemen, to be delegated to make all possible representation to induce that colony to come into a similar resolution.

1. *Provincial Congress of South Carolina,* 29–34.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

In the Council of Safety,
[Charleston] Wednesday Evening, Feb. 14th, 1776.

Mr. [Alexander] Elsinore, and Mr. [Benjamin] Stone, two of the pilots for this port and harbour, attended, and reported their proceedings, in consequence of the orders of the board of the 6th inst.

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[1] *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society,* III, 260.

DIXON AND HUNTER'S *Virginia Gazette,* SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 1776

Savannah (in Georgia) Feb. 14.

His Excellency the Governor, with his family, left this place last Sunday night [February 11], and went on board his Majesty's ship *Scarborough,* lying at Tybee.

Last Thursday [February 8] Capt. Wright arrived at Tybee, in a schooner from Grenada. And the next day a large transport ship arrived with soldiers, from Boston. Lord William Campbell is on board his Majesty's ship *Syren.*

VICE ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON TO LIEUTENANT FRANCIS L'MONTAIS, R. N.[1]

By Clark Gayton Esqr Rear Admiral of the Red; & Commander in Chief; of His Majestys Ships & Vessels Employed, & to be Employed, at & about Jamaica, & in the Gulph of Mexico, from the River Mississippi, to Cape Florida –

Whereas I have received Intelligence, from Cape Francois, in the Island of Hispaniola, which I think of such Importance, to this Island; that the earliest Oppertunity should be embraced of communicateing it, to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty

And as I have no Ship or Vessel, under my Command, that I can send with this Intelligence, I have given directions to the Naval Storekeeper, to Purchase a Schooner, for this Service & have order'd her, to be Mann'd out of His Majestys Ship *Antelope.*

And by Virtue, of the Power & Authority; unto me given, I do hereby nominate & appoint you, to Act, as Lieutenant & Commander of the said Schooner, Willing; & requireing you, to repair forthwith, onboard of her, and there take upon you, the Charge, & Command, as Acting Lieutenant & Commander, in her accordingly, Strictly Chargeing, & Commanding, all the Officers, & Company;

of the said Schooner, to behave themselves Jointly & Severally in their Respective Employments, with all due Respect, & Obedience, unto you their said Acting Lieutenant & Commander, and you likewise to observe & execute the General Printed Instructions, as well, as all such orders, & directions; as you may receive from time to time, from me, or any other your Superior Officer for His Majestys Service, Hereof nor you, nor any of you; may fail as you will answer the contrary at your Peril

You will use all possible Dispatch, in getting His Majestys Schooner, under your Command ready for proceeding with the Express and in order to facilitate the same; I have given directions; to the Officers of the Yard, & the Captain of His Majestys Ship *Antelope,* to give you every Assistance

I have likewise given directions to the Storekeeper to take an exact Account of the Schooners Furniture & Stores in order to their being Deliverd into your Charge, and to the respective Officers, to Supply you with what Stores, may be wanting to fit you, for a Voyage to England, for all which, as well as what Provisions may be requisite to compleat you, for three Months of all Species, at whole allowance, for your Complement of Twenty Men, you are to give proper Receipts, & charge yourself therewith; taking care; that the utmost Frugality; is observed in the expenditure of the Stores, as you are to be accountable for all, that may be unnessarily expended

And when you have put these Orders into execution, & are fitted for a Passage to England, you are to inform me thereof immediately, for which this shall be your Order.

Given under my Hand Onboard His Majs Ship *Antelope,* in Port Royal Harbour Jamaica this 14 Febry 1776

Clark Gayton

To Mr Francis L'Montais Acting Lieutenant of His Majestys Ship *Antelope* Hereby Appointed to Act as Lieutenant and Commander of His Majestys Schooner *Lady Keith*

By Command of the Admiral Wm Whytth

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *VIPER*, CAPTAIN SAMUEL GRAVES [1]

Feby 1776 Moor'd in St John's Roads Antigua

Wednesday 14 P M Sent a Sloop in Chace of a Ship that was working in, but on Seeing us, bore away at 6 brought in the ship *Chester* belonging to Philadelphia detained the said Ship.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/1039.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM A GENTLEMAN IN THE WEST-INDIES TO HIS FRIEND IN THIS CITY [PHILADELPHIA], DATED FEB. 14" [1]

We have just heard that a brig and a sloop from some part of America, laden with lumber, are taken by one of the English cruisers close in with St.Pieres, Martinico. This conduct enraged the French General, who immediately gave orders for one of his frigates to cruise and protect every American vessel within their limits.

[1] *Pennsylvania Packet,* March 11, 1776.

PIERRE BEGOZZAT TO THE NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

St. Pierre, Martinico, February 14, 1776.

Gentlemen – As I never considered the American affairs otherwise, but the indeavors of tyranny against the Libertys of Mankind; & looking upon the North America as the sacred Asyle contrived in this age by the Divine Providence against the Despotic power who filled the three parts of this world with Misery & Poverty, I think i am honoured by being imployed in serving so Noble a Cause, it is in these Principals, Gentlemen I take the Liberty to write you by the opertunity of Capt. Robert Parker to offer my service to your Committee. You may be Certain that Nobody will serve your interest with so much zeal as I.

I gave Capt Robert Parker a very short expidition. I intend every Day to send away Captn Peverly, these two vestles will carry away ten thousand of Gun Powder. I am loading Now two vestles which I hope will depart very soon. We are expecting every Day a vestle departed from old France with about twenty thousand of Gun Powder; & I am in hopes that what we will Receive from france this Month will amount to 60,000. I'll advise you Every month the Quantity expected. Warlike Provisions are not common as they ought to be, on the account they have Rumoured in Europe that the Affairs of America would be stilled this Winter. Some Vestles brings no Amunition, but by letters Departed the 20th of January last, Advising the war continuing this year in America, there will be Plenty in the Months of May & June.

Ammunitions are not the only Articles wanted by the Americans. Woolen & Linen Cloaths, Drugs, Russia Ducks, twine, a great Quantity of goods at the most Necessary in Private use of life are wanting greatly, & you may be provided of these Articles here. The Designe of this Letter is to desire that you may send the Patterns of every thing wanting to you here, & I'll send them to old France, & our Markets will be well Provided with them in four or five months time. I sent a Memorial to the French ministry concerning the trade we can settle with New England; but as your Articles we usually consume here, viz. fish, Lamp oil, Spermacity, Candles, Pork, beef, Staves, boards, and Hoops, cannot amount to a great sum of money, I asked in my Memorial to ship from hence to old France, Potashes, beaver, lamp oil in casks of 60 gals, well hooped to goe to old France: these Articles added to these that Martinico consume Will produce a sufficient sum of money to Maintain your exchange here.

In the Southern Colonies I have asked that Virginy Tobaco of which we consume thirty or forty million pounds every year, be introduced to France by the way of Martinico. This article is very valuable & will pay here a great Quantity of goods wanting in America. Carolina Indigo will find likewise a great advantage in french trade. You may be certain Gentlemen that Continental Vestles will always find good Protection in our ports. you will se by the Report I send you of the frigate *Argus* [2] wiling to visit a Continental vessel loading, by me, with gunpowder.

Any Continental Vestle coming here will be safe. If you have any Particular a [or] secret Demands to our Government send them to me. I do promise to return you a Positive Answer.

I think proper to advise you that the Sloop *Molly,* Capt. Conway master Loading with Flower, coming from Mery-land on the account he was Pursued by an English Man-of-war, not only obtained [permission] to anchor here, but to sell his Cargoe. Give your Vestles a letter for me, & I'll procure you all that they will want, or to be introduced, or to sell, or to Purchase their goods.

You may assure your Country men they Have good friends in this Country. We think that the sacred fire of Liberty stands no where else now but in the North America, & that the Brave people to whom the Divine Providence hath trusted it, will continue it alive for the Future Generation. I am, Gentlemen [&c.]

To the Honourable Committee of Safety Providence of New Hampshire

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1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire,* VIII, 74–75.
2. The *Argo.* See Volume 2.

15 Feb.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Hunter,* CAPTAIN THOMAS MACKENZIE [1]

Febry 1776	Remarks &c in Quebec
Thursday 15	Fresh Gales with Snow pm the Rebels fired a Shot from their Battery into the Town and set fire to a House in St Johns & to some Vessels in St Roque which did not burn they being prevented from perfecting their Work by our seeing them & firing on them –

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1. PRO, Admiralty 51/466.

GOVERNOR FRANCIS LEGGE TO LORD DARTMOUTH [1]

No 60. Halifax February 15th 1776.

My Lord I wrote you a few days since inclosing therewith several Memorials from the Inhabitants of Cumberland, from which it will appear to your Lordship, the Disposition of the Inhabitants, and how little dependence can be relied on from thence, for the Security and defence of this Province, which Disposition is become more General, and Spreading over all the Settlements, that are principally compos'd of Americans.

I was inform'd by Advice received yesterday that the Inhabitants of Cumberland have had several Meetings, and are entering into Associations of a Treasonable & dangerous nature, no less than inviting an Army of Americans into this Province, and they give out, that Canada is in their possession, and that an Armament will come from thence, and land in this Province, in that part of the Country bordering on the Gulph of St Lawrence.

I have laid these matters before His Majesty's Council, and a Copy of their proceedings thereon, together with several Intelligencies receiv'd is herewith Transmitted, it being their Unanimous opinion that the Fort at Cumberland shoud as soon as the Season will possibly permit, be Garrison'd with at least three hundred men. I shall accordingly make application to General [Eyre] Massey to supply the Troops necessary for that purpose.

I beg leave to observe to your Lordship, That if Quebec is in the Enemies hands, they will thereby become possess'd of One Frigate, one Sloop of War, and the *Gaspee* Brigt and that it will require a number of Frigates to be early in the Spring in the Gulph St Lawrence to disconcert such an Expedition, and shall accordingly write to Admiral Shulden [Shuldham] by a Vessel that Sails tomorrow. That he may have it in his power timely to disconcert such a measure.

We have had no Intelligence from Boston this six Weeks which may have been owing to that Harbours being block'd up with Ice, as we have had a very Severe Season, this Harbour was shut up for a day or two, but is now open and clear of Ice.

The Importance and Critical Situation of this Colony I have represented to our Lordship, and woud only Suggest at this time, that as in all probability Troops will be sending to Boston to reinforce the Army, as they must all pass by this Port, within a few Leagues, shoud they be order'd to call in here, in their passage, they may be a means of saving this Province out of the Enemies hands for from every Intelligence, I find the Rebels will most surely attempt us early in the Spring. I have the honor to be with the greatest Respect [&c.]

Fran^s Legge

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 217/52, Nova Scotia Papers, DAC Photocopy.

COMMODORE MARRIOT ARBUTHNOT TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM [1]

Copy Halifax 15th February 1776.

Sir, Yesterday a Corporal belonging to the 65th Regiment arrived here express from Cumberland and brought an Account addressed to Brigadier General [Eyre] Massey from Lieutenant Barron of the King's Regiment, lately wounded at Boston; and Obtained General [William] Howe's leave to pass the Winter with his Father who lives at that place.

He says that Cumberland and its Neighbourhood have formed themselves into a Committee, the same as the other Rebellious Meetings, in which they are joined by the Acadians, and the Majority of the Country people in general thereabout; for what they call the preservation of Liberty.

They have resolved to kill all the Bullocks, that remain in those parts, which have been purchased for the use of the Army and salt them for the Subsistence of the Rebels, by whom they say they are to be joined as soon as the Season breaks.

I have not the smallest doubt but the Rebels intend to make an Attempt upon this Province, the moment the Weather will permit, and I am no less confident that they have the hearts and good Wishes for Success, of by much the Major part of the People; under those Circumstances, I should presume it becomes a Serious consideration, how this Province is to be preserved; (with its present force:) I pronounce it impossible, barely five hundred, fit for Duty at this moment out of Nine hundred Men upon Paper, as I hear.

The *Cerberus*, alongside the Wharf for to be cleaned, the *Orpheus*'s Masts I hope to get in the beginning of the Week, and shall lose no time in refitting her; and you may rest Assured that we will not be Surprised with the *Cerberus* dismantled, because, we will soon get her Guns in and put her in a State of defence, but what then! two Frigates commanded by all the Heights about this place.

The Yard has had a Scaffolding erected round the Walls for Men to stand upon to fire over, but where are they? I have a Lieutenant and thirty Marines which Captain [Edward] Le Cras left behind, by Order of Vice Admiral Graves; this is all I can reckon upon for I am sure Brigadier Massey can spare none, neither will the State of the Frigates admit of any Assistance of consequence.

I hope you will therefore excuse my repeating my Opinion, that Two, two Deck Ships are much wanted, for the defence of this place; And if the Nature of the Service is such that no Addition to our force can be spared; I mean to put the Stores at present in the Yard, into such Transports and Vessels as I can find, for their Security; which I hope you approve of.

I could wish also, Sir, that you will procure a Vessel, for the business of my Sending you the earliest Account of our State; if you have none, here is a small Schooner, belonging to Captain Maltby, which can be purchased for 100 pounds that will do, as I am told she sails well.

I must likewise pray you will Order, a list of the Ships you mean to have cleaned this Spring, that I may prepare for them.

You will find in a Letter to Admiral Graves a remark respecting Messrs Grant issuing broken Species, such as Pork, Flour, &ca and the rest are to be supplied out of the *Fortitude* Transport, by which you will perceive by the State of the said Ship herewith inclosed, that she has no more than Nine Puncheons of Beef left, and therefore I must request that you will Order a supply of Beef to this place, or cause the Ships to be Victualled before they leave you; for I cannot answer the Demand of the two Frigates at this place, when you may have commands for them. I am with the greatest Deference. Sir, [&c.]

M^t Arbuthnot

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

"Extract of a Letter from a Gentleman on Board the [H.M.S.] *Orpheus*, dated Halifax, 15 Feb. 1776."[1]

We arrived here after a Passage of eleven Weeks from Plymouth, and almost one continued Storm; the Ship much shattered, and most of the Men down in the Scurvey. However, we shall soon be fit for Sea again; all our People are recovered, which we attribute to the Spruce Beer, the common Drink on board the Men of War here, and at Boston; for though they have Plenty of good Rum or French Brandy on board of every Ship, yet they never make use of them when they can get Spruce Beer, as they find by long Experience that it keeps the Men healthier than any other Liquor. Every Sort of Provision is very dear here from so much being sent, and daily going, for the Use of the Army, the Navy, and Inhabitants in Boston.

1. *Public Advertiser,* London, March 19, 1776.

Journal of the Massachusetts House of Representatives[1]

[Watertown] Thursday, February 15, 1776.

On the Muster-Roll of Capt. Jeremiah Obryan [O'Brien].

Resolved, That there be allowed and paid out of the Public Treasury of this Colony, to Capt. Jeremiah Obryan, his Officers and Seamen under his Command, or their Order, the several Sums set against their respective Names, in the first Muster-Roll, amounting in the Whole to the Sum of *Seven Hundred and Sixty three Pounds, six Shillings* and a *Penny,* in full Discharge for Services on board said Vessels to the first Day of February Current.

Afternoon.

John Taylor, Esq; brought down a Letter from James Lyon, Chairman of the Committee of Machias, praying Directions with respect to some Goods taken in the Schooner *Diligent,* with the following Vote of Council thereon, viz.

In Council, February 15th, 1776.

Read and committed to Benjamin Lincoln, Esq; with such as the Hon. House shall join

Read, and concurred, and Col. [Solomon] Lovell and Col. [John] Bliss are joined.

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1. Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch.

Journal of the Massachusetts Council [1]

[Watertown] Thursday, February 15, 1776.

In the House of Representatives: Resolved, That there be paid out of the publick Treasury of this Colony, to Captain Jeremiah Obrien, the sum of seven hundred and sixty-three Pounds, six Shillings and one Penny, in full of said Obrien's Muster-Roll, to the 1st instant.

In Council: Read, and concurred.

Memorial of James Cargill, of Newcastle, in the County of Lincoln, setting forth to your Honours: "that the schooner *Dolphin* was, by order of the honourable Court, committed to his care; and that your memorialist fitted her with two new masts, also, with carpenter and smith's work to fit her for use; and, also, ordered Andrew Reed, Jun., to coast in said schooner to Portsmouth and Newbury, in order to get rigging for her, which she was very scant off. Said schooner was ordered to proceed on business the 1st of January last. You memorialist would be glad of your Honour's directions concerning said schooner.

In the House of Representatives: On the Petition of James Cargill, Resolved, That Colonel Cargill be allowed to detain the abovesaid Schooner, till further order of this Court, and be accountable for her earnings when required.

In Council: Read, and concurred.

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1. Force, comp. American Archives, 4th, IV, 1306–07.

Vice Admiral Molyneux Shuldham's Passport to the Sloop *Rainbow* [1]

Permit the Sloop *Rainbow* Samuel Perkins Master with his Crew, consisting of Two Hands, to Pass from the Harbour of Boston to Damascotay in Ballast.
Given under my hand on board His Majesty's Ship *Chatham* off Boston
15th February 1776 – M: Shuldham
To The Respective Captains & Commanders of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels in North America
By Command of the Admiral – Edw^{d} Bragge/.

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1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 254.

JAMES OTIS TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL [1]

Barnstable February 15th 1776

Genlemen of the Councel it seems on Saturday Last [February 10] a French vessel Ran on shoar on the south side of the Cape with an Hundred & Odd Hogsheads of molases and some Other small Articles and one Hogshead of sugar She Had a French master and one Pinkham of Nantucket the English master their Papers are all In French so I Can say But Little about them: there was on Board sd vessel one Mons[ieu]r Dela baron [2] a German who Took Passage on Board with a Design to Go to Philadelphiah who has Large Packets with him for Doctor Franklen, a Letter for the Secratary of the Continentall Congress & for Divers Other Gentm at Philadelphia he appears Much of a Gentm says he Was In the King of Prussias service more than twe[n]ty years I have wrote By him to General Washington who no Doubt will Examine Into his Bisness he says the French & English Master[s] Talked of Going Into Boston But they Deny it on The whole I Thought Best to acquaint your Honrs as to this Matter and as the Goods are Taken Into Custody By Major Hallet & Others they will waite The Courts Direction in this Dillicate Point. I am [&c.]

James Otis

[1] James Otis Papers, CUL.

[2] Otis had the German's title only; the name was Baron Frederick Wilhelm de Woedtke.

New-York Journal, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1776

New-York, February 15.

The sloop *Maccaroni,* Capt. Hunting, is arrived at the east end of Long-island from the West Indies: About 16 days since the sloop overset off Cape Hatteras, by which accident the Captain and one of the men were drowned; the whole crew were overboard, but all of them except the two before mentioned recovered the vessel again, when she soon righted.[1]

Capt. Lowndes from St. Croix, informs us, That several of the transports that lately arrived at Antigua, received so much damage on this coast, that they were obliged to go to English Harbour to refit.

The arrival of the *Mercury,* of 24 guns, with General Clinton, alarmed the inhabitants of this city very sensibly; and last Friday [February 9] the transport ship *Kitty,* with 200 soldiers on board, came into port: 'Tis said she sailed from Boston in company with the *Mercury,* and is supposed to be part of the fleet that lately left that place destined for the southward.

[Advertisement]

For Barbados, And the Leeward Islands, The Schooner *Sally,* Robert M'Intosh master, lying at Cruger's Dock, will sail on Sunday next. For passengers, apply to the said Master on board.

[1] The *Macaroni,* the property of Nathaniel Shaw, Jr., of New London, was returning from the West Indies with a cargo of gunpowder and arms.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW JERSEY PROVINCIAL CONGRESS [1]

[New Brunswick] Thursday, February 15, 1776.

The Committee appointed to draught an ordinance for erecting a Court of Admiralty in this Province, reported, That they had consulted William Livingston, Esq., one of our Delegates in Continental Congress on the subject, and proposed to him, whether it would not be of manifest advantage to the Colonies, if that Congress should, by one general ordinance, institute the powers and mode of erecting a Court of Admiralty to be adopted by all the Colonies: That Mr. Livingston agreed thereto, and said he would take the first opportunity of proposing this matter to Congress; and added, that as they had already given directions for the disposition of the transport lately carried into Elizabethtown,[2] no injury could ensue to the public from the New Jersey Congress deferring the erecting a Court of Admiralty in this Province, until they are informed whether the Continental Congress will direct a general ordinance for the purpose: And the Committee submit it to consideration of the Congress, whether it will not, for the above reasons, be expedient, that the said Committee should for the present defer further proceedings in the business to which they were appointed.

The Congress taking the said report into consideration.

Ordered, That further proceedings of the said Committee be deferred accordingly.

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[1] *New Jersey Provincial Congress,* 369, 370–71.

[2] The *Blue Mountain Valley.*

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS [1]

[Philadelphia] Thursday, February 15, 1776

Information being received that General [Henry] Clinton was gone from New York, the Congress came to the following resolution:

The Congress have a proper sense of the spirit and patriotism of the associators of the city and liberties of Philadelphia, in cheerfully offering and preparing to march, in order to assist in the defence of New York; but, as the danger which occasioned an application for their service, is at present over,

Resolved, That their march to New York be suspended.

That a committee of three on the reports of the committee of correspondence (two of whom to be members of Congress) be appointed to proceed to Canada, there to pursue such instructions as shall be given them by Congress:

The members chosen, Dr. Benjamin Franklin, Mr. S[amuel] Chase, and Mr. Charles Carroll, of Carrollton.

Resolved, That Mr. Carroll be requested to prevail on Mr. John Carroll to accompany the committee to Canada, to assist them in such matters as they shall think useful:

Resolved, That this Congress will make provision to defray any expence which may attend this measure.

The committee, to whom the letter from the committee of safety of New York of 3 January, and the letter from Governor Trumbull of January 6, were referred, brought in their report, which being taken into consideration:

Resolved, That no farther works be erected on Martler's rock, but, that those already erected there, be supported and garrisoned:

That a fascine battery, to mount not exceeding eighteen heavy cannon, be thrown up on the Gravel Hill, eastward of Martler's rock, marked in the draught LL, so as to command the west point, the reach down the river from the west point, and part of the reach up the river: and that a convenient road be opened from this battery to the barracks on Martler's rock:

That a redoubt of earth and fascines be built on the eminence on the east side of the river, opposite to the west point marked in the draught A, to mount 30 guns:

That it be recommended to the convention or committee of safety of New York, to forward the battery at Pooplopen's kill; and that the said battery be made of earth and fascines, and to mount a number of guns, not exceeding forty guns:

That such of the continental troops as are or may be stationed at the aforesaid places, be employed in erecting these works and batteries, under the direction of the engineer:

Resolved, That this Congress will, to morrow Morning, resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to take into consideration the propriety of opening the ports, and the restrictions and regulations of the trade of these colonies after the first of March next.

Resolved, That the commitee of ways and means to procure Cannon, be empowered to enquire what quantity of brass can be procured, and to contract for the same.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC,* IV, 150–53.

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH [1]

[Philadelphia] Thursday 15 [February] – A Letter being recd from Gen. Lee [2] the Associators were countermanded going to N York – A report was made & agreed to about the Mode of fortifying Hudsons River – some Gentn were selected to go into Canada viz – Dr [Benjamin] Franklin, Saml Chase & Charles Carol of Carolton Esqrs together with the Rev. John Carol . . . 5 Ton of Powder said to be arrived at Egg Harbor and gone thro [New] Brunswick to New York,

1. Richard Smith's Diary, LC.
2. Lee's letter was dated February 11, 1776.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a, 15th Feb'y, 1776.

Resolved, That Capt. Robert Whyte & John Nixon be directed to apply to Simon Shurlock, and in their name to request him to finish the Ship now building for this Province, with the greatest expedition, and to employ an additional number of Men for that purpose.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records,* X, 486.

Pennsylvania Evening Post, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1776

Philadelphia, February 15.

On Tuesday last Capt.—— from Fyal and Lisbon arrived here. He left Fyal the middle of October, at which time two English men of war were cruising off there and had taken and made prizes of seven sail of whalers. He left Lisbon the nineteenth of November, and informs, that the night before he sailed, there arrived a packet from England, and it being reported that she had orders for seizing all American ships in that port, the Captain made sail early in the morning, to escape their clutches. – By the above, we have reason to believe Lord North despatched orders to seize our property long before he asked leave to bring in a bill for that purpose.

The ship *Rose,* from this port for Ireland, is cast away in the English channel; the vessel and cargo lost.

The English men of war have taken the brig *Greyhound,* Capt. [William] Stevens,[1] from this port for the West-Indies, and the ship *Peggy,* Capt. Davidson [Samuel Davison],[2] also from this port for Europe, both of which they sent into St. Kitts.

By the New-York post, which arrived this afternoon, we learn that the *Mercury* man of war, with General Clinton on board, and the two transports sailed from New-York last Sunday afternoon [February 11], at 4 o'clock, and the next day they left the Hook.

1. Stevens took command of the *Greyhound* in May 1775, and was on his third voyage when captured.
2. Davison had been given leave of absence from the Pennsylvania row galley *Warren* on November 28, 1775, to make a voyage in the service of the Continental Congress.

CAPTAIN NICHOLAS BIDDLE TO HIS SISTER, MRS. LYDIA MCFUNN [1]

> (A Sp[eec]h[)] of N:B. Before the County Court held at Lewis town Feb: 14 1776 N:B: The Sheriff was afraid of being acctble for the de[b]t and desird the Court to indem[ni]fy him.

I was this Morning inform'd that one [William] Green who had deserted from me was last evening, on that account, taken up and put in your Goal. As it was very common whilst we lay at Reedy Island for the Good People about New Castle to apprehend deserters, and either send them on board or keep them in Goal till we sent for them, I thought I had nothing more to do than to send an Officer to pay his Goal fees and take him out. But it seems that after he was put in Goal for desertion a writ has been served on him for a debt in consiquence of which the Sheriff has Refused to deliver up My Man

This Man May it please the Court and you Gent. of the jury was put in Phila: Goal for Raising a Mutiny in the Gallies [2] and I Obtaind an Order of the Committee to take him out. Provided he enterd into the Continentel Service? and on no other terms would he have been Released. I beg the favoir of the

Court to Read a Resolve of Congress Respecting the arresting of Men enterd into their Service which is directly in point. And which I hope you will allow aught to Supercede all other Laws whatever, (the Resolve)[3] by this Gent[n] you see the de[b]t must be attested on Oa[t]h before a writ can be issued. In this Case no oath has been Made, Neither before nor since the Arrest.

I know not the Particular laws of Your County. But will Venture to say that if you make a d[i]stincktion between the Goal and Goal Yard, and that it [is] against Law to arrest in the Goal and not in the Goal Yard Your Laws differ from those of the Rest of the World. They are both equ[a]lly Places of Confinement. I again say such Procecdure is without Precedent in any other Laws & derectly against those of the Congress. It is most strongly Recommended by the Congress to Abate as much as possible the Rigours of the Laws in such Cases. In the Present it is streched far beyond its bounds. I should be very sorry to have the least Cause to Suspect this County of want of firm[ness] in the Cause. But Really this Conduct seems Calculated to counteract their Measures. I shall only add that it is in your Power to give Me the Man as you plainly see that He is not nor cannot be Legally detaind. If I am not to have him Let me know the Men by whose power & Authorety he is kept in Order that I may transmit their Names to the Congress, And let them take order in the Matter. We will send for his Creditors and talk with them – What! ! ! Whenever I Ship a Man I must send through the Provinces or Continent to know to whom he is indepted and whether or not tis agreeable to them I should have him. Oh [dam]n. I believe you may take him –

twas near five Oclock before I got ashore and what with turning Orator and Breaking the Goal Door made it so late that I did not see My favoirite McCorm[an]

Four Raskels stood on their defence Barricad[e]d their Room door which Obliged me to force it. Tell Cousin Clemmy[4] I must owe him a letter till I can find Something worth telling [I] am Very happy in haveing Sam N[i]cholas in the fleet[5] If he wants any news in the small ware way, tell him [to] come to you, that I write you ten times as [much] as you can have patience to Read. Give my Love to Mother Charles and all Friends I am Yours Affy

N: Biddle

[On the covering sheet]

Capt Haz[ar]d A Stout Man Very Vain and Ignorant – as much low cunning as Capacity

C: Hacker of the *Fly* an Active Smart Seaman

C: Stone A Very Stout and Very Good kind of Man

C: Saltonstal a Sensible indefatigable Morose Man

C Hopkins A Good Naturd Man

C B " a Mighty good Young Man[6]

To Mrs Lydia Mcfunn
in third Street Philadelphia

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1. While the salutation is missing, the letter was dated February 15, 1776. This is indicated by the comment of James Biddle in his list of letters from his brother, "1776 Febry 15 *Andw Doria* at the Capes – 1 Lre to me and one to Lydia His Speech to the Court at Lewestown – and account of his getting a Deserter by forcing the Gaol door – His farewell," Nicholas Biddle Letters, Nos. 279, 280, 325, HSP.

2. Green, a former member of the crew of the Pennsylvania galley *Congress,* had been jailed on November 17, 1775, by the Committee of Safety for mutinous conduct.
3. Resolve of January 30, 1776: "That it be recommended to all creditors, whose demands against any person who is inlisted, or shall inlist, in the continental service, shall not amount to the value of 35 dollars, not to arrest any such debtor till the expiration of the time for which he is inlisted." Ford, ed., *JCC,* IV, 103.
4. Clement Biddle.
5. Captain of Marines on board the *Alfred.*
6. His character delineations were of John Hazard, of the sloop *Providence*; Hoysteed Hacker, of the sloop *Fly*; William Stone, of the sloop *Hornet;* Dudley Saltonstall, of the ship *Alfred;* John Burroughs Hopkins, of the brig *Cabot,* and a humorous reference to himself.

CAPTAIN NICHOLAS BIDDLE TO HIS BROTHER, JAMES BIDDLE [1]

My Dear Brother *Andrew Doria* Feb: 15th 1776

I have the Pleasure to inform you that since I wrote to you we have Received a Reinfor[c]ement of 120 Men from Rhode Iland and have also [i]ncreased our fleet with a Sloop of ten Guns and 70 Men and small Schooner of 8 two pounders from Maryland.[2] I now muster 109 Men in the Whole, and am in every Respect well equipt. have by great odds the fastest sailing Vessel in the fleet. except a Small Sloop calld the *Fly* and the Schooner from Maryland with wh[ic]h I have not had a fair tryal. Tis now twelve Oclock & we are now lying at Anchor in Old keel Road at C: Henlopen waiting for wind. tis quite calm and like a Summers day. Fare you well My Dear Brother May the Mercifull God who has upheld Me in all My Dangers and Difficulties Preserve you and Proteckt you from all Evils. May He who has Mercifully led me through the World keep My dear Brothers Cheek from ever being staind with a Blush for Me. I well know the Glorious Cause I am engaged in. And if ever I disgrace it May My Kind father who gave me being instantly Blast me in Mercy to me. I mean not to be deperate beyond measure. But to do my duty to the utmost of My Ability. If in spite of my best endeavoir I should be taken, If Fortune Should frown on me I hope I shall bear up against it with that Fortitude Patience and Resignation which I usually found Myself Posessd of, Which has hitherto been sufficient for my purpose And that they ever will be proportionable to my wants Whilst I am Conscious of having disc[h]arged my duty I cannot doubt. I am thank Heaven in Good health and Spirits. And Never in my Life was better pleased with a trip I was going to take than I am with this.

I beg you to give my Sincere Love to My dear Sister Fanny to My Mother and all the Family and believe me to be Most Affectionately Yours

N: Biddle

Feb: the 16th I forgot to tell You that all the Officers and Men of the Fleet have Signd an agreement to Share all Prizes that may be taken in Case of seperation the same as if the Whole fleet were together and concernd in taking Such Prizes.[3] Tis a fine evening and at the turn of the tide I hope to sail

To James Biddle Esqre
in Walnut street Philadelphia

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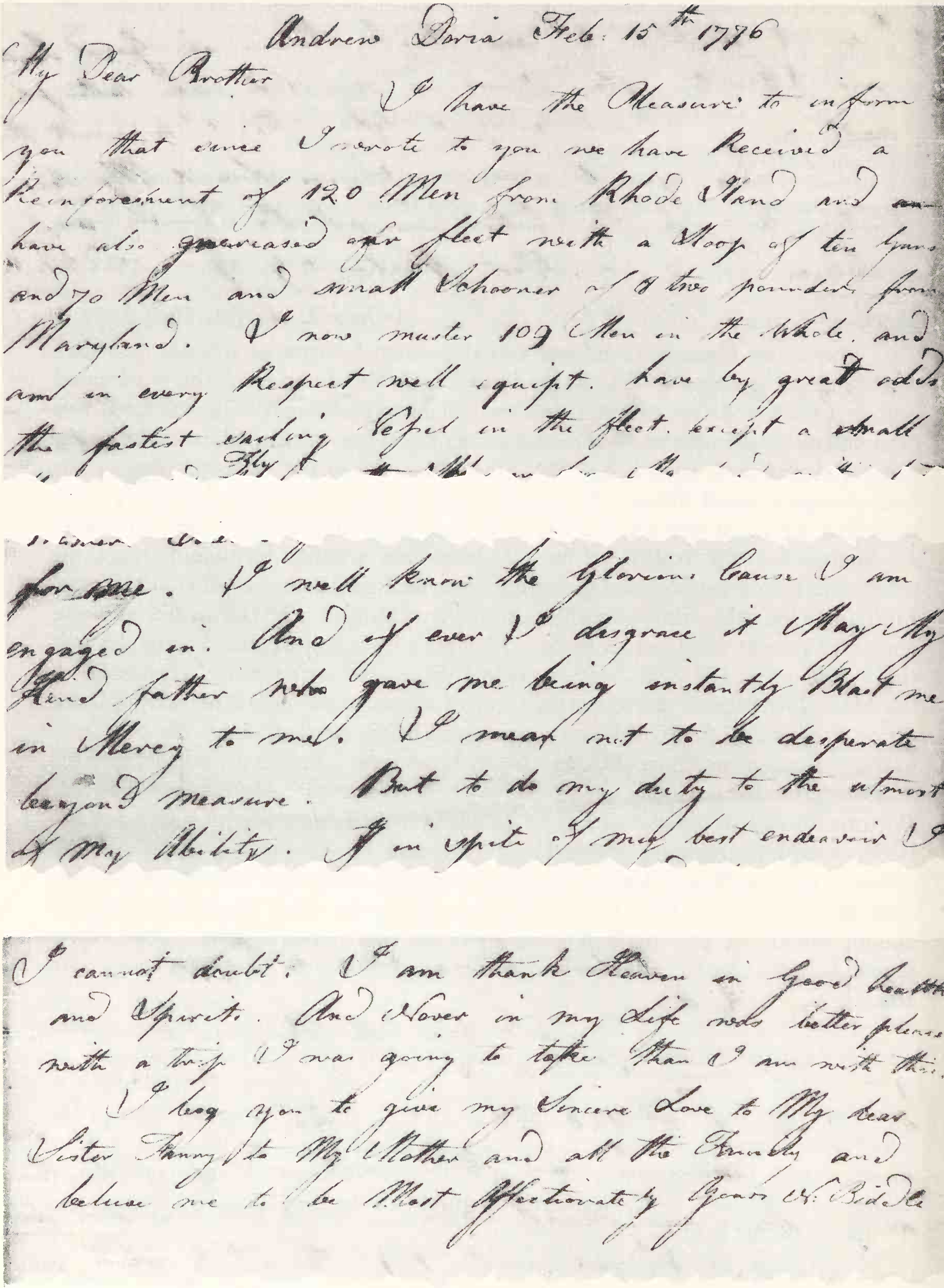
1. Nicholas Biddle Papers, HSP.
2. The sloop *Hornet* and schooner *Wasp.*
3. See Articles of Enlistment for the Continental navy, January 20, 1776.



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Extracts from a letter, Captain Nicholas Biddle to his brother James, February 15, 1776.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO COLONEL JOHN VEAZEY[1]

No 18.

Sir In Consequence of a Letter received this Day from Mr John Thompson dated 1st Feby the Council of Safety have determined to purchase the whole of the Gun Powder imported by Mr Nathaniel Rumsey in Partnership with a Gentleman of Philadelphia – or if that cannot be done, then so much as you can agree for, and request you would make the Contract for the Use of the Province – they have sent by Captn Craigg £500 Currency, to pay for the Ton already engaged. – but do not intend the whole Ton for the separate Use of your County;[2] they will take Care, you shall be plentifully supplied in Proportion to other Counties. – You will purchase upon the most reasonable Terms – the Price we expect will not exceed £25 Currency pCt unless the Committee of Philadelphia should give more. – The Balance of Cash shall be immediately paid to your Order, as soon as the Powder is landed, & put into our Custody or Power.

[Annapolis] Feby 15th 1776

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[1] Council of Safety Letter Book, No. 1, 1776, Md. Arch.

[2] Veazey commanded the militia of Cecil County.

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY[1]

[Annapolis] Thursday 15 Feb. 1776.

Mr Robert Purviance engages with the Council of Safety to return to them the 424 yards of Canvas delivered to Mr Lux, also the 165 yards delivered for the [Continental] Sloop *Hornet,* and the 143¼ yards delivered Mr Hugh Young.

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[1] Browne, ed., *Arch. of Md.,* XI, 161–62.

MINUTES OF THE NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA, COMMITTEE OF SAFETY[1]

15th Feby 1776 –

The Members present taking under Consideration the defenceless State of the Town and Neighbourhood of New Bern, and having received Intelligence from Cape Fear that a Vessel has been lately fitted out by the Ships of War on that Station, drawing but Eight and a half feet Water, and being under some Apprehensions that such armed Vessel may be destined to attack the Town, therefore thought it necessary & expedient for the Safety and Protection of both, that one hundred Men exclusive of Officers of the Militia of Craven County be stationed at New Bern,

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[1] Secretary of State Papers (Committees of Safety 1774–1776), NCDAH.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA PROVINCIAL CONGRESS[1]

[Charleston] Thursday, February 15, 1776.

Capt. [Thomas] Shubrick, from the Committee to examine a ship now on the stocks at Capt. [Robert] Cochran's, reported, That having examined the said ship according to order, they found her every way unfit to be equipped, as a ship of war, in the colony service.

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to consider and report the best means, and an estimate of the expence, of building, with the utmost dispatch, two frigates, for the service of this colony, each to mount thirty-two guns on one deck: and also to consider and report the expediency of stationing armed vessels to protect the navigation of Beaufort and George-Town harbours.

Ordered, That Capt. [Thomas] Shubrick, Capt. [Alexander] Gillon, Col. [George Gabriel] Powell, Mr. [John] Edwards, Doctor [Benjamin] Farrar, Major [James] Mayson, and Capt. [John] Joiner, be a Committee for the above purposes.

Read a petition of John Sigell, steward to Lord William Campbell, of this date.

Ordered, That the said petition be referred to the following Committee, viz. Mr. Jacob Motte, Capt. Benjamin Huger, Capt. Hammond, Mr. Elias Horry, and Mr. John Parker: And that the said Committee do also consider and report, what may be proper to be done with the effects of Lord William Campbell, and a trunk of books belonging to James Trail; both having withdrawn themselves from this colony on board the *Cherokee* ship of war – the latter, after having been enjoined, by the General Committee, not to go out of the limits of Charles-Town.

1. *Provincial Congress of South Carolina,* 38–40.

"Extract of a letter from Charles-Town, dated Feb. 15." [1]

Lord William Campbell is still on board a man of war in the Harbour. Our town is well fortified. The following is a list of Forts, Batteries, and ships of war at South Carolina: – Sullivan's Island, 26 guns, 18 and 32 pounders; Fort Johnson, 21 guns, 18 and 32 pounders; Hadd[r]al's Point, 6 guns, 18 pounders; Fort William Henry, 12 guns, 32 pounders; Wilkin's Fort, 23 guns, 9, 12, 18, and 32 pounders; Littleton's Fort, 11 guns, 18 pounders; Craven's Fort, 7 guns, 18 and 32 pounders; Granville's Fort, 5 guns, 12 pounders; Gadsden's Fort, 7 guns, 32 pounders; Gibbs's Wharf, 9 guns, 18 pounders. Ships, *Prosper,* 26 guns, 12 pounders; Brig *Comet,* 18 guns, 6 pounders; Schooner *Defence,* 12 guns, 6 pounders. Two Regiments of Provincials, one Regiment of Artillery, six Regiments of Militia, and one Regiment of Riflemen.

1. *Lloyd's Evening Post and British Chronicle,* April 17 to April 19, 1776.

Thomas Harrison to Vice Admiral Clark Gayton [1]

Sir

[Kingston] Feby 15th 1776

Mr Smith has delivered me your letter of the 14th instant, informing me of the sevl Actions brought agt you.

Doubt not but your conduct will on this & every other occasion be approved by the Crown; & it will give [me] the utmost pleasure, whenever honoured with your [?]lication & confidence, to become instrumental in justifying it to the Publick.

The maxim of the Law that mentions, "The King can do no wrong" does by necessary consequence exempt him from suits; these can only be brought against his servants. Till the Crown therefore, from a knowledge & approbation of the Proceedings of its Offices, makes their Causes its own; they remain personal & must be personally conducted. – You may command, Sir, my best services to the extent of my professional department, I mean as Counsel; but as I never act as Attorney, it will be necessary for you to employ one. The just distrust of my own Competency in matters of such arduous concern makes me solicit you also to associate a gentleman of the Bar with me. I am, Sir [&c.]

Tho: Harrison

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240. Harrison was Advocate General of Jamaica.

CAPTAIN ROBERT KEELER, R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG [1]

Sir *Experiment* English Harbor Febry 15th 1776

Hearing you Intend to Send the *Lynx* to England Early in the Spring, I beg you will permit me to Change with Capt [Alexander] Scot[t] into her, In Order to get my health Reinstated which has been bad Ever Since I left England, but worse Since I Came to this Country, your Compliance will Oblige Sir [&c.]

R Keeler

[Endorsed] No. 4: 15th Feby 1776. – Captain Robert Keeler of His Majesty's Ship *Experiment,* requesting leave to exchange into the *Lynx,* in Order to go to England for the recovery of his health.[2]

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240.
2. Captain Scott, Keeler's successor in H.M.S. *Experiment* fared none too well by this transfer. He lost a hand in the engagement off Charleston a few months later.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO CAPTAIN SAMUEL GRAVES, H.M. Sloop *Viper* [1]

(A Copy)

Notwithstanding my Order of the 9th Instant.

You are hereby required and directed to receive the Sundry dispatches sent you herewith, (brought express by His Majesty's Sloop *Hawke*) and immediately proceed with them to Boston, in His Majesty's Sloop *Viper* under your Command, and on your arrival, are to deliver the same to Rear Admiral Shuldham, or the Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships at that Port; – You are now to take under your Convoy to that Place the *Layton* Victualer only; but should you find she retards the *Viper*'s passage, and you should happen to fall in with any other of His Majesty's Ships on the Coast of America; You are to make known to the Captain of such Ship this Order; and my directions that He is to take the *Layton* Victualing Transport, under his Care and protection, and to Convoy her forthwith to Boston; and you are to make the utmost haste you can with the aforesaid dispatches to the Commander in Chief: for which this shall be your Order.

Given under my Hand at English
Harbour Antigua; the 15th February
1776. –

Jam^s Young

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM [1]

English Harbour Antigua, 15th February 1776.

Dear Sir Since my dispatch to you and General [William] Howe of the 10th Instant, the *Hawke* Sloop Captain Cooper; arrived here in distress; (having lost all her Masts and Guns in bad Weather) and delivered me the accompanying Government dispatches, and the Secret Orders inclosed herein; as it is altogether impossible the *Hawke* Sloop can carry them into execution, and all the Ships under my Command, are at Sea on different Cruizing Stations. I am obliged to transmit them to you by the *Viper* Sloop which has been delayed by the Victualers loosing their Men at the time they were to Sail; I have therefore now Ordered Captain [Samuel] Graves to take only the *Layton* Victualer along with him; and make the utmost dispatch in his power to join you at Boston; hoping thereby both Services which appear to me to be of the utmost importance, may in some measure be executed; at least it is the only means I can adopt that carrys any appearance of performing their Lordships Instructions: I most ardently wish it may effectually do so; and I am with great regard Dear Sir [&c.]

Jams Young.

[1] PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

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16 Feb.

JOURNAL OF H. M. SLOOP *Pomona,* CAPTAIN WILLIAM YOUNG [1]

February 1776	Pearl Rock SE½E off shore 4 or 5 Miles
Thursday 15	at half past 9 A M Fired a Gun Shotted to bring too a Schooner, found her to be from New York – at 9 Do [*sic*] made Sail First part fresh breezes and fair, latter little Wind and Rain at half past 3 P M fired a swivel Shotted to bring too a Schooner from Nova Scotia, sent an Officer and 5 Men on board her and at 9 Do sent her into Rosseau Bay and made Sail [2]
Friday 16	Fresh Breezes and fair at 1 P M Saw a Schooner to So ward at 4 Do Fired a Swivell and brought her too found her to be the Schooner from New York we spoke on Thursday sent the Gunner and 5 Men on board her and took her Crew on board us.[3] St Pierres East 4 or 5 Miles –

[1] PRO, Admiralty 51/702.

[2] *Ibid.*, the Nova Scotia schooner was released by Young when he entered Rosseau Bay on February 18.

[3] Schooner *Bumper,* Hillary Moseley, master, *Pennsylvania Gazette,* July 24, 1776.

WILLIAM TYNG TO ——— ——— [1]

[Stroudwater Falls, Maine] Feby 16. 1776

On the 18th Octor last a Fleet under the command of Capt [Henry] Mowatt burnt the Town of Falmouth as you've undoubtedly heard by Mr F ——. Your House Barn Out Houses, Fences & Office are all in Ashes We had so few Hours notice of our Destruction, that we had no Time nor Team to Save either your Furniture or mine – I was obliged to flee for my Life – I knew not where but a Quaker offered me a lodging in his House, which had not a finish[e]d room in it – However I was obliged by the Offer – and my Wife & I were forced to foot it with large Bundles on our Arms about 6 or 8 Miles & abused as we passed the Road What little time I had was employed in throwing my Furniture into the Garden, from whence a good deal was stole and the most of the remainder broken or torn in pieces – The Church is also burnt but not the Meeting House – All below Doctr [Edward] Watts' except a few Houses in Back Street and Bradburys & Mrs [Elizabeth] Ross's two Houses are clean gone – The upper End of the Town supposed to be about one third of the whole, is standing among which is the House I lived in by reason of that fortunate Event, I saved some of my Furniture – but am still in the Woods, where if I cant get off either to London, Boston or Hallifax, I intend to remain till Peace be restored to this infatuated, this distracted Country – Capt Mowatt was so kind as to offer us (those I mean who had formerly fled to him for Protection), a Passage to Boston, but it was impracticable for us to get on board – tho we wished to, for had we been discoverd in the Attempt, we shou'd have been shot from the Shore by the Rebels – nor could we have carried the least Article with us supposing we cou'd have got off ourselves, that alone however wou'd not have stayed us – I am now at Stroudwater Falls at Mr Geo. Knights – Son to the Lieutt – With me (besides Knights and Family) are Mr [Joseph] Dommetts & Doctr Coffins' Familys to the number of 23 Souls in a single-Story Farm House – We are obliged to have three Beds in the same small Room where we eat and drink – but still not at Peace – for we are constantly alarmed – & Days fixed upon for a Mobing – Judge how miserable we must me, but indeed it is almost beyond Description or Conception—Mr Domett was not able to save any of his Furniture except his Clothes and a Bed or Two – I am told that whilst your House was on Fire a Band of Thieves got into it & have taken a good deal of your Furniture

This I mention, that as you are on the spot you may form some Estimate of the Value of your Houses & Furniture for I have no doubt, but Administration mean to make good to the Friends of Government all Losses sustained in consequence of the present Rebellion – indeed it will be but Justice – You may depend that Mr D and I did every thing in our Power to preserve your Interest, but all we were able to do, was to save your Papers that were in a white Trunk –

I have had no Opp[o] since Septr to send a Letter in – it is eight Months since I had a Letter from my Father – I think as a faithful Subject & one who has been imprison'd & otherwise sufferd & still Suffering by the Rebells on Account of his Loyalty & has lost some hundred by the destruction of the Town, has some Claim on Govt for a Provision –

I will make you acquainted with the Story of my Imprisonment – After Capt Mowat had gone off, I mov'd into Town again, hoping to spend the Winter quietly there, but the *Cerberus,* Capt Simons [John Symonds] came in Novr & demanded Sheep & other Cattle of the Town's People, which they positively refused, & sent a Committee on board to tell him so – Capt Simmons thought proper to keep the Committee Prisoners till the Town complied. Upon this

Mr D & I were immediately seized upon and a guard set over us – and we were ordered to write to Capt Simmons to acquaint him of our Imprisonment, and that we were to be held as Hostages till those he had on board were set free – Capt Simmons was so good for our sakes to set them at liberty which procured our enlargement, otherwise we shou'd have been close Prisoners at this Day –

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1. Col. Wm. Tyng's Memo Book, MeHS.

MINUTES OF A COUNCIL OF WAR HELD AT CAMBRIDGE [1]

At a Council of General Officers held at Head Quarters in Cambridge 16th Feby 1776

Present. His Excellency Genl Washington

Major Generals – [Artemas] Ward – Puttnam [Israel Putnam] –
Brigadier Generals –
[John] Thomas
[William] Heath [John] Sullivan
[Joseph] Spencer [Horatio] Gates

His Excellency the Commander in Chief informed the Council that in Consequence of the Resolution of two Councils of War held at this Place on the 16th & 18th ult. he had applied to this Government, Connecticut, & New Hampshire for the Regiments then voted –

That those Regiments were come, and coming in, and if complete would amount (Officers included) to 7280 Men – that the Regiments of the United Colonies at those Incampments by Saturday's Return amounted to 8797 Men fit for Duty besides Officers, and 1405 Men on Command which might be ordered to join their respective Regiments immediately – that our Stock of Powder was so small as to afford but little Aid from Cannon & Mortars – and therefore that small Arms must be our principal Reliance in any Event till a Supply could be obtained – that in the State Boston Harbour had been all this year and now is, a Bombardment might probably destroy the Town without doing much Damage to the Ministerial Troops within it, as there were Transports wooded & watered with a View more than probable to take them in upon any sudden Emergency – Consequently that might not produce the desired Effect, if those Transports were sufficient for the Embarkation of the Army – that from the best Intellignce which had been procured the Strength of the Army in Boston did not much exceed 5,000 Men then fit for Duty – that considerable Reinforcements were expected, and when arrived they would undoubtedly endeavour to penetrate into the Country, if their Strength should be sufficient, or remove to some other Part of the Continent, if not, and thereby greatly harrass and fatigue our People by constant marching and countermarching, for which in the present Situation of Affairs, they neither would or could be provided – therefore that a Stroke well aimed at this critical Juncture might put a final End to the War, & restore Peace & Tranquility so much to be wished for – for these Reasons, and under these Circumstances, & as Part of Cambridge & Roxbury Bays were so frozen as to admit an easier Entry into the Town of Boston than could be obtained either by Water, or through the Lines on the Neck, the General desired to know the

Sentiments of the General Officers respecting a general assault upon the Town –

The Question being put & their Opinion demanded –

Resolved that an assault on the Town of Boston in the present Circumstances of the Continental Army, is for the following Reasons judged improper.

Because it is the Opinion of this Council that the King's Forces in Boston comprehending new raised Corps and armed Tories amount to a much larger Number than 9000 furnished with Artillery, assisted by a Fleet, and possessed of every Advantage the Situation of the Place affords – the Officers in Proportion to the Number of Men are so many, that the Troops there may be said with Propriety to be doubly officered.

Because our Army at present is very defective in the Numbers this Council declared to be sufficient for the Purposes of offensive War, and also deficient in Arms to the Amount of 2000 Stand – The Militia ordered and expected here by the first of the Month, are not more than Half arrived, so that to assault the Town of Boston guard the Works & Stores there remain only 12,600 Men, Militia, commissioned & non-commissioned Officers included, a Force not more than sufficient to defend the Lines and maintain the Blockade

Because it appears to the Council by the Report of a Majority of the Generals commanding Brigades that upon discoursing with the Field Officers of their respective Regiments, upon the Subject of an Assault, they in general declared a Disapprobation of the Measure as exceedingly doubtful –

Because if an Assault shou'd be found practicable & expedient at any Time, it was declared highly necessary that it should for some Days be preceeded by a Cannonade and Bombardment.

His Excellency the Commander in Chief then required the opinion of the Council whether it would be adviseable to begin a Cannonade & Bombardment with the present Stock of Powder.

Resolved that a Cannonade & Bombardment will be expedient & adviseable as soon as there shall be a proper Supply of Powder, and not before, and that in the mean Time, Preparations should be made to take Possession of Dorchester Hill with a View of drawing out the Enemy, and of Noddle's Island, if the Situation of the Water & other Circumstances will admit of it.

Copy.

1. John Hancock Papers, III, 160–63, LC; enclosed in Washington to Hancock, February 18–21, 1776.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES [1]

[Watertown] Friday, February 16, 1776.

It was *Moved,* That the Committee appointed by the Court to build Ten armed Sloops, be directed to suspend the setting up more than Half that Number, if in their Judgment they think there is no prospect of procuring Rigging, Iron or other Materials.

And the question being put, it passed in the affirmative.

And Mr. Batcheldor was directed to bring in a Resolve accordingly.

Afternoon.

The Committee appointed to bring in a Resolve to suspend the building one Half of the Ten armed Sloops voted by this Court to be built, reported.

Read, and accepted.

Resolved, That the Committee lately appointed to build, rig, and fix ten armed Sloops be, and there hereby are empowered to suspend contracting for more than five of that Number, until upon making full Enquiry they shall have a probable Prospect of obtaining necessary Materials for rigging and equipping the same, and instead thereof said Committee are hereby also authorised to purchase, rig, and fix five suitable Vessels already built for the Purpose of Defence, of any other Denomination and Dimensions than those specified in a former Resolve, according to their best Discretion. And said Committee are further impowered to import at the Risque and Expence of this Colony, any Materials they shall find necessary for rigging, and fixing any of the aforesaid Vessels, as they shall judge best, not infringing upon any Resolve of the Continental Congress.

1. Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL [1]

[Watertown] In Council Feby 16th 1776

Read & ordered that W Spooner & T Cushing Esqs with such as the Hon House shall join be a Comee to take the foregoing Letter into Consideration, & report – sent down for Concurrence

Perez Morton D Secy

[Endorsed] In the House of Representatives Febry 16. 1776

Read and concurr'd and Collo [Azor] Orne, Brigadier [Samuel] Thompson, and Mr Brown of Boston, are join'd

Sent up for C

William Cooper Speaker Pro Tem

The Committee to whom was referred the Consideration of the foregoing Letter have Attended that Service & beg leave to report that Capt Robert Cockran be allowed to Enlist a number of Sea Men for the purpose mentioned in the Letter & that the Council of this Colony give him a permit for that purpose

all which is Submitted

W Spooner by Order

In Council Feby 16th 1776 Read & Accepted & thereupon Resolved that Capt Robert Cockran be permitted by the Major part of the Council to Enlist a number of Sea Men for the Defence of South Carolina not exceeding three Hundred men out of the Inhabitants of this Government, excepting such as are employed in the Continental Army, in the Armed Vessells fitted out either by this Colony or by any of the Inhabitants thereof or in the Forces raised by this Government for the defence of the sea Coasts. [A]

Sent down for Concurrence

Perez Morton D Secry

[Endorsed] In the House of Representatives Febry 16 1776

Read and concurred with the amendment at A. viz at A add "of whom none are to be enlisted"

Sent up for Concurrence
William Cooper Speakr Pro Tem

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[1] Mass. Arch., vol. 196, 97, 98.

MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL TO THE MACHIAS COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

[Watertown, February 16, 1776]

Gentlemen Yours of the 29 of Janry last by Capt Willard to the President of the Council, is now before us – The subject matter thereof hath been duly considered – Altho' we could wish that the plans in possession of Lieutenant [John] Knight had been detained, yet We are far from censuring the inhabitants of Machias for not doing it – We are informed they are now in his hands – Some steps will be taken to secure them – We Approve the measures you have taken with regard to Lieutenant Spry's goods – You will safely retain the whole in your possession untill the further order of this Court.

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[1] Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 261.

MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL TO THE NORTHAMPTON COMMITTEE OF CORRESPONDENCE [1]

[Watertown, February 16, 1776]

Gentlemen We are informed that Lieutenant Knight, confined to the Town of North-Hampton, hath in his possession some valuable and important plans, which, if they should fall into the hands of our enemies, would not only deprive us of an actual survey of our own Sea-Coast; but enable them with more facility to annoy and distress us – You will therefore take all such plans minutes & Sketches which he may have relative thereto into your possession, and safely keep them untill the further order of this Court. And Advise the Council & Court of your doings –

[Endorsed] In Council Feby 16th 1776 Read & accepted & ordered that the first Letter herein mentioned [to the Machias Committee of Safety] be signed by the Secy by order of the General Court, & be sent to the Comee of Safety at Machias – and that the last recited Letter be signed by the Secry by order aforesaid – & be sent to the Comee of Correspondence of Northampton – sent down for Concurrence

Perez Morton D Secry

[Second endorsement] In the House of Representatives Febry 17th 1776 Read and concurred – William Cooper Speakr Pro Tem

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[1] Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 261–62.

MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HOWE TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM [1]

Sir, Boston, 16th February 1776.

I am favored with Copies of Captain [Hugh] Bromedge's Letter, and an account of the Cargoes on board the Ships *Nicholas,* and *Boston Packet,* the Properties of Thomas Boilston and William Denny of this Town.

Admitting it should appear that the Laws of Trade have not been infringed, yet the probability of these Stores being smuggled away to the Enemy if not prevented, makes me think it highly proper that they should be detained: I am more particularly led to this, William Denny having been guilty of notorious Treason, and Thomas Boilston's Principles of Loyalty much to be doubted.

Your superior Judgment in affairs of this Nature, coming more particularly under your own Department, does not require this Intrusion of my private Opinion, which I flatter myself you will excuse, as proceeding from that Regard and Esteem wherewith I have the Honor to be [&c.]

W: Howe

[1] PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

RICHARD LECHMERE AND ALEXANDER BRYMER TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM [1]

Sir, Boston 16th February 1776.

Having already had the Honor of Acquainting you of our appointment, by Samuel Graves Esqr Vice Admiral of the White, to be Agents or Factors for selling such Vessels and Cargoes as have been brought into this Harbour by His Majesty's Ships of War, and are either deemed Rebel Property, or wanted for the use of the Garrison, and having laid our whole Proceedings before you, which we flatter ourselves have met your approbation; we now beg leave to furnish and inclose you the State and Condition of the Vessels and Cargoes in our charge, and to request that you would be pleased to have Reference to Admiral Graves's Order to us on that head, which empowers us not only to take charge of the Vessels mentioned in it, but likewise of such others as we may find in the Harbour, not owned by People residing in this Town, Agreeable to which we have Added, all that have come to our knowledge in the List now presented.

And as he empowers and Orders us discretionally to sell Vessels or Cargoes that are liable either to perish or to be embezzled, and as we humbly conceive the Inclemency of the Weather has opened the Seams of the sides and Decks, that most or all the Cargoes, are Subject to perish, and as most of the Vessels have been Stript of their Sails, Cables, Anchors, and small Stores, and in general have not Sufficient Ground Tackle to Moor them, this Added to our Inability to procure a Sufficient Number of Men to take care of them, makes it difficult to Secure them; we therefore think it incumbent upon us to acquaint you therewith, and to pray your directions for our future Conduct respecting them, And to offer it to your Opinion, whether it would not be better, under their present Circumstances, that the Cargoes that are in danger of suffering be sold, for the benefit of Government or whoever may be proved to be the Proprietors. We have the Honor to be Sir [&c.]

Signed {R^{d} Lechmere
Alex^{r} Brymer

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

MINUTES OF THE CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

[Lebanon] Friday, 16 February.

At a Meeting of the Governor and Council of Safety

On motion that Cap. [Jonathan] Lester, builder of a row-galley at Norwich, has bo't of Constable Hough a quantity of provision to support his workmen, and Hough owing the money to the Treasurer &c., and that an order may be given to pay it that way &c. (Order given, to Col. [Jabez] H[untington].)

Voted, That an order be given on [the] Pay-Table for £100 for said Lester, so as to be allowed and discounted with said Hough by the Treasurer and accounted for by said Lester on account of building said galley for the Colony.

1. Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut Records,* XV, 240, 241.

Connecticut Gazette, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1776

New-London, February 16.

By a Vessel from the West Indies, we learn, that the Effects of Non-exportation from this Continent, begins to be severely felt in the Islands, where the most ordinary Beef sells from 7 to 8 l. per Barrell, ordinary Flour at 6 l. per Barrel, Currency, and but little to be had at any Price. The Islanders (not believing there would be a Scarcity) have, till lately, kept the Produce of the Colonies very low; but finding a Scarcity likely to take Place, the Price suddenly rose. – They are under terrible Apprehensions from the Negroes, whom they are obliged to pinch in their Allowance.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS [1]

[New York] Die Veneris, 10 HO A.M.
Feb. 16th, 1776.

A letter from Gen. Lee, bearing date this day, on the subject of shutting up the port, was read and filed, and is in the words following, to wit:

> New-York, February 16th, 1776.
>
> Sir – I have received intelligence that Mr. [William] Tryon has been guilty of most grossly abusing the indulgence shown to him; that he has inveigled some of the gunsmiths on board his ship; and that he is endeavouring to seduce as many as he can, with a view undoubtedly of distressing us in the article of arms. I could wish, as it has been thought proper to furnish this gentleman with provisions and other necessaries of life, that he should be obliged to give some security that he will not intrigue, cabal, machinate mischief of any kind, to the Continent or Province. This business of the gunsmiths is the reason

that I have, *pro tempore,* interdicted all communication with the Governor's ship, a measure which I hope will be approved by the Congress.

I am [&c.]

Charles Lee.

Ordered, That Abm Lott, Esqr. Treasurer of this Colony, send to this Congress a particular account of the provisions he had supplied to the ship *Asia,* and other of His Majesty's ships in this port since the order for that purpose first made by the late Provincial Congress of this Colony.

[1] *New York Provincial Congress,* I, 302, 304.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS [1]

[Philadelphia] Friday, February 16, 1776

The Committee appointed to make an estimate of the cannon wanted for the defence of the colonies, and to devise ways and means for procuring them, &c. brought in their report, which was read, and ordered to lie on the table.

Agreeable to the order of the day, the Congress resolved itself into a committee of the whole, to take into consideration the propriety of opening the ports, and the restrictions and regulations of the trade of the colonies after the first of March; and, after some time spent thereon, the president resumed the chair, and Mr. [Samuel] Ward reported, that the committee had taken into consideration the matter to them referred, but not having come to any conclusion, desired him to move for leave to sit again.

Resolved, That this Congress will, to Morrow Morning, resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to take into their farther consideration the propriety of opening the ports, and the restrictions and regulations of trade after the first of March next.

[1] Ford, ed., *JCC,* IV, 154–55.

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH [1]

[Philadelphia] Friday 16 Feb. After various Subjects were discussed & decided upon 4 or 5 Hours were spent in Grand Comee on Trade, [Benjamin] Harrison offered some Propositions in Lieu of the Report heretofore delivered in from a Comee on the necessary Regulations, Wyth [George Wythe] also offered Propositions whereof the first was that the Colonies have a Right to contract Alliances with Foreign Powers, an Objection being offered that this was Independency there ensued much Argument upon that Ground, a leading Question was given Whether this Proposn shall be considered by the Comee it was carried in the Affirmative 7 Colonies to 5 – then it was debated and postponed, afterwards the Regulations of the Trade were handled & finally whether it shall be opened or not and when, upon this Head [Samuel] Chase spoke largely against carrying on Trade at present and [Benjamin] Harrison and E[dward] Rutledge vehemently for it – there was no Determination

[1] Richard Smith's Diary, LC.

ROBERT ALEXANDER TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

Gent I send you inclosed copies of the instructions & private Signals of the several men of War & transports on the American Station – [2] as these may be of essential service to the different armed vessels now fitting out in America, copies by order of Congress have been transmitted to the different Colonies, and I am ordered by Congress to acquaint you, that as they have bound themselves to secrecy, so it is expected that you will consider yourselves under the like tie, and the Copy you deliver to the Capt of your armed vessel, be under seal inclosed, to be opened after his sailing – The public papers will communicate all the intelligence We have, except the arrival of 20 Tons of powder and 3000 stand of small arms in Connecticut – We shall send forward some powder & arms to your province but I am sorry to say if we rely on foreign arms & they are not better than the sample we have, our dependance will be like a broken reed, as I think if used, they will kill more of our troops than the enemy, what those imported for our province cost I know not a parcel imported here on a private adventure, have been purchased by Congress at £3.25, every thing of this kind is exceeding high powder £17.10 PC much of this business passes through a Committee of which I am a member, patriotism sinks before private interest and I find many men here who rank themselves in that Class, generally exactg the most from the necessity of their country hence the publick is plundered – We have sent off 10–6 pounders for the ship – & shall purchse 2 more.[3] Congress have appointed a deligation to Canada, the persons are Doctr [Benjamin] Franklin, S[amuel] Chase & Mr [Charles] Carroll of Carrollton – I wish you would erect a powder mill in your province, I could procure you salt petre. Y[ou]r Lets of the 1, 8, 9 & 10 Inst are come to hand & the contents shall be observed – I am with Respect Gent [&c.]

R. Alexander.

Phila 16 Feby 1776

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1. Correspondence of Council of Safety, Md. Arch. Alexander was a Maryland delegate in the Continental Congress.
2. An intercepted circular letter from the British Treasury, enclosing private signals established by the Admiralty. The letter is dated October 19, 1775, and the signals, September 22, 1775. See Volume 2, 727, 765.
3. Cannon for the ship *Defence,* outfitting at Baltimore.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a, 16th Feb'y, 1776.

Resolved, That Hugh Montgomery, at present first Lieut. to the Armed Boat *Congress,* be appointed Captain to the Armed Boat *Effingham.*

That Thomas Houston, at present first Lieutenant to the armed Boat *Franklin,* be appointed Captain to the armed Boat *Experiment.*

That Isaac Rotche, at present second Lieut. to the armed Boat *Hancock,* be appointed first Lieut. to the armed Boat *Franklin.*

That John Christie, at present second Lieut. to the armed Boat *Dickinson,* be appointed first Lieut. to the Armed Boat *Chatham.*

That Michell [John Mitchell], at present second Lieut. to the armed Boat *Chatham,* be appointed first Lieutenant to the armed Boat *Ranger.*

That Francis Gilbert, at present Second Lieut. to the armed Boat *Washington,* be appointed first Lieutenant to the said armed Boat.

That Robert Hume, at present second Lieut. to the armed Boat *Ranger,* be appointed first Lieutenant to the said armed Boat.

That William Brown, be appointed Captain of Marines on Board the Provincial Ship now building.

Resolved, That the Captains of the Provincial armed Boats be desired to meet together, and inquire into the Merits of such Persons who have applied to be appointed 2nd Lieutenants in the said Boats, and such others as may be properly qualified for that station, that would be willing to engage in that service; and to Report to this Board the Names of thirteen of them, who may be most deserving in the Opinion of a Majority of the said Captains.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records,* X, 487–89.

Intelligence Regarding the Naval Force at Philadelphia [1]

Philadelphia, February 16.

The following is a list of the privateers fitted out here by order of the Congress last January, with the commanders names and their force. They sailed about the middle of February last on an expedition which is kept a profound secret, viz.

[Esek] Hopkins Commander in Chief.

The *Alfred,* Tatterson,[2] of	32 guns, –	300 men.
The *Columbus,* [Abraham] Whipple,	32 ditto, –	300 ditto.
The *Andrew Doria,* [Nicholas] Biddle,	16 ditto, –	200 ditto.
The *Sebastian Cabot,* [John B.] Hopkins,	14 ditto, –	200 ditto.
The *Providence,* [John] Hazard,	12 ditto, –	150 ditto.

A list of the row-gallies in the river Delaware, with the Commanders Names, &c.

The *Washington* (104 feet in keel)	Doughty[3] Commander In chief
The *Dickenson*	[John] Rice
The *Chatham*	[Charles] Alexander
The *Camden*	[Richard] Ears [Eyres]
The *Burke*	[James] Blear [Blair]
The *Effingham*	[Allen] Moar [Moore]
The *Bulldog*	[Alexander] Henderson
The *Franklin*	[Nathan] Boyce
The *Congress*	[John] Hambilton [Hamilton]
The *Experiment*	[Benjamin] Thompson
The *Ranger*	[James] M'Gomary [Montgomery]
The *Hancock and Adams*[4]	[Thomas] Moore
The *Warren* (no master when Capt.	[William] Meston sailed.)[5]

The Congress have ordered 13 frigates to be built with all expedition, of 36 guns each, at Maryland, Philadelphia, and Rhode-Island, four of which were on the stocks at Philadelphia when Captain Meston sailed. Likewise one floating battery of 105 feet in keel, which is to mount 18 eighteen-pounders, row fifty oars, and carry 300 men. Also 30 fire rafts. — They have sunk 50 cheveaux-du-frize in the river to prevent the English ships from going up; and built a strong fort at the mouth of it.

1. Almon, ed., *Remembrancer* [1776], II, Part I, 364.
2. Dudley Saltonstall.
3. Henry Dougherty was senior captain, but not commander in chief.
4. The galley was named the *Hancock*. The *Hancock and Adams* was a merchant ship.
5. The snow *Dickinson,* William Meston, master, sailed from Philadelphia in January 1776, for Nantes, with a cargo of flour, staves, beeswax and spermaceti candles, proceeds of which were to be laid out in gunpowder and arms to the account of the Continental Congress. Learning of the purpose, the mate and crew seized the snow and carried her into Bristol, England, on April 8, 1776.

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY[1]

[Annapolis] Friday 16 Feb. 1776

Instructions and sailing Orders were given to Capt. Francis Speake of the Ship *John.*

1. Council of Safety Journal, 29 August 1775 to 20 March 1777, Md. Arch.

PURDIE'S *Virginia Gazette,* FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1776

Williamsburg, Feb. 16.

We have undoubted intelligence, that the man of war lately arrived in Hampton road is the *Roebuck,* of 44 guns, capt. Hammond, lately from England, but last from Halifax, in Nova Scotia. She landed at that place Marriott Arburthnot, esq; formerly commander of the *Garland* ship of war, on this station, who is appointed commissary of the king's stores, and commodore, at Halifax. She brings intelligence of things being in a train of accommodation at home, every one seeming heartily disposed to forward so benevolent and desirable a purpose, by placing us as we were at the end of the last war. It is to be hoped, likewise, should the ministry be really in earnest to *sheath the sword,* that they will, without hesitation, (having been the *aggressors*) *pay costs,* or grant an *equivalent.*

CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, R.N., TO CAPTAIN MATTHEW SQUIRE, H.M. SLOOP *Otter*[1]

By Andrew Snape Hamond Esqr Captain of his Majesty's Ship the *Roebuck* and commanding officer in Virginia.

In consequence of the application you have made to me by letter of this days date, setting forth that Tobias Verdin Boatswain of his Majs Sloop under your command, who you had some time since suspended for neglect of duty, has lately shewn great courage and alacrity on several occasions in subduing the Rebels, and had received a dangerous wound on that Service; Likewise enclosing a letter from him, expressing his Sense of his Error, & promise of future good behavio[u]r, You are hereby required and directed to restore the Said Boatswain to his duty.

Given under my hand on board his Majs Ship the *Roebuck*
off Norfolk Virginia the 16th Febry 1776

A S Hamond

1. Hamond, Orders issued, UVL.

Journal of H.M.S. *Roebuck,* Captain Andrew Snape Hamond[1]

February 1776 Moored in Elizabeth River Virginia.

Friday 16th Fine pleasant weather, at 6 in the morning weighed and made Sail up Elizabeth River, the *Kingsfisher* in Company, at ½ past 11 She Anchored by Signal, and at Noon Anchored with the Best Bower in 4 fathoms, about one Mile Below Norfolk, found her[e] the *Liverpool* and *Otter* Several Transport Vessels, and a great many others, with the inhabitants of Norfolk before it was burnt, under the protection of the Ships, and his Excellency the Earl of Dunmore, the Governor: Gave the Purser an order to Supply the *Kingsfisher* with Provisions.

Ditto weather

In the afternoon moored Ship, at 4 Ordered alongside a Sloop which I named the *Lord Howe,* and began to fit her out for a Tender.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/796.

Journal of H.M.S. *Mercury,* Captain Alexander Graeme[1]

1776 February Moored in Hampton Road Virginia

Friday 16 fired a Gun & made the Signal for the Convoy to Tack At Noon saw the Land Bearing from W½N to N W diste 5 or 6 leags

at 4 Came on board and took Charge a Pilot ½ past 6 fired 2 Guns as Signal for Anchoring at 7 Brot too with the B B in 6½ fm veered to ½ a Cable Convoy in Co fired a Gun and made the Signal to weigh & come to Sail fired 2 Guns to Anchor ½ past 10 Anchd with the B B in 11 fms veered away and moored a Cable each way at ½ past 10 fired a Gun to bring too a Brig sent her to Norfolk

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/600.

Journal of the South Carolina Provincial Congress[1]

[Charleston] Friday Evening, February 16, 1776.

Mr. President laid before the Congress, the following copy of the letter which he had written and sent express, by their order, to the colony of Georgia.

South-Carolina,
Charles-Town, February 15, 1776.
By Authority of Congress.

To the Honourable the Congress of Georgia.

Gentlemen,

I Have the honour to inclose to you the copy of a resolution of Congress, extending the resolution of the Continental Congress on the first of November last, prohibiting exportation from the United Colonies; and I have it in charge to recommend to you, in the strongest terms, that your colony should form a similar resolution.

It is thought so absolutely necessary for the welfare of America, that Georgia, form a similar resolution; and we have this point so much at heart, that the Congress have delegated the Hon. Rawlins Lowndes, Col. Parsons, and Thomas Savage, Esq; to repair forthwith to Savannah, to make all possible representation to induce your co-operating with us in so salutary a step.

These gentlemen mean to set out to-morrow or next day, and their speedy departure renders it unnecessary for me to add any thing more, to give weight to the recommendation in question.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,
Your most humble Servant,
William-Henry Drayton, President.

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1. *Provincial Congress of South Carolina,* 40–42.

HENRY LAURENS TO THE GEORGIA PROVINCIAL CONGRESS [1]

Gentlemen Charles Town 16th ffebry 1776.

We beg leave to refer you to what we have already written by this bearer – Your favour of the 12th reached us last night & we heartily thank you for the advices contained in it – time will not permit us to be very particular in our reply & it is the less needful as three members from this Board will wait on you by order of our provincial Congress within forty eight hours after you receive this. – from these Gentlemen you will receive repeated assurances of our Resolution to persevere in measures for our mutual defence & protection, we must & do expect a good deal of rough work from the Men of War very Soon & we also must & do resolve to make them Suitable returns & although we may Suffer many losses & be driven to great inconveniences yet we have no doubt of getting through & rising with advantage.

We blush for Governor [James] Wright's perfidy, & could wish that the Member of your Honourable House may be brought to think that it will be now no more than fair reprisal to enlarge a Secret for the benefit, perhaps the Salvation, of both our Colonies & the preservation of many Lives —

By order of the Council of Safety

Arch. Bullock Esqr. for the Honble. provincial Congress Savannah

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1. *South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine,* IV, 92–93.

HENRY LAURENS TO JOSEPH BROWN, GEORGETOWN, SOUTH CAROLINA [1]

[Charleston] 16th febry 1776

. . . by advice just received from Savanna we learn that an immediate attack upon this town is intended by the

Syren	28. Guns	190 Men
Scarboro	20. –	145 –
Tamar	18. –	100 –
Raven	18. –	100 –
Cherokee	10. –	50 –

three Armed Vessels – & an uncertain number of Troops just arrived in a Transport –

I pray God to protect us all . . .

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[1] Henry Laurens Letter Book, No. 10, SCHS.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

In the Council of Safety,
[Charleston], Friday, 16th Feb., 1776.

The following orders were drawn on the colony treasury – to pay:

To Capt. Joseph Turpin, to be changed to account of the Brigantine *Comet,*	£250 00 00

Capt [Edward] Blake and Capt. [Thomas] Tucker attended, and were conferred with upon the practicability of obstructing the passage into Hog-Island Creek.

Ordered, That they proceed to sounding the said passage tomorrow.

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[1] *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society,* III, 261.

South-Carolina and American General Gazette, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9 TO FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1776

Charlestown, February 16.

We hear from Georgia, that the *Scarborough* Man of War, of 20 Guns, lately arrived in Savannah River, with a Prize Schooner, having 4000 lb. of Gunpowder on board.[1] Probably the *Scarborough* was the Ship that was seen off Georgetown Bar, about a Fortnight since, and which took the Pilotboat mentioned in our last.[2]

The following is the best Account we have been able to obtain of the Georgia Squadron: *Syren,* Capt. [Tobias] Furneaux, 28 Guns; *Scarborough,* Capt. [Andrew] Barclay, 20; *Tamar,* Capt. [Edward] Thornbrough, 18; *Raven,* Capt. [John] Stanhope, 18; *Cherokee,* Capt. [John] Fergus[s]on 10; with some armed Schooners and Tenders.

We are informed that Sir James Wright, and his two Daughters, lately went privately on board one of the above Men of War.

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[1] The sloop *St. John,* Gilbert Harrison, master, taken February 4, 1776.

[2] The pilot boat was taken February 5, by the *Syren,* not the *Scarborough.*

COLONEL LACHLAN McINTOSH TO GEORGE WASHINGTON[1]

[Extract]

Sir, My Country having Honour'd me with the Command of the Continental Battalion ordered to be raised by the General Congress for the Protection and Defence of this Colony (tho' I fear too partial to my poor Abilitys) it becomes my duty to inform your Excely of the State of our Province as far as it concerns the Service, as well as of the Troops to be immediately under my Command. –

Our Province has a front along the Sea Coast of above One hundred Miles, covered by a Range of Islands, divided from each other by eight Rivers from the Main Land, which makes as many good Inlets & Harbours, most of them capable of receiving any Frigate, & as some Say much Larger ships. – Our settlements extend back to the Northwest above two hundred Miles, in other parts to the southward not above Ten, and very thinly Inhabited, indeed this large Space of Land altogether has not more than three thousand Men, chiefly in the back Country, and many disafected & doubtful in our Cause, especialy the Men of the greatest property among us. – Our slaves will be above Fifteen 15 m thousand Souls, mostly within twenty Miles of the Sea Coast, and makes above 35 m Tierces of Rice Annualy besides many other articles of provision which with our fine harbours makes the Security of this Colony tho' weak in itself, of the Utmost Consequence to the whole Continent of America. – And we have every reason to think our Enemys intend to make it a place of general Rendezvous & Supplys. – We are bounded south by the Garrisoned Province of East Florida who have now, as I am well informed five hundred regulars in St Augustine & 1000 more expected there daily from Europe. – On the West of us is the Province of West Florida, the Numerous Nations of the Creek, Chactaw, & Cherokee Indians besides lesser Tribes Supposed to have at least Ten thousand Gun Men, brave, intrepid & eager for war, whom [we] will have the Utmost difficulty to keep at peace with us, as we want every article of their Usual supply, and now furnished them in great plenty from the two Floridas. – Our Metropolis is Situated in the North Corner of the Province upon a Bluff or Sand Hill thirty feet high or more above the Water and fifteen Miles up the river Savannah, from the Inlet of Tybee where five ships of warr, the *Syren,* the *Scarborough,* the *Raven,* the *Tamer* & *Cherokee,* besides Tenders are now Lying & two large Transports having, it is said, above 300 Men on board & expecting more in daily, with what design, whether for this Colony only, or Carolina, or both together, we are not yet informed. Our Province has declared itself in a State of Alarm, and resolved not to Supply the Men of warr with provision, and ordered a draft of half the Militia to the Town of Savannah to oppose the Landing of any troops. –

Savannah, in Georgia 16th Feby 1776

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[1] Washington Papers, LC.

GOVERNOR PATRICK TONYN TO LORD DARTMOUTH [1]

Duplicate/No 38.

My Lord In Letter No 18. private of 18th December 74 [*sic* 1775], I had the honour to mention to Your Lordship, that I had appointed Mr [William] Panton to manage the Indian Trade. I beg leave now my Lord to enclose the Copy of a Letter I received from Mr Panton lately.[2] He informs of his difficulties. The disappointment to me is very great, as its absolutely requisite, a Trade should be supported in those Provinces, which have not been wrested from the British Empire. I hope Your Lordship will think it a right Measure , and be pleased to give Directions that Orders may be sent to Messrs Greenwood and Higginson to ship for Mr Panton such Indian Supplies as he may require and to be forwarded to St Augustine to my order, to be deposited in His Majesty's Magazine for Mr Panton, for the Sole purpose of carrying on a Trade with the Indians. When these supplies are sent, I hope the Ship they are in will take the Opportunity of sailing under convoy of some of His Majesty's Ships that may be coming for America at the same time. If this My Lord be approved of, I hope there will not be any Delay as we are truly distressed for want of supplies for the Indians there having been lately so much Occasion for them.

I have the honour to be with the greatest respect, My Lord [&c.]

Pat. Tonyn

St Augustine 16. Febry 76

[Endorsed] St Augustine 16th Feby 1776. Governor Tonyn. (No 38)
R/22d August. (Dup – origl not reced.) (1 Inclosure.) Entd

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1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/556, 249–50, 252.
2. See William Panton to Governor Tonyn, January 18, 1776.

GOVERNOR PATRICK TONYN TO LORD DARTMOUTH [1]

Duplicate/ No 39

My Lord/ About a Month ago Mr [Martin] Jollie who I had the honour to inform Your Lordship was admitted of His Majesty's Council desired to go into Georgia on Some private affairs. I took the Opportunity to desire him to make all the observations he cou'd of the disposition and State of matters there, for which reason I have taken the Liberty to inclose to your Lordship a Copy of a Letter I have just now received from Mr Jollie. [2]

In consequence of this Account I have sent for all the Seminolie Indians and shall fix them at proper stations between this place and St John's River, and from St John's River to St Mary's River.

I have also wrote to the Commanding Officer of His Majesty's Troops to be ready to march at a moment.

You will naturly think My Lord I am in the utmost anxiety to hear from General [Henry] Clinton in answer to the Plan laid down in my last Letters.

If measures were once put into action I shou'd not doubt of the success of that plan. But if my hands are tied up for want of Information of the Operations intended to be put into Agitation; the Tables may be turned upon me in the interim, I have on this Account sent a Copy of Mr Jollie's Letter to General Clinton, and to Lord William Campbell desiring to have every requisite Information of the System to be adopted.

Because My Lord there is a most Material difference between being the Attacker and the Attacked, especially with the sort of People we shall have to assail, who will have no Spirit but what they wou'd derive from the first mentioned Situation.

The last Letter I had the honour to receive from Your Lordship is dated the 5th July 75. No 9.

Captain [John] Graves in His Majesty's Schooner *St Lawrence* sailed from hence the 15th January last in order, as I have before informed Your Lordship to carry provisions to His Majesty's Ships with Lord William Campbell and to bring any dispatches his Lordship may have for this Province; Your Lordship wou'd observe in my former Letters that many difficulties and obstructions to the *St Lawrence* sailing at a more early day, to my great disappointment Captn Graves returned the 14th Inst and the *Diligence* Packett a few days before him. His Majesty's Ships having left Charles Town harbour. We have since heard of them at Savannah, the *St Lawrence* I directed to sail directly for His Majesty's Ships at Savannah and to find Lord William Campbell, but she is detained along with the Sloop that the superintendent is on board by a Contrary wind.

The *St Lawrence* being the only Vessel I cou'd send to Sea, has been a great distress to us, but she was all the force I cou'd obtain last year from Boston, I have now applied to General Clinton for a few small Vessels to guard our Rivers, I hope to obtain them for that and other purposes: But I shou'd be sorry to require more than they can spare, according to the Nature of the service, and degree of employment which they may have been intended for, I have the honour to be with the greatest respect, My Lord [&c.]

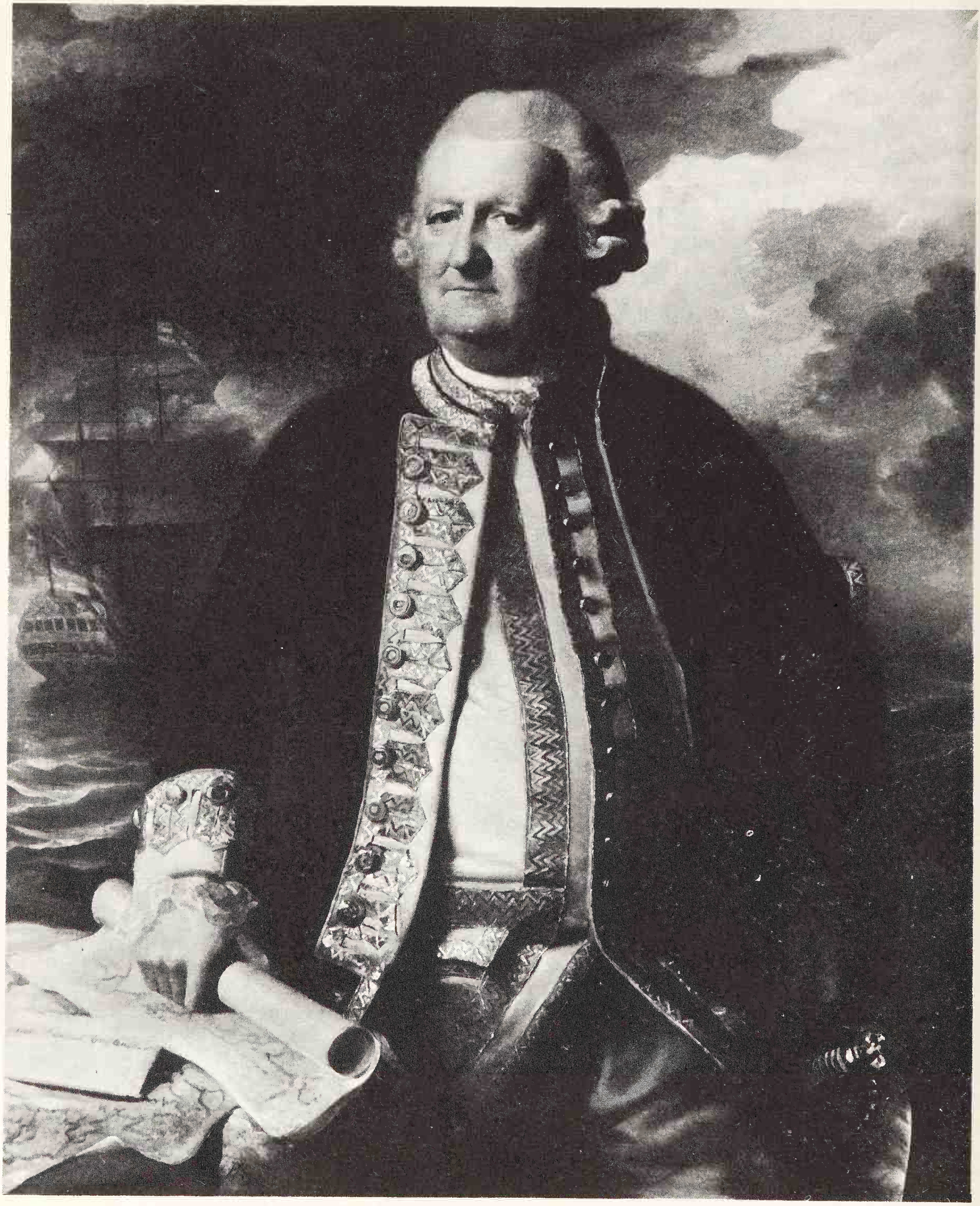
Pat. Tonyn

St Augustine 16. Febry 1 1776
[Endorsed] St Augustine 16th Febry 1776 Govr Tonyn. (No 39) R/22d Augt D[uplica]te Origl not recd. (2 Inclosures)

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/556, 257–60.
2. See Martin Jollie to Governor Tonyn, February 13, 1776.

VICE ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON'S REPLY TO WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS [1]

I Clark Gayton Esquire in the Annexed Writ of Habeas Corpus named do certify and return that James Young in the said annexed Writt also named before the obtaining and issuing the said annexed Writ to wit on the Twenty Eighth day of January last past was taken by one of his Majestys Ships of War under my Command as he the said James Young was coming out of the Port of Cape Nicholas Mole in the Island of Hispaniola in and on board of a Schooner or Vessell belonging to the Inhabitants of the Colony of North Carolina in North America of and in which Schooner or Vessell he was a Mariner or one of the Crew and was then on his Voyage in the said Schooner or Vessell going with a Cargoe of Molasses and Coffee which he had laden [and] taken on board the said Schooner or Vessell at Cape Nicholas Mole aforesaid for and to trade in the said Colony of North Carolina – in North America aforesaid And that I have taken



Vice Admiral Clark Gayton.

the said James Young and have entered his Name on the Books of His Majesty's Ship of War the *Antelope* before the issuing and obtaining the said annexed Writt by Virtue and in pursuance of His Majesty's Order and Instructions signified to me by the Commissioners for executing the Office of Lord High Admiral of Great Britain &c. and by their Secretary acting under their Authority. And that I do detain the same James Young by virtue and in pursuance of the said Orders and Instructions and an Act passed in the sixteenth Year of the Reign of his present Majesty entitled an "Act to prohibit all trade and intercourse with the Colonies of New Hampshire, Massachusets Bay, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, the three lower Counties on Delaware, Maryland, Virgi[nia,] North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia during the continuance of the present Rebellion within the said Colonies respectively for repealing an Act made the fourteenth year of the reign of his present Majesty to discontinue the landing and discharging lading or Shipping of Goods Wares and Merchandize at the Town and within the Harbor of Boston in the province of Massachusets Bay And also two Acts made in the last Session of Parliament for the restraining the trade and Commerce of the Colonies in the said Acts respectively mentioned And to enable any person or persons appointed and authorized by his Majesty to grant Pardons, to issue Proclamations in the Case and for the purposes therein mentioned" To which said Act I refer. And this is the Cause of the Capt[ion] and Detention of the said James Young whose Body at the Day and place in the annexed Writt mentioned I have ready as by the annexed Writt I am required,

Filed the 16th ffebruary 1776. Clark Gayton

[Endorsed by Edward Webley]

Jamaica ss
Saint Jago de la Vega } February 16th 1776.

The Body of James Young in the annexed Writt of Habeas Corpus named being this day brought before me by virtue of the said annexed Writt of Habeas Corpus And the same together with the return thereof being filed and read I do remand the said James Young And He is remanded accordingly.

Edw^{d} Webley

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1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240. John Worder, master of the same schooner, and William Clarke, master of a schooner bound for Connecticut, were also remanded the same day under like procedure.

Vice Admiral James Young to Captain Samuel Graves, R.N.[1]

English Harbour Antigua, the 16th February 1776.

Sir The dispatches you will now receive for Admiral Shuldham being of the utmost importance to Government, I am to desire you will take especial care the same do not fall into the Enemys hands, and therefore direct you will cause those Dispatches marked No 1 & 2 to be put into a Bag with a Shot slung thereto: and in case of imminent danger to throw them overboard into the Sea. I am Sir [&c.]

Jam^{s} Young

Samuel Graves Esqr Commander of His Majesty's Sloop *Viper* St John's Road, Antigua

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1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

RICHARD BULKELEY TO JOHN ANDERSON, ST. JOHNS RIVER [1]

Sir. Secys Office Halifax 17th Feby: 1776.

I have receiv'd your letter signifying the present disposition of the Indians on St Johns River, which I laid before the Governor, who is well satisfied with the account, and relies on you for preserving them in the same good temper, and to assure them, that they shall have every necessary of which they shall stand in need, on their arrival here. before this time I suppose you will have receiv'd dispatches by Couriers who left this the 21st last Month.[2] I am Sir &c

(Sign'd) Rich^{d} Bulkeley

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[1] Council Letter Book, 234, N.S. Arch.

[2] See Bulkeley to Anderson, January 20, 1776.

JOHN LANGDON TO THE NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

Gent: Portsmo, Feby 17th, 1776.

I've just Recd a letter from Philada, Informing me of one of the vessells belonging to the Continental service, havg arrived with sixty Tons of salt petre, thirteen Tons of powder, 1300 stand of good arms; on which important news I have the honor to congratulate you. My letter is dated the 3d Instant; the vessel arrived the day before.

I am with all due respect [&c.]

Jn^{o} Langdon.

57 Tons Sal. Petre, 1st time.
60 Do. Do. 2 do.
117 equal to – say 150 Tons powder
33 Tons before.
13 now.
196 Tons – no small qt with which to scare away that frightful Independence.

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[1] Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire,* VIII, 73.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES [1]

[Watertown] Saturday, February 17, 1776
Afternoon.

In Council, February 17, 1776
Read and concurred.

Samuel Holten, Esq; brought down the following Vote of Council, *viz.*

Whereas Benjamin Greenleaf, Esq; was appointed one of the Committee of this Court for building sundry Sloops-of-War, and as his Attendance at the Council is necessary for the Dispatch of the Important Business of this Colony, on which Account he has desired to be excused from the Service of building the said Sloops:

Therefore, *Ordered,* That Richard Derby, Junr. Esq; be appointed on said Committee for building the said Sloops, in his Room.

1. Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch.

MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL TO CAPTAIN ROBERT COCHRAN [1]

Colony of the
Massachusetts Bay } The Major Part of the Council

To Robert Coc[h]ran Esqr Greeting –

By Virtue of a Resolve of the great & general Court of this Colony, pass'd the sixteenth instant, You are hereby permitted & impowered to inlist a Number of Seamen for the Defence of the sister Colony of So Carolina, not exceeding three hundred Men, out of the Inhabitants of this Government, except such as are employ'd in the Continental Army, in the armed Vessells fitted out either by this Colony or by any of the Inhabitants thereof, or in the forces raised by this Colony for the Defence of the Sea Coasts, any of whom you are Not permitted to inlist; for which this shall be your sufficient Warrant –

Given under our hands, at the Council Chamber in Watertown, the 17th Day of Feby A Domini 1776 – By their Honors' Command

Perez Morton D Secry

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 164, 265.

OWNERS' BOND FOR THE SLOOP *Kingbird* BOUND ON A VOYAGE TO PHILADELPHIA [1]

Know all Men by these Presents that we Nicholas Brown and John Brown both of Providence in the County of Providence and Colony of Rhode Island &c. Merchants in Company are held and firmly bound unto Joseph Clarke Esquire General Treasurer of the said Colony in the Sum of Five Hundred Pounds Lawful Money to be paid to the said Joseph Clarke in his said Capacity or to his Successors in said Office for the Use of the said Colony To which Payment well and truly to be made we bind Ourselves, Our Heirs Executors and Administrators firmly by these Presents. Sealed with Our Seals. Dated the Seventeenth Day of February in the year of Our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Six.

Whereas John Hathaway Master of the Sloop *Kingbird* burthened about Sixty Eight Tons is bound by Permission of the Honble Nicholas Cooke Esquire Governor of the said Colony on a Voyage with his said Sloop from this Colony to Philadelphia with Five Hundred Bushells of Barley. Now the Condition of this Obligation is such That if the said John Hathaway shall proceed with his said Sloop to Philadelphia and there land his said Cargo and take on board the Produce of the Country or other Articles under the Direction of the Committee of Inspection of the City Town or County where he shall lade and take in his said Cargo and also bring back proper Certificates both of Exports and Imports from them and lodge the same in the Office of the Secretary of the said Colony within three Days after the Return of said Sloop and further shall not proceed to any Port or

Place not being within the United Colonies (the Danger of the Sea and Seizure by an Enemy always excepted) then this Obligation shall be void or else in full Force.[2]

Nich° Brown
John Brown
John Hathaway

Sealed and delivered
in the Presence of
W^m^ Tillinghast Simon Smith

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1. Maritime Papers, Bonds, Masters of Vessels, R.I. Arch.
2. Four more bonds were subscribed for the same day, as follows:
   Zephaniah Brown and Christopher Whipple, for the the sloop *Triton,* 40 tons, Christopher Whipple, master, for any foreign West India Island, for a cargo of arms and ammunition.
   Joseph Belcher, for the sloop *Industry,* 30 tons, George Coggeshell, master, with three hogsheads of rum and three of molasses, to New York or Connecticut.
   John Cooke for the sloop *Tryal,* 25 tons, Jonathan Sheldon, master, in ballast, for Connecticut.
   John Cooke, for the sloop [blank], Thomas Dennis, master, in ballast, for Connecticut.

Providence Gazette, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1776

Providence, February 17.

Capt. Frazier, from Antigua, informs, that a Number of American Vessels have been taken by the ministerial Cruizers, several of which were carried to St.Kitts, particularly a Ship, belonging to Samuel Mifflin,Esq; of Philadelphia, having on board 2000 Barrels of Flour.[1] – Capt.Campbell, bound from St. Croix to New York, had been taken and ordered to Boston; but meeting with bad Weather off the Coast, was obliged to put back, and had arrived at Antigua.[2]

Capt. Frazier also informs, that 6 Transports from Englnd, that had put into Antigua, and a Snow of 16 Guns, laden with Wine, were to sail from thence for Boston by 20th of January, under Convoy of the *Argo* Frigate of 20 Guns. – The Transports were laden with live Stock, and other Provisions; they had also on board a few Troops, some of which were to be landed at St. Augustine.

On Thursday last nine Sail of the ministerial Fleet, which had been several Days lying at Hope-Island, came further up the River, and paid another Visit to the Island of Prudence. The Inhabitants had some Time before evacuated the Island and brought off their Provision, live Stock,&c. Yesterday the Enemy landed and burnt a Wind-Mill, and five or six Dwelling and Out-Houses.

It is reported, that a Vessel is arrived at Stonington, in Connecticut, from France, and brings Advice that the French Court has made a Demand on Great-Britain of Forty Millions of Livres, by Way of Compensation for the Captures made of their Vessels previous to the last Declaration of War. If this should prove true, the British Ministry must either dishonorably admit the Demand, or relinquish the American project.

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1. The ship *Peggy,* taken December 9, 1775 by H.M.Sloop *Viper.*
2. The snow *Chetsworth,* taken December 5, 1775 by the same sloop.

MEMOIRS OF WILLIAM SMITH [1]

[New York] 17 Feby 1776

The *Phoenix* fell down this Morning to the Narrows & the *Asia* ran aground opposite to Whitehall in the Afternoon in retiring with the *Dutchess of Gordon* below the Town. She got off before the Preparations for attacking her were completed, for [Charles] Lee and [William Alexander, Lord] Stirling had so resolved & many of the Citizens were hastened in their Flight to the Country.

Yesterday we heard of a Motion of Lord North's of 20 Novr to cut off all Intercourse with the Colonies & make Prizes of our Vessels But this Evening we learn that a Ship Master arrived at Philadelphia from Cadiz reports that Govr. Hardy our Consul had a Letter of 27 Novr. from Lord Weymouth informing him that Lord [Richard] Howe Captain [Samuel] Barrington and others were to be sent to America as Commissioners to the Continental Congress which Intelligence produced some Abatement of the popular Irritation, especially as it was also asserted that the Boston Port Act and those restraining our Commerce & Fishing were to be repealed.

1. Sabine, ed., *Memoirs of William Smith,* 268.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS [1]

[New York] Die Sabbati 10 HO. A.M.
Feb. 17th, 1776:

Mr. [John Sloss] Hobart and Mr. Beekman reported that they, according to order, had waited on Major-Genl. [Charles] Lee, to know the source of his information, that Govr Tryon was procuring gunsmiths from this city, on board of his ship; that Genl. Lee having given them the particulars of his information, they had pursued the inquiry to every person of whom any information could reasonably be expected, and found that it arose from the circumstance of two journeymen gunsmiths having some time ago left the city, the one in the last packet for England, and the other now said to be in some part of the Jersey[s].

1. *New York Provincial Congress,* I, 305.

MAJOR GENERAL CHARLES LEE TO JOHN HANCOCK [1]

New York Feb'ry the 17th 1767 – [*sic* 1776]

Sir –

I think it my duty to inform you that the *Phoenix* and Governor Tryons Ship are already out of the harbour and that the *Asia* is under sail – They most probably have had intelligence of the danger which threatens their Comrade the *Mercury* and General [Henry] Clinton from your Fleet, and are saild with an intention of attacking it – as it may be thought prudent to apprize your Fleet of the circumstances I must repeat that I thought it My duty to send an express on the Subject – The *Asia* ran aground opposite the exchange as the tides are low We were in hopes she woud not have been able to have got off this Flood, in these hopes We are preparing Cartridges for some pieces of Cannon, (which is not here from want of method a very short operation) and flatter'd ourselves that We shoud have been able to have destroyd or much damag'd her – but She is now unfortunately afloat. I am, Sir [&c.]

Charles Lee

1. Papers CC (Letters from General Officers), 158, I, 21–22, NA.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS [1]

[Philadelphia] Wednesday, February 17, 1776

The committee to whom sundry letters from Brigadier General Arnold, Brigadier General Wooster, Major General Schuyler, and Major General Lee, were referred, brought in their report, which being taken into consideration; On motion made,

Resolved, That Major General Lee be directed immediately to repair to Canada, and take the command of the army of the United Colonies in that province:

That Major General Schuyler be directed to repair, as soon as his health will permit, to New York, and take the command of the forces, and conduct the military operations there: and that the president inform him by express of this arrangement, and the reasons that led to it:

Resolved, That it be recommended to the convention or committee of safety of New York, to supply General Lee with a quantity of suitable cannon, not exceeding twelve, and one or more mortars, if to be had, with balls, shells, and other necessaries for the seige or assault of Quebec; and that they assist him in forwarding the same with all possible expedition.

Resolved, That this Congress will, on Tuesday next, resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to take into consideration the propriety of opening the ports, and the restrictions and regulations of trade, after the first of March next.

[1] Ford, ed., *JCC,* IV, 156–60.

WILLING, MORRIS & CO. TO OLIVER POLLOCK, PHILIP FRANCIS & JAMES WILLING [1]

Gentn Pha. Feby. 17th. 1776

As the present unhappy Contest between Gr. Britain & the No Am: Colonies has the Appearance of lasting some time, during which the Intercourse with your part of the World must become less frequent than formerly and our Interest on the Missisippi being Considerable, we think it necessary to appoint attorneys to superintend & take Care of it for us, the long Friendship & Connection which has subsisted between each of you & us point you out as the proper persons to confide in & we flatter ourselves you will most chearfully undertake & execute the Trust

You will therefore find inclosed herein our Power of Attorney executed in presence of Capt Bethell [Robert Bethel] who will prove it before a Magistrate in West Florida and you'll please to have that done, that it may be valid – We have an exceeding good Opinion of our Manager Mr Alexr Henderson & hope he will always merit the Continuance of it, however our Design is that you shoud overlook his Conduct & Controul it whenever you think necessary, he must obey your Orders & submit to your directions

We have informed him of this & doubt not his ready Concurrence, we have encouraged him to compleat the necessary Buildings & get our Estate into the best Order, also to raise the most valuable Articles he can, such as Indico Tobo Provision Stock Staves &c and deliver them to Mr Pollock for Export[atio]n but if we have erred in any part of our Orders to him you may correct our Mistakes & he will shew the Orders for that purpose – It is impossible for us Gentn to adapt instructions for your Conduct, suffice it then to say that we firmly believe you all to be our Friends, that you are warmly attached to us & will be glad to save & serve our Interest under these Ideas we most chearfully submit our Estate to your Direction without reserve, assuring ourselves that it will under your Auspices be conducted to the best Advantage & we remain most sincerely your Friends &c –

1. Morris Papers, Bank of North America Collection, HSP.

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH [1]

[Philadelphia] Saturday 17 Feb. Wyth[e] made a Report on the Letters from the several Generals which was gone thro – it was determined that Gen. Lee shall command in Canada . . . Gen. Schuyler ordered down to N York.

1. Richard Smith's Diary, LC.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF JOHN ADAMS [1]

[Philadelphia] Saturday Feb. 17. 1776.

This Measure of Opening the Ports, &c. laboured exceedingly, because it was considered as a bold step to Independence. Indeed I urged it expressly with that View and as connected with the Institutions of Government in all the States and a Declaration of National Independence. The Party against me had Art and Influence as yet, to evade, retard and delay every Motion that We made.[2]

1. L. H. Butterfield, ed., *The Adams Papers,* Series 1, *Diary and Autobiography of John Adams* (Cambridge, 1961), III, 364–65.
2. The subject of opening the ports had been referred to a committee which reported on February 6, 1776. Debate upon it was postponed daily thereafter. The action which displeased Adams had been a further postponement.

Pennsylvania Evening Post, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1776

Philadelphia, February 17.

Last night Capt. [John] Souder arrived here from Grenada. On his passage he spoke a vessel from Cork, the master of which informed him, that twenty-five transports, with four thousand troops on board, had sailed from Cork for America. Capt. Souder says, that before he left Grenada a London paper arrived there, of the thirtieth of November, in which was a list of the thirty-nine Commissioners appointed to Treat with Congress, among whom were Lord [Richard] Howe and Governor Johnson [George Johnstone].

SAMUEL PURVIANCE, JR. TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

Gentlemen Baltimore Feb: 17th. 1776

In pursuance of your Orders to mount the Cannon fit for Use at this Place, We have engaged a Number of Workmen in making Wheels & Carriages for the Purpose, it being the general Opinion of all who have a knowledge of such Matters that it is best to Mount them as Field Peices, which purpose the Guns now here will be very suitable for as they are all light, say 2, 3, & 4 Pounders, to the amot of 20 peices besides 6 of 9 Pds & 2 of 12 Pds belonging to Capt

[William] Stone. We had the whole of the Guns examnd by Mr Geo Mathews who has pronouncd them good. – The Commee have desird Me to apply to you for Orders to provide a parcell of Shot suitable to the Guns. – Mr Danl Hughes is very anxious to have Some Person appointed to go to Antitem to prove the Guns which his Brother has cast. I apprehend Capt Fulford is the best quailfied to do it of any Person here, it may be of Consequence how soon it is done, as those if they stand Proof, might be speedily got down here.

We have abt 50 Hands at Work on a Battery since Tuesday at Whetstone, And near 200 more employed in providing Timber, Logs, Smiths Work &c for the Boom. I hope we shall have part of our Battery ready to mount some Guns before the end of next Week, – Mr [Robert] Alexander writes me that Mr [Robert] Morris had promsd our Delegates part of some Powder wh was arrived at Philada & which they wd immed[i]ately forward to this Town, I am with much Respect Gentlemen [&c.]

Sam^{l} Purviance Junr

1. Red Book, XV, Md. Arch.

MINUTES OF THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY [1]

[Williamsburg] Saturday, 17th February, 1776.

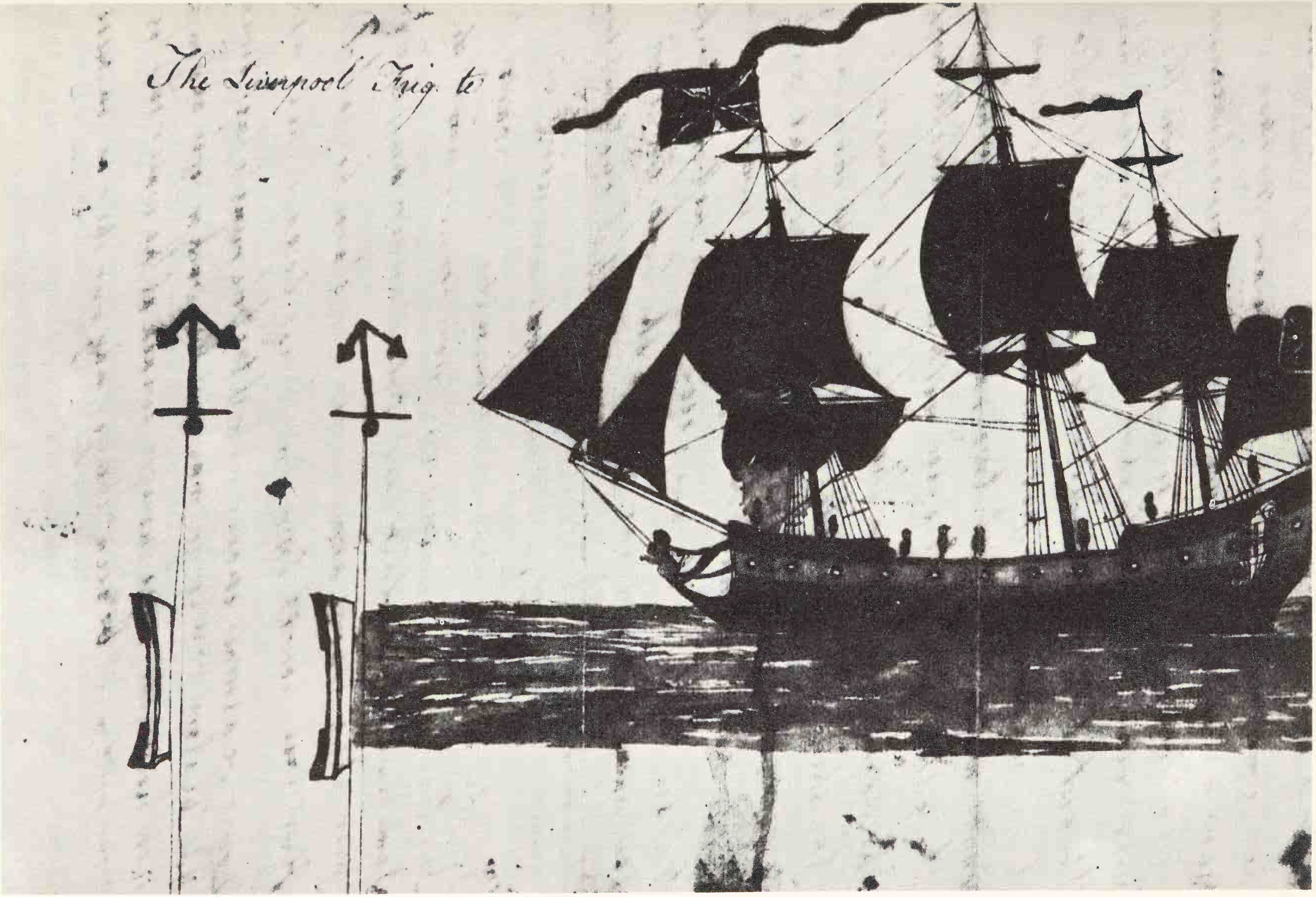
Ordered, that John Craig deliver to Colo. Fielding Lewis or order what Pork or beef he may want for the vessells emploied in the Pub. service and the workmen emploied in building them.

1. *Virginia State Papers,* VIII, 86.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM A GENTLEMAN ON BOARD THE *Liverpool,* NORFOLK HARBOUR, VIRGINIA, 17 FEBRUARY, 1776." [1]

We have been pretty quiet here since the burning of Norfolk. On General [Henry] Clinton's Arrival with a small Party of Men, the Rebels retired about twelve Miles up the Country, burning the Houses, and driving off the Cattle as they went. We now get Plenty of Provisions brought us both for the Officers Tables and the Ships Companies, but dearer than usual. I am well informed by the Gentlemen of the Country, who have taken Refuge on board the King's Ships here, that we shall have all Sorts of Provisions in great Plenty, as soon as the Forces arrive; that the People in the lower Counties are very weary of their new Masters, and will join heartily in driving them back to the Mountains, whenever a few Troops are landed to enable them to make head against the Rebels; and that they will be able to supply not only the Ships and Troops that may come this way, but likewise the Army and Navy at Boston with Flour, Pork, Pease, Butter, Corn, &c.&c. and have Cattle and Stock of all Kinds, and Horses and Carriages, if they should be wanted to the Northward, in any Number there can be a Demand for, all at a very reasonable Price.

By the last Accounts we had from Boston both Parties remained inactive; the Winter was severe, and most of the Rebels had gone home to their own Habitations to keep themselves warm. There was Plenty of salted Provisions in Boston, and likewise of fresh Meat, chiefly from Nova Scotia; but the last Article was


The Liverpool Frig.te

Sketch of HMS Liverpool *by Jeremiah Riley.*

dear. Both the Seamen and Soldiers are remarkably healthy, which they attribute in great measure to the Scarcity of Rum and other Spirits; for where they can be come at cheap, Soldiers and Sailors will always make beasts of themselves.

Very few of the Store Ships from England had got in, and scarce any of the live Stock had got safe; one half a Dozen out of three hundred of any Kind. The *Liverpool, Roebuck* and *Otter,* are here at present. A Sloop of War and a Tender are gone to Delawar River to go in since other Ships appeared to block up the Harbour of Philadelphia. The *Mercury,* with two Transports, is gone to the Southward to Charles-Town and Georgia. Captain Lindsay[2] has been some Time cruizing off Cape Fear for Sir Peter Parker's Fleet.

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1. *Public Advertiser,* London, April 9, 1776.
2. Captain John Linzee, of H.M. Sloop *Falcon.* Clinton did not sail from the Chesapeake until February 27, 1776.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Kingsfisher,* CAPTAIN JAMES MONTAGU[1]

February 1776	At Single Anchor off Lambert Point
Thursday 15	At 8 Saw 4 Sl At Anchor off Point Comfort Weighed & Stood down to them At 10 Came too in 10 fm found the above Vessels to Be The Tender wth A Brig from St Eustatia[2] & the *Liverpool*s Tender with A Schooner at 11 The Tenders Sailed on A Cruize at 2 PM Weighed & Came to Sail Empd Turning in to Hampton Rd in Co wth Brig & Schooner At 5 Anchored in Hampton Rd wth Bt Br in 10 fm
Friday 16	At 10 AM Weighed & Came to Sl in Co wth the *Roebuck* At 11 Anchd wth the Bt Br PM Recd Wood & Water
Saturday 17	AM Arrived & Anchored in Hampton Rd H:M:Ship *Mercury* & some Transports.[3] at 2 PM Arrived here the Tender wth A Brig

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1. PRO, Admiralty 51/506.
2. The prize was the *Molly,* Waters, master, from St. Eustatius for Baltimore, with rum.
3. The transports *Kitty* and *Glasgow Packet,* with troops, accompanying Sir Henry Clinton in H.M.S. *Mercury,* bound for North Carolina.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M.S. *Roebuck*[1]

Feby 1776	Remks on board His Majesty's Ship *Roebuck*
Friday 16	[A.M.] at 10 weighed & made Sail up Elizabeth River at ¼ past 11 the *Kingsfisher* Anchord above Cranny Island and at Noon we Anchord with the best Br about a Mile below Norfolk in 4 fath water First part fresh gales and fair latter Moderate & rain PM Moord small Bower to the [?] in 4 fa Do the *Lord Howe* Tender came along side which the Carpenters began to fit Made the *Liverpool*'s Signal for a boat Long boat watering
Saturday 17th	First part fresh gales and rain latter moderate & cloudy P M Anchored here the *Kitty* Transport from Boston, . . . sent the

Carpenters to repair some damage the above Transport had receivd

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1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1965.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Liverpool,* CAPTAIN HENRY BELLEW [1]

Februr 1776	Off Norfolk in Virginia
Saturday 17	Fesh Gales and cloudy PM empd.Watering arvd here our Tender from a Cruize [2] with a schooner taken from the Rebels,[3] ariv'd also in Hampton Roads His Majesty's Ship *mercury* with Two Transports under her Convoy

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1. PRO, Admiralty 51/548.
2. *Ibid.,* the tender *Edward* had sailed on her fifth cruise on February 11, 1776.
3. The schooner *Joseph,* John Hill, master, Jonas Smith, owner, from Salem for Baltimore, with a cargo of salt, taken off Cape Charles. Shuldham's Prize List, April 24, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER TO A GENTLEMAN IN SCOTLAND, DATED NORFOLK, VIRGINIA, FEBRUARY 17, 1776" [1]

All the well-affected to Government betook themselves to the shipping, where they are in great safety, and well provided. Lord Dunmore, having forseen the event, had laid plentifully in of all sorts of provisions. He has given orders to fortify Tucker's Point, where bake-houses and mills are fast erecting. Several vessels are taken from the Rebels, loaded, from the northward, with salt, flour, and grain. The *Roebuck,* with General Clinton, and a tender, are arrived safe.[2] The tender is to proceed for Cape-Fear, in North-Carolina, in order to raise volunteers, thousands of whom are ready to join the King's troops on being properly accoutred, and provided with arms and ammunition. The Rebels are in the deepest distress, being divested of clothes, ammunition, and lodgings; and, from their not keeping themselves clean, they are overrun with vermin, which, in the Summer season, must breed much sickness. Great numbers of them are already in their hospitals; and, at the least calculation, seven hundred of them are killed, wounded, sick and taken prisoners. They are, however, desperate to the last degree, and intrenching themselves backward to secure their retreats. The back settlers would, willingly, supply Lord Dunmore with fresh provisions, but have no means of conveying them, except what the negroes forage in the night time. All the Highland emigrants are most friendly to Government.

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1. Force, comp., *American Archives,* 4th, IV, 1166, from an unidentified British newspaper.
2. The writer has confused two arrivals. H.M.S. *Roebuck* reached Hampton Roads several weeks before Clinton came in H.M.S. *Mercury.*

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA PROVINCIAL CONGRESS [1]

[Charleston] Saturday, February 17, 1776.

Mr. [Thomas] Corbett, from the Committee to whom was referred the petition of Capt. [Henry] Aitken and Mr. [Nathaniel] Russel, delivered in a report.

Ordered, That the consideration thereof be postponed.

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1. *Provincial Congress of South Carolina,* 40–42

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY [1]

In the Council of Safety,
[Charleston] Saturday, 17th Feb., 1776.

The Council issued orders for the following payments:

To Grossman Franks, for rafting Palmettos to Charles-Town,	23	15	00
To Capt. Simon Tufts, to be accounted for him, for the scooner *Defence,*	1100	00	00

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[1] *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society,* III, 261–63.

HENRY LAURENS TO CAPTAIN THOMAS SMITH [1]

In the Council of Safety,
[Charleston] Jan. [*sic* Feb.] 17th, 1776.

Sir – You are to get the pilot-boat *Hibernia* of which you are commander, in readiness immediately for sea, and to go over the bar and cruize for friendly vessels bound into this port, and bring in such as you may speak to. There is a brigantine expected from Philadelphia, a particular account and description of which Capt. [Simon] Tufts will deliver you, and also a letter for the master, which we recommend to your attention. We need not repeat to you the necessity for extreme caution against decoys by men-of-war or their tenders. Deliver the inclosed to the commanding officers at Fort Johnson and Sullivan's Island, and you will be permitted to pass and repass without bringing to. We expect you will go to sea every morning, and come in towards evening or night when wind and weather will permit.

By order of the Council of Safety
Capt. Thos. Smith.

Henry Laurens, President.

[Enclosure]

In the Council of Safety,
17th Feb., 1776.

Sir –

Capt Thomas Smith, of the *Hibernia* pilot boat, is ordered to go over the bar every day when the weather will permit. We desire you will give him signals to make from day to day to be renewed at proper times, in order to procure the speedy passage of the boat, without stopping each day and avoid imposition.

By order of the Council of Safety

Henry Laurens, President.

To the commanding officers
at Fort Johnson, and Haddrel's Point.

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[1] *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society,* III, 261–62.

GOVERNOR PATRICK TONYN TO MAJOR GENERAL HENRY CLINTON [1]

Copy of a Letter to General Clinton

Sir Give me leave to enclose a Copy of a Letter from Mr [Martin] Jollie a Member of the Council of this Province, he went a few Weeks ago to Savannah on private Affairs. I desired him to make all the Observations he could. I am now more anxious for the Return of Mr [John] Stuart, and an Answer to the Plan I propose.

You know Sir there is a most material difference in the Effect which will work upon the Minds of the People we have to oppose us, in being attacked or the Attackers.

Last Summer I could only obtain the Assistance of the *St Lawrenc*e Schooner from Boston as a maritime Force, the General could do no more; I therefore was contented to do as well as I could in that Situation.

You know now Sir, a tollerable Idea of our Situation, if you reject the Plan I have sent you, it will give me pleasure because I shall be confident you have adopted a better, but I wish at the same time to have pointed out to me wherein I can be of Service; as I have nothing so much at heart.

Then Sir upon Ideas that the Plan may not be useful, You will give me leave to sollicit that some armed Vessels may be sent to this Province, for the protection of our Rivers, and that as little time may be lost in doing it as possible, I hope this will not interfere with the Measures which you may have concerted —

Upon this Intelligence I have sent for the Seminolie Indians. – I shall station them between this place and St John River, and from St John River to St Mary River. –

The King's Troops are too few to be seperated I trust the God of Victory will Crown His Majesty's Arms with success and that you Sir will ride in safety in the Whirlwind I am &ca

(Signed) Pat. Tonyn

St Augustine 17th February 1776

[Endorsed] In Govr Tonyn's of 16 Febry 1776 (No 39).

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1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/556, 265–66, 268.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Viper,* CAPTAIN SAMUEL GRAVES [1]

Feby 1776 Running down to Old Road St Kitts

Saturday 17 at 11 AM Fired a gun as a Sigl to Unmoor Unmoord & hove into ½ a Cable on the best bower Found the Small bower Much Rubbed in two places

Fresh breezes & Cloudy

at 5 PM Made the Sigl to Weigh Do Weighed & Came to sail *Layton* Transport under Convoy at 10 Made the Sigl & brought too

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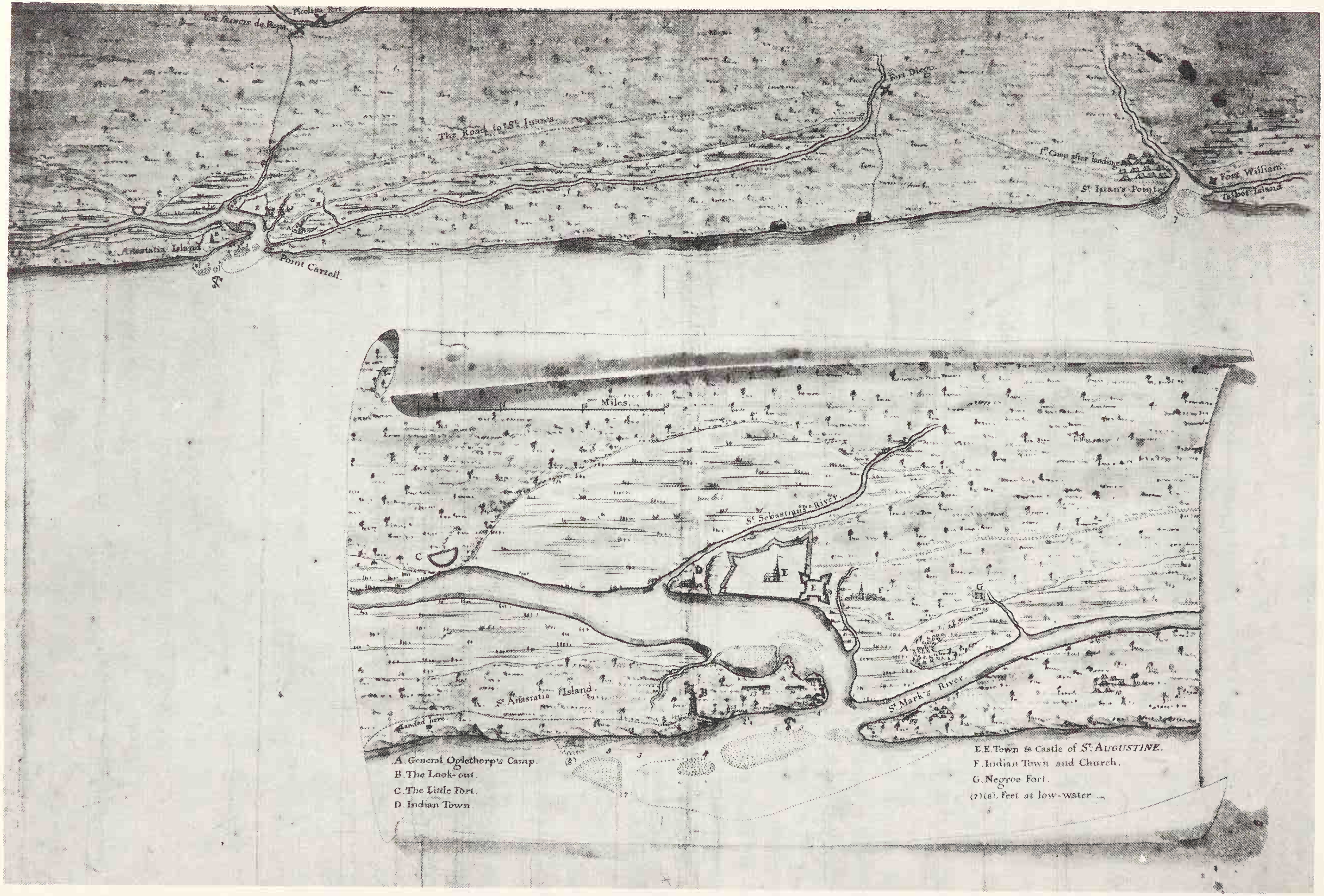
1. PRO, Admiralty 51/1039.


Picolata Fort
Fort Francis de Papa
Fort Diego
The Road to St. Juan's
1st Camp after landing
Fort William
St. Juan's Point
Talbot Island
Anastatia Island
Point Cartell
Miles
St. Sebastian's River
St. Anastatia Island
St. Mark's River
Landed here
A. General Oglethorp's Camp.
B. The Look-out.
C. The Little Fort.
D. Indian Town.
E.E. Town & Castle of St. AUGUSTINE.
F. Indian Town and Church.
G. Negroe Fort.
(7)(8). Feet at low-water

Detail from a map of the coast of Florida with an inset of St. Augustine area.

18 Feb. (Sunday)

Diary of Simeon Perkins, Liverpool, Nova Scotia [1]

Sunday, Feb. 18th, – . . . They send on board the *Senegal* for the Doctor I hear the King's vessel, mentioned above,[2] is the schooner *Halifax,* Capt Quorme [?], from Boston, and the prize from Cape Resue,[3] Capt. [Daniel] Turner. I am informed that they bring news from Boston that the American army at Quebec is totally defeated, General Montgomery killed, Col. Arnold wounded and taken prisoner, and the whole army either killed or taken. That the army at Cambridge are deserted all to six thousand men. That Lord Dunmore has burnt the town of Norfolk, in Virginia, and that Capt. [George] Dawson has sunk one of the American armed vessels, a brigantine.[4]

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1. Innis, ed., *Perkins' Diary,* 112.
2. Perkins had commented that two topsail schooners were beating into the harbor on the 16th, but had not yet heard their identity, although one was supposed to be in the King's service, and the other a prize.
3. The prize was the schooner *King Solomon,* with 850 quintals of fish, bound to Bilboa. Perkins says she was from Cape Resue; Shuldham's Prize List notes, Cape Bisore, and the journal of the *Halifax* says Cape Persue. The port from which she hailed was probably Cape Rosier, in Penobscot Bay.
4. Lieutenant George Dawson, in H.M. Brig *Hope,* had attacked and driven Washington's schooner *Hancock* into the North River, at Scituate, where she ran aground, but subsequently was restored to the service.

George Washington to John Hancock [1]

Sir, Cambridge Feby 18th 1776.

The late freezing Weather having formed some pretty strong Ice from Dorchester Point to Boston Neck, and from Roxbury to the Common, thereby affording a more expanded, and consequently a less dangerous Approach to th[is] Town, I could not help thinking, notwithstanding the Militia were not all come in, and we had little or no Powder to begin our Operations by a regular Cannonade and Bombardment, that a bold & resolute Assault upon the Troops in Boston with such Men as we had (for it could not take many Men to guard our own Lines at a Time when the Enemy were attacked in all Quarters,) might be crowned with Success; and therefore seeing no certain Prospect of a Supply of Powder on the one Hand, and [a] certain Dissolution of the Ice on the other, I called the General Officers together for their opinion (agreeably to the Resolve of Congress of 22d Decr)[2]

The Result will appear in the enclosed Council of War, and being almost unanimous, I must suppose to be right, altho from a thorough Conviction of the Necessity of attempting something against the ministerial Troops before a Reinforcement should arrive, and while we were favoured with the Ice, I was not only ready, but willing and desirous of making the assault, under a firm Hope, if they Men would have stood by me of a favourable Issue, notwithstanding the Enemy's Advantage of Ground, [Art]illery &c.

Perhaps the Irksomness of my Situation may have given different Ideas to me, than those which influenced the Gentlemen I consulted, and might have inclined me to put more to the Hazard than was consistent with Prudence. If it had, I am not sensible of it, as I endeavoured to give it all the Consideration that a Matter of such Importance requird. True it is, I cannot help acknowledging, that I have many disagreeable Sensations on Account of my Situation; for to have the Eyes of the whole Continent fixed with anxious Expectation of hearing of some great Event, and to be restrain'd in every military Operation for Want of the necessary Means of carrying it on, is not very pleasing; especially as the Means used to conceal my Weakness from the Enemy, conceals it also from our Friends and adds to the Wonder.

I do not utter this by Way of Complaint. I am sensible that all that the Congress could do, they have done, and I should feel, most powerfully, the Weight of conscious Ingratitude, were I not to acknowledge this. But as we have Accounts of the Arrival of Powder in Capt [Thomas] Mason,[3] I should beg to have it sent on in the most expeditious Manner, otherwise we not only loose all Chance of the Benefits resulting from the Season, but of the Militia, which are brought in at a most enormous Expence upon a Presumption that we should long er'e this, been amply supplied with Powder under the Contracts entered into with the Committee of Congress.

The Militia, contrary to an express Requisition are come, and coming in, without Ammunition. To supply them alone with 24 Rounds, which is less by 3/5ths than the Regulars are served with, will take between 50 & 60 Barrels of Powder, and to complete the other Troops to the like Quantity will take near as much more, and leave in Store not more than 60 Barrels besides a few Rounds of Cannon Cartridges ready filled for Use. This Sir, Congress may be assured is a true State of Powder, and will I hope bear some Testimony of my Incapacity for Action in such a Way as may do any essential Service.

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1. John Hancock Papers, III, 158–60, LC. This letter was continued on February 21.
2. The resolution read: "*Resolved,* That if General Washington and his council of war should be of opinion, that a successful attack may be made on the troops in Boston, he do it in any manner he may think expedient, notwithstanding the town and the property in it may thereby be destroyed." Ford, ed., *JCC,* IV, 444–45.
3. Mason arrived at Philadelphia, February 2, 1776; see his Journal of that date.

Journal of the New York Provincial Congress [1]

[New York] Die Solis, 10 HO. A.M.
Feb. 18th, 1776.

The Congress were informed by a member, that as the ships of war are removed out of the East river, Major-General Lee thinks this is a favorable time and opportunity to stop the channel of the East river, between the city and Nutten island, so as now to admit line of battle ships, if it is practicable, which, if it can be done, may save at least the east part of the city. That Genl. Lee desires the advice of this Congress in the premises. Thereupon,

Ordered, That the committee of war attend on Genl Lee, and confer with him on the practicability of stopping the channel in the East river; and that the said committee of war report thereon to this Congress at 4 o'clock this afternoon.

The members present were charged from the chair to keep secret the subject matter of the last order, and every argument, matter and thing mentioned relating to stopping up the channel; and the several members engaged on their honours respectively to keep the same secret.

Die Solis, P.M. Feb. 18th, 1776.

> Mr. Van Zandt requested a permit to finish lading the ship *Rosamond.* Thereupon a certificate was given to him in the words following, to wit:
>
> Mr. Jacobus Van Zandt was formerly ordered by this Congress to lade a vessel with wheat, &c. he is hereby permitted to lade the ship *Rosamond* accordingly, with wheat and flour, &c.
>
> To be shewn to Messrs. Robert Ray and Evert Bancker, and to be delivered to Capt. William Mercier.

Mr. [John Sloss] Hobart, from the committee of war, who were directed this morning to confer with Genl. Lee, verbally reported, in substance, that in obedience to the order of Congress, they had conferred with the general, and examined the plans of the city and harbour, with him and his engineer and some other officers; that the general informed them that he has given orders to take a survey of the vessels now in port; that this evening the depth and breadth of the channel, at the most proper places, is to be sounded and taken; that Genl. Lee thinks it of great importance to obstruct the navigation of the East river against line of battle ships, and seems to have it much at heart; that Genl. Lee, on being asked how the west side of the town could be protected, allowed that a ship might come to the west of the city and annoy the city, but seemed to think fortifications might be erected in the city, which would greatly protect the side of it; that Genl. Lee is of opinion that if the *Asia* should depart the harbour and bay, that the most proper place to obstruct the navigation is farther down, or between the banks; that Capt. Smith, the engineer, said that the fortifications to be erected near Hellgate will command the East river down to, or below Blackwell's island.

Mr. Hobart reported farther, that on the whole, nothing certain as to the practicability of obstructing the navigation of the East river was yet determined on.

Mr. Hobart farther informed Congress, that they had some conversation with Genl. Lee on the subject of preventing persons having permissions from the Congress, or the Committee of Safety, to go on board of any ship in this harbour, from being obstructed by the port guard; and that they had intimated to the general that perhaps it might be proper to place a proper person near the sentries to give information and directions concerning such persons as may have such permissions as above-mentioned.

The Congress then went into the consideration of that matter, and thereupon,

Agreed unanimously, That it is impracticable at present, totally to cut off all communication of the inhabitants of this Colony with the ships of war now in this port, and with the ship on which his Excellency Govr. Tryon resides.

And whereas, though it is in the opinion of this Congress, impracticable at present totally to cut off all communication of the inhabitants of this Colony with the ships of war now in this port, and the ship on board of which his Excellency

Govr. Tryon resides, yet it appears necessary to confine such communication to certain particular objects, to the end that the public service may not be injured by a free and unlimited intercourse between them and this Colony. It is therefore

Ordered, That all communication between the said ships of war and all the inhabitants, be and is hereby prohibited, except upon special permits, to be obtained from this Congress or the Committee of Safety, and also except for supplying them, the said ships of war respectively, with necessary provisions from time to time, for the use and consumption of their respective crews only, under the following restrictions and regulations, to wit:

> That no provisions shall be supplied for their use and consumption by any other persons than their respective agent-victuallers in this city, upon permits to be obtained by them respectively, from time to time for the purpose, from this Congress or the Committee of Safety; which provisions shall not in any case, be put on board any boat for such supply as aforesaid, at any other place than the ferry stairs near the Exchange in this city, and that in the presence of a port master to be appointed by this Congress or the Committee of Safety, who shall carefully inspect the same, and compare the provisions with the permit, and keep an exact and particular account of the same, to be reported by him to this Congress or the Committee of Safety from time to time, when called for.

Ordered further, That Elias Nexen be, and he is hereby appointed port master for and during the pleasure of this Congress, with an allowance at and after the rate of 18⅓ dollars per month, for so long time as he shall continue in the said service.

Ordered further, That all communication between the said inhabitants and the said ships of his Excellency the Govr. be and is hereby prohibited, except with respect to his Honor the Lieut. Govr. the members of His Majesty's Council, the Surveyor-General, the Deputy Secretary of this Colony and his necessary clerks, and such other persons as shall from time to time have particular permits for the purpose from this Congress or the Committee of Safety; and except also such intercourse as may be necessary for supplying the Governor with the necessary provisions for himself and his family; which supplies shall from time to time be sent from the said ferry stairs, and no other place, and that in the presence and under the inspection of the said port master, who shall keep exact and particular accounts of the same, to be reported as aforesaid; and except also that the brewers supply the said three ships with beer as usual, 'till further order of this Congress or the Committee of Safety.

1. *New York Provincial Congress,* I, 307–09.

HERCULES COURTENAY TO CHARLES CARROLL, BARRISTER [1]

Sir. Mr [William] Spear shewed me a note which Mr Purviance brought him from The Council of Safety; Whereby its probable you may have occasion to see Capt Martin, therefore have given him orders to wait on the council of Safety with Mr Spears Captain, should you have occasion to employ the Brig *Friendship* Capt Martin back here with such returns as you may have ordered, I shall have no sort of objection, providing you insure her at one thousand pounds, this money, and allow a sufficient Freight for such goods as she may bring back; Tho Captain [William] Stone intended she shd bring some property of his lying in the West Indies invested, in salt rum &c. with her freight money out; The vessel is a prime sailor & has a Bermuda Register, & manned with negroes save the Capt & mate which may probabl[y] be a cloak for her against the late resolution of the Parliament to seize all American vessels, I am satisfied you cannot employ a vessel more fitting then, the *Friendship,* & sd you determine on this Capt Martin will take your orders respectg the Homeward voyage, & I shall be glad in such case that you Will please write me a few lines in conformity to the above proposal; as I am acting only as an Agent, for Capt Stone and am With all respect. Sir [&c.]

Her^{s} Courtenay.

Balto 18th February 1776.

1. Correspondence of Council of Safety, Md. Arch.

ISAAC VAN BEBBER TO BENJAMIN RUMSEY, ANNAPOLIS [1]

Dear Sir Balt. Feby 18th 1776

as my Brig is now out on acct of the province, should the Counsel See propper to Order any remittances or back freights in any of the Vessals now out, – I should hope that my Brig might S[erve] as well as any other as I [am] told She Sails very fast Since I made a Brig of her –

I make them an offer of the use of the Brig back, put what they will in her for which I will ask no freights only to be insured back £800, which is not above three-fourths of her Value, – provided they do not detain her long in taking in her back freight and if She is detained in taking the Same in, to be paid only the wages and Expences of the brig 'till She Saile[d] wt it, – if them Terms may answer a line from you to the Consigned in the westindies will be sufficcent, I am wt all Esteem [&c.]

Isaac Van Bebber

favr W. Spear

1. Executive Papers, Box 2, Md. Arch.

Andrew Doria JOURNAL [1]

Sunday Feby 18th At 1 PM Weigh'd & put to sea in Company with all the Fleet, having on board One Hundred & four Officers & Men.

1. *Andrew Doria* Journal, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

LORD DUNMORE TO LORD DARTMOUTH [1]

[Extract] [On board the Ship *Dunmore* off Norfolk]
[No. 34] [February 18th, 1776]

This Moment General Clinton is arrived, and to my inexpressable Mortification find he is ordered by Your Lordship to North Carolina a Most insignificant Province, when this which is the first Colony on the Continent, both for its riches and power is tottally Neglected, had North Carolina been your object, policy in my poor opinion ought to have enduced your Lordship to have ordered your Army to have randevoused here, for many reasons, first because this is a Safe Harbour both for access and Rideing in, where Pilots are to be got, the other very difficult of access even for Vessels of Small Burthen, and not a Pilot to be had, and when in, a very unsafe Road Stead, besides this, any little knowledge I have of Military opperations has ever induced me to think it prudent to conceal as long as possible your real intentions from your Enemy, which cannot happen here, because it is impossible to expect that force coming from so many different quarters can all arrive at the same time, or even near it, therefore the Enemy will have time to collect and prepare themselves.

To see my Government thus totally neglected, I own is a Mortification I was not prepared to meet with after being imprisoned on board a Ship between eight and Nine Months and now left without a hope of reliefe either to myself, or the many unhappy friends to Government that are now afloat suffering with me, but I have done. . . .

[Endorsed] Ship *Dunmore* off Norfolk, Virginia, different dates from the 6 Decr 1775 to 13 Febry [*sic*] 1776, No 34 Earl of Dunmore R 4th April ½ pt 7 AM. (32 Inclosures)/Entd

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/1353.

CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, R.N., TO ALL NAVAL CAPTAINS IN VIRGINIA [1]

Mem[oran]dum *Roebuck* off Norfolk the 18th Feby 1776

A Court martial will be held to morrow morning at Eight oClock on board his Majesty's Ship the *Roebuck*

To The Respective Captains
of his Majesty's Ships the

Liverpool *Otter*
Mercury *Kingsfisher*

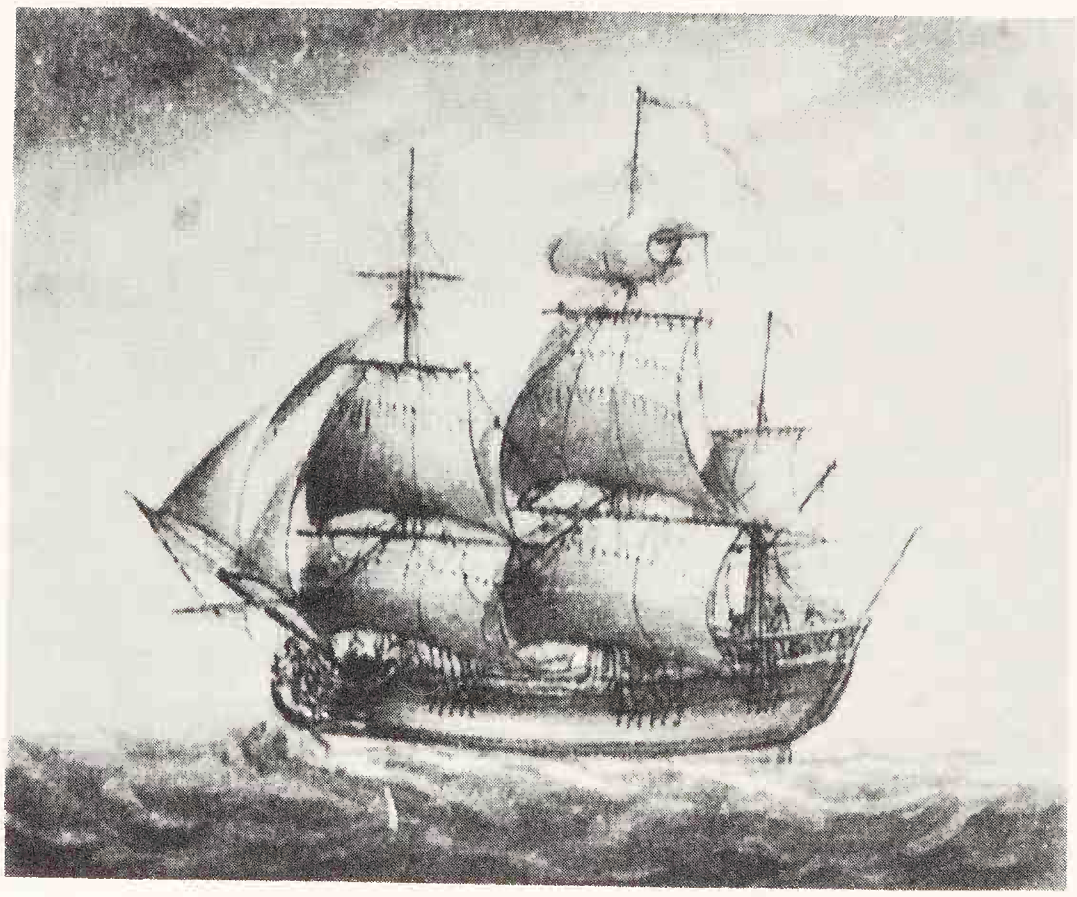
1. Hamond, Orders issued, UVL.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM NORFOLK (VIRGINIA) DATED FEBRUARY 18, 1776, ON BOARD THE *Unicorn*, CAPT. HUTCHINSON, TO HIS OWNERS IN WHITEHAVEN." [1]

We have some hopes of relief out of a distress which this fleet has so long laboured under. The *Roebuck* frigate of 44 guns arrived here a few days ago, and last night two men of war and two transports with troops, but what number I know not, as they are yet lying in Hampton-road. We have suffered the greatest distress for want of provisions, the Provincials having destroyed the country on Norfolk side for many miles round, by setting fire to the houses, driving back the cattle, and every thing that might be of use to us. Our ship is changed from an hospital ship to a smith's forge. I have been on shore these last six days with all our people and negroes, intrenching a small neck of land, to preserve a watering-place, and any necessaries it will admit of.

1. *London Chronicle*, April 20 to April 23, 1776.

APPENDICES



APPENDIX A

Cost of Outfitting Washington's Schooner *Lynch*[1]

[The *Lynch* was the last of the vessels added to George Washington's Squadron operating in New England waters. She was hired from Colonel John Lee, Marblehead, to replace the captured brig *Washington,* and named the *Lynch* in honor of Thomas Lynch of South Carolina who was one of the three-man committee from the Continental Congress which had visited Cambridge in October 1775. There has been much confusion regarding the *Lynch,* arising from the fact that Colonel Joseph Reed had mistaken the *Hancock* for her. As a result, Washington's orders to Nicholson Broughton referred to the *Hancock* as the *Lynch* – an error that has been repeated by most naval historians. Actually, the *Lynch* was not acquired until January 1776. She had been laid up for the winter and frozen in Manchester harbor on the south side of the Cape Ann peninsula, about midway between Gloucester and Beverly.]

[No. 211]
Manchester Jany the 28th 1776

United Colonies Dr
By Capt Eayrs and Lettet Roach by
their order to John allen Dr
for Vituling Lodging & Drink twenty Eight
men at Sundry times as Folows

Jany 28 to the 31	to keeping one horse two Nights and two Days at 2/5	0..4.10
	Letut Roach to one & a half mug of grog	0..1..0
	to one Quart of Rum and Sugar	1..4
	to one pint Ditto	8
	the Guards Expences	
3	to three mugs of Flip at /8	0..2..0
	to one Ditto of today at /8	8
	to ¾ lb of Hogs fatt at /8	6
	to Six mugs of Cyder at /2½	1..8
	to Nine mugs of Beeare	1
	to Seaventeen Suppers at /8	11..4
	to Lodging Eleven men	2.10
4th	to twenty one Brakefasts at /8	14...
	to potatoes	6
	to Nine mugs of Cyder at /2½	1.10½
	to twenty one Suppers at /8	14...
	To Lodging twelve men	3..2½

5	to twenty one Brakefasts at /8	14...
	to one mug of Flip at /8	8
	To two mugs of Cyder at /2½	5
	Letut Roach to one Dinner /8	8
	to one mug of Grog Do	8
	to Nine mugs of Cyder at /2½	1...
	to three Suppers at /8	2...
	to potatoes for Sause	4
	To twelve Lodgings	3..3
	the Carphender and five men to Six Dinners	4...
	to two mugs of Sampson at /8	1..4
	To Six Suppers at /8	4...
6	To Twenty one Brakefasts at /8	14...
	To ten Biscake at /1	10
	To one Quart of Westindia Rum	1..4
	To two Ditto Newengland	2...
	To Seaventy Biscake	8..4
	Capt Eayrs and officers diner three /8	2...
	to one mug & a half mug of todey Do	1...
	to three Quarts and a pint of Rum and Sugar	4...
	to Eighteen Diners at /8	12...
	to Lodging ten men	2..8
7	to twenty one Brakefasts at /8	14...
	to three Quarts of Rum	3..4
	to two Biscake for Capt Eairs	1½
	horse keeping two Nights and two Days 5/	5..0
	the acct Carred Up	£ 7.18.11½
1776		£ s d
Febry the 6th and 7th	from the foot	7.18.11½
	Carphender and five that Came with him	
	to Six Brakefasts at /8	4..0
	To one mug of flip at /8	8
	To Seaven Dinners /8	4..8
	To two mugs of Sampson	1..4
	To Six Brakefasts at /8	4...
		£ 8.13..7½

As witness my hand to the above acct
Erras Excepd John Allen
John Ayres

[Endorsed on reverse]
John Allen a/c
Schr *Linch*

Beverly 21 Feby 1776

Sir Please to Pay unto John Allen the within A/c
it being Just & You will Oblige Your Hum Sert

John Ayres

To William Bartlett
Agent

Reced the within a/c in full John allen

[No. 213]

The United Colonies of America to Jno & Andw Cabot Dr
1776
Feby 9th To 0.3.2 Cordage at 60/. Schr *Lynch* £2..6..2½
Beverley Feby 1776

Recd the above of Wm Bartlett
Stephen Cabot

[Nos. 215, 217]

Beverly February the 10th 1776

United Colonies To Danial Glover Dr

Schooner *Linch* Account

To 2 Double Blocks	10/8	0.10..8
To 5 Single Do	16/0	0..5..0
To 1 Double Do	3/0	0..3..0
To 4 Fids Lignanvity	7/0	0..7..0
To 1 Serving Mallet	1/0	0..1..0
To 1 Set Runers takles	1–0/	1..0..0
To 3 Double Blocks	18/0	0.18..0
To 3 single Do.	12/	0.12..0
To 1 Serving Board	/8	0..0..8
To 4 Single Blocks	6/8	0..6..8
To 3 Single Do	5/	0..5..0
To 1 Do	1/8	0..1..8
To 1 Dedi	1/4	0..1..4
To 4 Do	5/4	0..5..4
To 2 threefold Blocks	8/	0..8..0
To 2 Double Do	5/	0..5..0
To Cutting a hole in the Bowspirit		0..1..0
To 1 Bulls Eye	1/4	0..1..4
To 2 Dedies	2/4	0..2..4
To 1 Threefold Block	4/	0..4..0
To 6 Scrub Brooms	4s	0..4..0
To 2 Caps	12/	0.12..0
To 1 pair of Crosstrees	9/8	0..9..8
To 1 topmast	6/	0..6..0
To 2 Mortises Sheive's & pins	4/	0..4..0
To 1 Square sail yard	12/	0.12..0

To 2 Steering sail Booms 8/	0..8..0
To 1 Flying Jib Boom 8	0..8..0
To 2 Mortises Sheavs & pins 4/	0..4..0
To 1 Ringtail Boom 6/	0..6..0
To 1 mortise sheave & pin 2/	0..2..0
To 2 fids 2/ & 2 Bolsters 8	0..2..8
To 2 Dozen of Cleets 2/10	0..2.10
To 1 topmast 6/	0..6..0
To 3 Mortis & Sheave & pins 5/	0..5..0
To 1 fid to 1 truck 1/8	0..1..8
To 15 Singl Blocks 1.0.0	1..0..0
To 1 fid Lignamvity 1/6	0..1..6
To 2 Three fold Block 4/	0..4..0
To 1 Traveler 1/4	0..1..4
To 2 threefold Trucks 2/	0..2..0
To 2 Dedys 2/8	0..2..8
To 4 Single Blocks 5/4	0..5..4
To 4 futtick Stafs 2/	0..2..0
To 1 Singl Block 4/	0..4..0
To 1 Double Do 3/4	0..3..4
To 1 Dedy 1/4	0..1..4
To 1 Single Block 1/8	0..1..8
To 1 fid Lignamvita 1/6	0..1..6
To 1 Singl Block 1/4	0..1..4
[Line cut off]	
Brought from other Side	14.11.10
To 4 Single Blocks 5/4	0..5..4
To 2 Do 3/4 to 1 Dozen belayin pins	0..4..4
To 2 Double trucks 2/	0..2..0
To 11 Single 14/8	0.14..8
To 1 Do 1/8 To 1 Do 2/	0..3..8
To 6 feet plank 2/ to 4 feet Oak tmber	0..4..8
To a kittle to grave 2/	0..2..0
To 7 Scrub brooms 4/8	0..4..8
To 1 Double Block 4/ To ½ Dozen Belayin pins	0..5..0
To 4 Set of pump Boxes 8/	0..8..0
To 7 feet of plank 2/4	0..2..4
To 2 Double trucks 2/ to 1 Single Block	0..3..4
To Single Blocks 2/8	0..2..8
To 2 Spars 3/4 to A spare Squar sail yard 12/	0.17..4
To Brushes & Soap 1/4 to a Cro[ss]jack yard 8/	0..9..4
To 2 Mortises Sheavs & pins 4/	0..4..0
To 2 Topsail yards 12 to ½ Dozen Cleets 2/	0.14..0
To 1 Grindstone 6/ to 9 feet of oak timber	0..7..8½
To 2 Mallets 1/4 to 3 Single Blocks 4/	0..5..4
To 2 mortises Sheaves & pins in the steering S1 Booms	0..3..4

To Shaven a gaff 2/ To 12 Shroud trucks 2/	0..4..0
To 12 Belaying pins 2/ to 1 truck /8	0..2..8
To 3 feet pine timber /8	0..0..8
To 9 feet Oak Board 1/10½	0..1.10½
To 10 Single Blocks 13/4	0.13..4
To 3 Double Do 8/	0..8..0
To 3 Single Do 6/ to 2 feet of Oak timber	0..8..0
To 2 Mortises 2 Sheavs Boom 5/4	0..5..4
To 6 Cleets 4/ to 1 hand pump 2/8	0..6..8
To 3 Double Blocks 8/	0..8..0
To 13 feet of Oak Board 2/8	0..2..8
To 3 feet Oak timber 3/	0..3..0
To 1 gouage 2/ to 1 file /8	0..2..8
To 1 Ensighn Staff 2/	0..2..0
To 2 Single blocks 4/8 To 2 Do 3/4	0..8..0
To ½ Dozen belaying pins 1/	0..1..0
To 1 Single Block 4/ to 2 Do 6/	0.10..0
To 5 Double Blocks 10/ to 2 Do 8/2	0.18..2
To 2 Do 3/4 To 3 Do 12/	0.12..0
To 6 Shroud Cleets 6/ To 3 fids Lignamvita	0.10..6
To 1 Single Block 1/4 to 9 Do 12/	0.13..4
To 1 Double Do 3/4 To 1 Single 1/	0..4..8
To 12 hanspikes 12/	0.12..0
Sum Total £	28.14..1½

Errors Excepted

Daniel Glover

[Endorsed on reverse]

Reced the within Contents
of William Bartlett
Daniel Glover

[No. 219]

Febry 11th 1776

The United Collinies Dr to Benja Balch Lovitt

To Eighteene Loade of Ballace For The Schooner *Linch*	£ 3.12...
To halling 1 thousand Bords @ 2/	2...
Erors Excepted	£ 3.14...

pr me

Benja Balch Lovet

Beverly Febry 26:1776 Reced the Above in full
of Wm Bartlett

Benja Balch Lovet

[No. 221]

Receiv'd from William Bartlett Esqr Ten pounds lawful Money in full for two bolts of duck for the use of the united Collonys – Schr *Linch*

Salem February 14th 76

Russell Wyes

[No. 223]

Recd of William Bartlett for the Use of Schooner *Linch*

40	Galls W I Rum
36	Do Moloses
10	Barrs Beef
86	lb Rice –
5	Bush Potatoes
18½	lb Candles
13	Bbls Bread

Beverly Feb 21th 1776
Pr Cabb Stone
[Endorsed on reverse]
Schoor *Linch*
Receipt

[No. 225]

The *Lynch* Continental arm'd Schooner To Jas Woodard

			Dr
1776			
Feby 21	To 4b of Scuper nails @	/8	0..2..8
	To 1 Nine Inch Rule	1/6	1..6
			£ 0..4..2

Errors Excepted

Jas Woodward
[Endorsed on reverse]

Reced the Contens in full of
Wm Bartlett Jas Woodward

[No. 227]

William Bartlet Esqr
Sr
The Within Acc. is for hir'd men getten the Schooner *Lynch,* through the Ice, wch Please to pay & Charge to her Acct
Your Hble Servt
John Ayres
Feby 22d 1776
[Endorsed]
Schr *Linch* a/c
[On reverse]

A Bill of Hierd men Wages at Manchester for the Schooner *Linch*

Viz Robart pery	to	1	Days Work	0..3..0
John pery	Do	1	Do	0..3..0
thomass Gentelley		1	Do	0..3..0
Moses may	Do	1	Do	0..3..0
William Hooper		2	Do	0..6..0
William Babcock		2	Do	0..6..0
Edward blaitneal		1	Do	0..3..0
David Hopes		1	Do	0..3..0
				£ 1.10..0

Jenery 28 1776

[No. 229]

1776	The younited Colonies of Ameraca to Joseph Vincent		Dr
February 8			
	To 10–2–10 Cordg & Spunyarn @ 66/8d ac Capt Ares	£	35.11..8
13	To 2–1–17 Do @ 66/8d		8..0..2
15	To 1–2–7 Do @ 66/8d		5..4..2
16	To 4–0–14 Do @ 66/8d		13.15..0
20	To 2–0–20 Do @ 66/8d		7..5.10
	To 24 Tipsy line @ 1/6d		1.16...
	To 12 twine @ 3/		1.16...
	To 9 Codlines @ 5/6d		2..9..6
	To 3 log lines @ 4/		12...
24	To 4–3–21 haser & Cordg @ 66/8d		16..9..2
		£	92.19..6

[Endorsed on reverse]
Contents Reced of William Bartlett
Joseph Vincent
Jos Vincents a/c

[No. 231]

Dr Schr *Lynch* Ayres Comm to Eben Foster

1776

Feby 8	To 2 Spikes 1/8 balg pot 1/6	3..2
	To 2 Mopnails 9 Links & Strap 29½ 24/	1..5..5½
	To 2 Staples 2 thimbles	1..8
	To 24 hooks & thimbles	1.16..0
	To 1 Do 2/9 nails 1/2 Large Iron hooks 12/	15..0
	To 2 hooks & thims 10/6 4b Decknails 3/4	13.10
	To 2 hooks & thims 5/2½ Spikes 2/1	7..1
	To 1 hook & thimble	4..0
	To 24 lb 3/4 Bolts & Decknails at 10d	1..0..7½
	To 6 Straps 45¼ at 9d 33/1½ 72 nails 6/	1.19.11½
12	To makeg 2 Straps & plates for Caps	14..0
	To Putg on Do 4/ 18 Nails 1/6	5..0
	To 4 R & Cg 1/8 6¼ Spikes 5/2¼	6.10½
	To 1 Crow 20b 15/ 14 3/4 bolts & Spikes 12/ 3½	1..7..3½
	To 6 Channel plates 6 Strap 6 nails	6..6
	To Strap & bolt 10½	8..9
	To 1 Dead eye & puting on Strap	2..1
	To 12 Doggs 4/ 11 thimbles 3/8	7..8
	To 2 hooks 3 thimbles	5..6
	To 1 Staple 3 nails 8d 12 Doggs 4/	4..8
	To 2 hook thimbles & Nails	9..6
	To 1 hook & thim 1/9 1 Traveler 4/	5..9
	To 40 Ring & Eye bolts 100 lb	4..3..4
	To 10 Pair hooks & Hinges 48½	2..0..4½
	To 2 hooks & thimbles 3/6 L Swivel Do 4/	7..6
	To Crabing 12 Handspikes	18..0
	To 4 Large thimbles	4..0
	To 2 Large hooks & thimbles 9½ lb	8..0
	To 102 Nails 8/6 2 Swivel hooks 7/6	16..0
	To 1 Pendant thimble 1/6 To 1 Ringtail Boom iron 9 lb 7/6	9..0
	Carried Over £	22.16.11

[On reverse]

Contents Recd of Capt Wm Bartlett

Eben Foster

48..8.11½
3.19..4½
18..8..5½
1.18..8
1..7..2½

74..2..8

[No. 235]

1776	The Schr *Lynch* to William Gray	Dr
Feby 27	To Painting Schr	1.16..0
	To Painting 6 Guns at 1/pr	0..6..0
	To Painting 10 Swivels @ /4	0..3..4
	To 12 Tomkins at /4 12 do at /2	0..6..0
	To 6 lb Puttee at /9½	0..4..8
		£ 2.16..0
	To Paint 5/ & Brushs 10d	5.10
		3..1.10

Errors Except'd pr

William Gray

[Endorsed on reverse]

Rec'd the within of
William Bartlett

William Gray

Capt Wm Bartlett sir please
to pay the within account to William Gray and youl
Oblidge Your Hb Servt John Ayres
Beverly Feb. 27 1776

[No. 237]

Dr The Thirteen United Colonyes for the
Use of the Armd Schooner *Lynch* Capt J. Ayrs
To Carting Riging from Salem to Beaverly
Sundry Times £ 0..9..4
Reced February 28th 1776 from W Bartlett Esqr
In full John Tiley

[Endorsed on reverse]
Recd Jno Tiley a/c

[No. 239]

Beverly Febry 28th 1776 Received of
William Bartlett Esqr thirty Pounds Lawful Money to purchase
Small arms, for the Use of the *Lynch* Continental arm'd Schooner,
by order of Stephen Moylan Esqr

John Ayres Commdr

£ 30..——

[Endorsed on reverse]
Capt. Jno Ayres
Recet

[No. 241]

The united Colonies to Larkin Thorndike Dr

1776	1600 feet of Bords at 5 pr [100] for the Schr *Linch*	4..0..0

Beverly febury 29th 1776

Errors Except
Larkin Thorndike

[Endorsed on reverse]
Recd the Within Contents of William Bartlett Larkin Thorndike

[No. 243]

The United Collernies to Joseph Wyer Dr
For Work Dun For the Schooner *Linch* Captan Ears

Marster To Mending the Main Sail	£	0..6..0
To Mending and altering the Four Sail		0.18..0
To Mending and altering the Jibb		0.18..0
To Mending and altering the Flying Jibb		0..6..0
To Mending and altering Two Top Sails		0.10..0
The Mending the Squar Sail		0..2..0
To Making a Ring Tal		0..6..0
To Six Pound of Twin att 3s/ pr		0.18..0
		4..4..0

Err Except Beverly Feby 19th 1776

[Endorsed on reverse]
Contents Reced of William Bartlett

Joseph Wyer

[No. 245]

The United Colonies of America to Wm Adams Dr

1776	for Schoor *Lynch* To 3½ day work @ 5/4	18..8

[Endorsed on reverse]
Contents Reced of Wm Bartlett

Willm Adams

[No. 247]

The United Colonies of America to Steph Chapman
for Sundr for the Schr *Lynch*

1776	To 5½ days Work	@ 5/4	1..9..4	
	To 4 feet plank	@	1..4	1.10..8

[Endorsed on reverse]
Contents Reced of Wm Bartlett

Stephen Chapman

[No. 249]

The United Colonies of America to Saml Gyles Dr

For Victualling the Carpenters while they were to work on the Armd Vessell *Lynch Hancock* &c

1776	To Victualling	£ 6..8..4

[Endorsed on reverse]

Contents Reced of Wm Bartlett

Saml Gyles

[No. 251]

The United Colonies of America to
Sam. Gyles

1776 To Sundry Work done on board
Schr *Lynch*

Vizt

To 87 feet plank @ 5d	1.16..3	
To 22 feet Oake timber @ 1/	1..2..0	
To 15½ days work @ 6/	4.13...	
To Sundry tools	2.14...	
To 1 pott	1..8...	11.13..3

[Endorsed on reverse]

Contents Reced of Wm Bartlett

Saml Gyles

[No. 253]

The Continent to Thomas Horsley Dr

For Rigging the armed Scooner *Lynch* Capt John Ayres Five Pound, twelve Shillings Lawfull Money for Seven Days Work (viz)

To 4 Men at 2 Shillings Lawfull pr Day for 7 Days	£ 2.16..0
To Myself at 8 Do Do Do	2.16..0
	£ 5.12..0

Recd the above Contents pr me Thos Horsley
of Wm Bartly

[No. 255]

The United Colonies of America to Jos Picket Dr

1776	To 19 Days work @ 4/	
	To 126 feet Timber	1.11..6
	To 3 Carrige weels	3...
		5.10..6

Reced Beverly Feby 1776 the Above in full of
William Bartlett

Joseph picket

[No. 257]

The United Colonies of America to Benjn Robinson
for Schooner *Lynch*

1776	To 9½ days work @ 5/4	2.10..8

[Endorsed on reverse]
Contents Reced of Wm Bartlett

Benjamin Robinson

[No. 259]

United Collonys of America to Jno Roche

	Dr
To Cash paid portridge at sundrys	7..6
To Do to Mr Gray for paint & oyle	1..5..3
To Do for repairing 3 Compasses & 4 new Glasses	1..5..0
To Expences at Manchester & during fixing the Vessel	7..4..0
	£ 10.11..9

Recd the Contents from Wm Bartlett
Esqr

Jno Roche

[No. 261]

The United Colonies of America to Thos Tucker

1776	for Schooner *Lynch*	Dr
	To 9½ days work @ 5/4	2.10..8

[Endorsed on reverse]
Contents reced of Willm Bartlett

Thomas Tucker

[No. 263]

1776 Schooner *Lynch* Capt John Ayers Dr

To 2¼ Cord wood at 21/4 4 Hund Scupper Nails 2/8	£ 2.10..8
To 4 Swivel Guns a 40/	8.......
To 1 Four Pounder	20.......
To 1 Boat	8.......
To John Allens acct	8.13..7½
To ½ Hund Rice	..9...
To 16½ Galls Rum a 4/	3..6...
To Thomas Horsley's Acct	3.12...
To Capt Ayeres's accot	1.10...
To Russell Wyens acct	10.......
To 2 Bucketts 2/3 Water Cash 40/	2..2...
To 40 Gallons West India Rum a 4/	8.......
To 36 Gallons Molosses a 2/8d	4.16...

To 10 Barrils Beef a 62/4	31 . . 3 . . 4	
To 3 Bushs Potats a 2s/ 18½lb Candles a /8d	1 . . 2 . . 4	
To 17 Bbbls Bread wt 13,2,23 lb a 28/	19 . . 3 . . 9	
To 17 Bbls for do at 1s/	17 . . .	
To 0,3,2 lb Rice a 18/	13.10	135 . 19 . . 6½
To John & Andw Cabotts acco	2 . . 6 . . 2½	
To Joseph Wyens a/c	4 . . 4 . . .	
To B.B.Lovetts a/6 74/	3 . 14 . . .	
To Joseph Vincents Acco	92 . 10 . . 6	
To 80 Feet Oars 13/4 John Tiley's acco 9/4	1 . . 2 . . 8	
To John Woodards a/c	4 . . 2	
To John Roachs acco	30	
To 5 lb Pump Leather	7 . . 6	145 . . 9 . . 9½
To Robert Roundys acco	8 . 14 . . 1	
To 30 lb Tallow	16 . . .	
To Larkin Thorndikes a/c 80/ Wm Gray a/c 61/10	7 . . 1 . 10	
To Joseph picketts acco	5 . 10 . . 6	
To two Topsails	8 . . 4 . . 6	
To Squair Sail and Other Small Sails	19 . . 5 . 11	
To Benjamin Robinsons acco	2 . 10 . . 8	
To Saml Giles's acco	18 . . 1 . . 7	
To Stephen Chapmans Acco	1 . 10 . . 8	
To Thomas Tuckers a/c 50/8d Wm Adams a/c 18/8	3 . . 9 . . 4	
To Ebenezer Fosters acco	48 . . 8 . 11½	
To Daniel Glovers Acct	28 . 14 . . 1	152 . . 8 . . 1½
	£	433 . 17 . . 5½

Beverly 1st March 1776

Errors Excepted P William Bartlett

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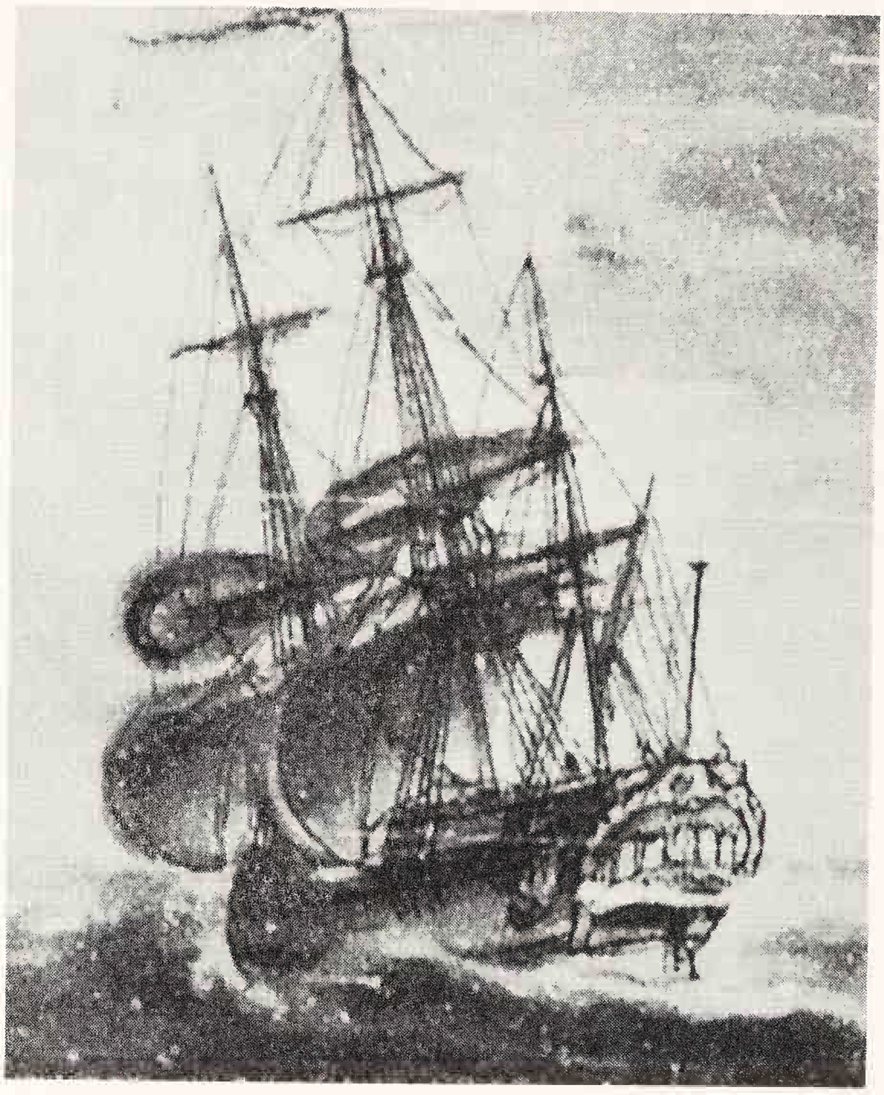
1. Prizes and Captures, LC. Accounts relating to the *Lynch* run in odd numbers from 211 to 263, omitting 233. Prizes and Captures is a folio volume of some two hundred documents in the Manuscript Division, Library of Congress. The title of this interesting collection is somewhat unfortunate since the major portion of the manuscripts relates to accounts for outfitting and provisioning the ships of Washington's fleet. However, there are some materials bearing on prizes such as accounts for the captured ordnance brig *Nancy*.



APPENDIX B

Entries into the Port of Baltimore, March 13, 1775 to March 16, 1776 [1]

[The Baltimore Committee in March 1775 prepared an oath to be taken by all masters of vessels entering that port, swearing they had not imported any products of the British Isles or British Colonies. It read:

> You A.B. do make Oath on the Holy Evangels of Almighty God, that you have not Imported in the Ship or Vessell called the [blank] whereof you are Master during this present Voyage, except necessary Stores for the use of the said Vessell, which are not for Sale, any Goods Wares or Merchandize whatsoever from Great Britain or Ireland or ——— of the growth or Manufacture of Great Britain or Ireland, or any Goods exported from them or either of them, or any East India Tea, or any Molasses Syrups, Paneles [2] Coffee or Piemento of the Growth of the British West India Islands or Dominica or any Wines from Madeira or the Western Islands, or Foreign Indigo, or any Slave or Slaves.

Each master signed his name,and wrote in the name of his vessel and from whence he had come, upon a form headed by the above oath. The entry list provides an interesting view of the orthographic attainments of many of the captains.]

1775

March 13th Jona Clark of the Brig *Baltimore* from probadas [Barbados]
Watson Crosby of the Skooner *Polly* from [Grenada] [3]
Joshua Paine of the Schoor *welcome* from modaria
John Fulford of the Schoonr *Frinds Adventure* From Barbados
Isaac Snow from Sant Crouix Sconer *Betsey*

27 March Thos Jarrold from Lisbon ship *Dulany*
Nathl Gray from Sallam in the Schoonor *Salley*
Peter Symons from Lisborn [brig] *Mary Carrol*

3 April Willm Harper *Hawke* from the granada
Richd Stacey *America* from Newbury port
David Ross *Union* from Marblehead
R[t] Craig *Harriot* from Lisbon

April 5th Thos Roland of the Brigg *Betsey* from Guersney
Sworn before Mr Willm. Russell

April 10th Wm Waud [of] Snow *Betsey* from Portugal

Ap[ri]l 17. James Scott Brigt *Dolphin* from Boston
Thos Wood Master of the Brig *Wren* [from Jamaica]
Sloop *Two Brothers* Henry Woolf
Brigg *William* Alexr Ferguson [4]

24 April	Schooner *Industry* from Antigua Wm Woolsey
	James Forbes of the Schooner *Tryton* [from St. Croix]
	Snow *Hope* Jno Hyde from Poole
	John Smith of the Brigg *James* from Cork
	William Barron of the Ship *Peggy* [from Lisbon]
	Purnell Johnson junr of the Schooner *Fanny* from St Croix
May 1st	James Campbell of the Brig *Autumn* from Cadiz & Newyork –
	John Brackett of Sloop *Grampus* from St Croix
	Jno Norwood of the Ship *Hercules* from Dublin
	Alexr Kennedy of Shipe *Baltimore pac[ket]* from London
2 May	Wm Jones Schooner *Nancy* from St Croix
	Peter Tempeltoun of brig *Jane* from London
	Thomas Nicholson of the Ship *Maryland Planter* from London
8th May	Willm Sewell of the Ship *Calvert* of London
	Richd Dickinson of the Snow *Faney & Jeney* from London
May 12th	James Burrow of the Ship *Nancy* from Milford
	Wm. McNeely Snow *Jenny* from Cork
May 15	Daniel Lawrence of Ship *Janny & polly* from Bristole
	James Phillips of Brig *Rodgers* from Belfast
	Alexr Cathrew Brig *Dutchess of Leinster* from Dublin
	Robt Stonehouse Ship *Union* from London
18 May	Robt Collings of the Ship *Neptune* from London
	David Lewis Ship *Patuxent* from London
19 May	Zedekiah Walley of the Schooner *Mary* from Cork
	James Lightbourn of the Sloop *Friendship* from Bermuda
29 May	John Thompson of the Sloop *Kitty* for Providence.
	James Tibbitt of the Brig *Rachel* from Jamaica.
	Jos. Towner of the Schooner *Hannah* from [Geo]Town So Caro[lina].
	Ab[r]a: Trefather of the Schooner *Greyhound* from Piscataway N.E.
	Captn Willm Lightbourne [of the brig *Elizabeth & Mary*] from Bermuda.
June 7th	Andw Bryson of Ship *Union* from London
	John Mauger of the Brigg *John* from Liverpoole
June 8th	Thos Newell of the Brigg *Friendship* from St Martins
	Jas McNeile of the Ship *Katherine* from Dublin
June 9th	Matthew Craymer of the Ship *Brothers* from London
June 12th	Schooner *Polly* from Jemoco Watson Crosby
15 June	Wm Frost of Ship *Friendship* from London
	James Campbell of the Brigt *Molly* from Barbados
16 June	William Brown of Sloop *Swan* from Casco Bay.
26 June	Chas Reily of the Ship *Charles* from Liverpool
	Nathl Cook of schooner *Eliza* from Selem N.E.
	William Stone of Sloop *Polly* from St Kitts
	John Lovet of the Schr *Swallow* from St Thomas's

27 June	Thomas Spencer of Ship *Elizabeth* from Bristol
29 June	Joseph mallett of Ship *Kitty* from Hamburgh
1 July	Wm Thomas of Ship *Clibborn* from Hamburgh
3 July	Nichs Fortune the Snow *Catherine* from Yougha[ll]
	Jno Parker the Ship *Aston Hall* fr London
	Richd Curtis of the Brig *Phila* from Waterford
	Finlay Gray of the Ship *Thornton* from London
	Chs Poaug of the Ship *John* from Belfast
5 July	James Bartholomew of Ship *prince george* from Allecant
	Jona Thacher of the Schooner *Nancy* from Providence
10 July	James Thomas of ship *Izabella* from Bristol
	Robert Callow of Brig *Escape* from Millford
	Jos Richardson of ship *Cambden* from London
	Nicholas Howard of Sloop *Delight* fr[om] St Croix
13 July	John Martin of the *Friendship* from Barmuda
	Wm Jones of the *Nancy* from St Croix
24 July	Richd Talbot of Sloop *Betty* from Norfolk
	Joseph Oakman of Sloop *Two Sisters* from Antigua
26 July	Timothy W[o]dham of Sloop *Lively* from Providence
	John Wright of Brig *Success* from Portsmouth

1775	Masters Name	Vessels Name	where from	To whome Consd [5]
July 27th	Jos:Hutchins	Sloop *William*	Providence	To the Captain
31	Hunlock Jeffry	Schooner *Betsy*	St Lucia	To the Captain
	Purnell Johnson	Schooner *Fanny*	Nevis	Button & Clarke
Augt 9	Patt North	*Duke of Leinster*	Dublin	David Stewart
	Joseph Newman	Brigg *Conclusion*	Guadaloupe	S & R Purviance
	James Rogers	Ship Ld *Cambden*	Cork	Thos Ewing
10	James Forbes	Schr *Tryton*	Turks Isld	Jams Clark
14	Thos Jarrold	Ship *Dulany*	France	Jona Plowman
21	Joseph Curry	Ship *Rose*	Lo: Derry	Saml Carson
Sepr 4	Robt Wallace	Brig *Mary*	Bristol	Brearton & Gardner
	Tho Egger Jur	Ship *Charlotte*	New Castle	David Stewart
18	John Morris	Brig *Beith*	Hispaniola	Mr Walker
29	Walter Burke	Brig *Julian*	Galway	Thoms Ewing
Octr 9	John Southcomb	Brigg *Harriot*	Jamaica	Jno Southcomb
	Nat W: Cook	Schooner *Eliza*	Monseritt	Mel. Kuner
16	Benjamin Jones	Schr *Resolution*	Grenada	Lux & Bowley
	Thos Kell	Schor *Dolphin*	Grenada	Arch Buchanan
19	Abrm Bartlett	Schr *Adventure*	Jamaica	to Self
	Wm Jones	Schooner *Nancy*	St Croix	Wm Neill
	Moses Hatfield	Schr *SeaFlower*	No Carola	Self
21	John Martin	Brigg *Freindship*	St Kitts	Wm Stone
23	John Brackett	Sloop *Grampus*	Jamaica	Mark Alexander
	Joshua Barney	Ship *Sidney*	Giberaltar	Jno Smith & Sons

1775	Masters Name	Vessels Name	where from	To whome Consd
Novr 13	James Tibbett	Brig *Rachael*	London	Lux & VnBibber
15	Robt Forsyth	Brig *Sam*	Allicant	Jno Cornthwaite
30	William Barker	Schr *Peggy*	Jama & Turks Isld	Jams Clark
Decr 18	Isaac Vn Bibber	Schor *Hannah*	Jamaica	Isaac VnBibber
	Wm McNeill	Sloop *Ranger*	Turks Island	Ab. Vanbibber
	Jacob Small	Sloop *Ranger* [6]	Barbados	Thos M'Cobb
	Thos MCobb Owner of sd Sloop took the same Oath –			
1776				
Jan: 3	Purnell Johnson	*Fanny*	Turks Island	James Clark
	Charles Allen	*Speed*[*fair*]	Surnam	Solomon Allen
	John Aver	*Betsy*	From hispanoles	
6	John Horn	Sloop *Snow Bird*	fm Rhode Isld	Mr Wall
8	Wm Chace	Sloop *John*	Stacey [7]	Wm Chace
8	Joseph Oakman	Sloop *two Sister*[*s*]	Antague	Wm Spear
22	Daniel Marchant	Schr *John*	fm Salem	Thomas Ewing
29	Seth Padduck	Sloop *Mayflower*	from Nantucket	(Self)
Feb: 15	Zebadiah Shepardson	Sloop *Sally*	fm Providence	Solomn Allen
19	Jesse Harding	Schr *Jenny*	Falmouth NE	Geo: Wollsey
March 4	Frrs Herbert	Schr *Nancy*	Virginia	Geo Matthews
16	David Louren	Sloop *Snow Bird*	Rhode Isld	Wm Wall

1. Baltimore Committee, LC.
2. Pinole.
3. Bracketed words are supplied from Appendix A, Volume 1.
4. No port of departure was indicated for these two vessels, which probably were in the coastal trade.
5. At this point consignee information was included on form.
6. Apparently the name was entered by mistake and crossed through, but the real name was not inserted.
7. St. Eustatius.

APPENDIX C

MARYLAND SHIP *Defence* – ESTIMATED COST, DIMENSIONS, INVENTORY [1]

[The cost record, kept by William Lux and Daniel Bowly, the agents, is dated March 1, 1776. The dimensions of the ship and her complete inventory were compiled by John Thomas Boucher, her first lieutenant, and are not dated. However, as Boucher resigned from the Maryland navy on March 27, 1776, to accept an appointment as commodore of the Virginia navy, his records were probably submitted along with Lux and Bowly's records on March 1, 1776.]

An Estimate of the Cost of the Ship *Defence*

The Hull Cost	£	1350..–..–
Cash paid Capt Nicholson to pay for Board &c		500..–..–
paid Carpenters Joiners, Riggers, Carriage &c		1817..16..2
paid for Sundry Stores Ship Chandlery & Sail Cloth		687..10..11
paid for Beef, Pork Cheese & Potatoes		475..–..–
paid for [blank] & Bedding		672..–..10
paid in part for Water Casks		150..–..–
paid in part for Bread & Flour		100..–..–
paid H. Young for 1 anchor & part of Cable		105..5..4
paid for 42½ Tons of Pig Iron for Ballast		371..17..6
Cordage Bill 11. Ton 7.cwt 3.qr 25.1 65		740..18..3
paid S. & R. Purviance for 2379 yds Canvas		285..9..8
		7255..18..8
Bills not brot in		2017..–..–
20 Guns at £25		500..–..–
4 Tons of Powder		1500..–..–
	£	11272..18..8

100 Muskets
50 Pr. Pistols
100 Cutlasses
in the above acct is included abt 50 Bbs Beef more than the Ship will probably take – And many small Bills will yet come in to the amt as is supposed of £500. Sails & Cordage for a Tender is included in this acct

Lux & Bowly Agents
1 March 1776.

Bills not yet brot in.

Water Casks	150..–..–
6 Ton Shot	120..–..–
Copper Smith	150..–..–
Sailmakers	45..–..–
Bread & Flour	96..5..–
Rum	250..–..–
Vinegar	100..–..–
Beer & Cyder	60..–..–
Rice, Sugar, Tobo &c	40..–..–
Block Maker	50..–..–
Gun Carriages	200..–..–
Cabbin Stores	150..–..–
Match Rope, Paper &c	27.10..–
Charges on Guns from Phil	50..–..–
Battle Axes & Half Pikes	40..–..–
Cartouch Boxes & Gunners Stores	100..–..–
Medicine Chest	50..–..–
2 Boats	70..–..–
20 Rifles	100..–..–
	1848.15..–
Black Smith	168..5..–
	2017..–..–

"Dimentions of the Ship *Defence*."

Extreme length of Keel	76 feet
Length of the Gun Deck	85
Ditto Quarter Deck	45 – 1½ in
Ditto Main Deck	25..8 "
Ditto For Castle	22
Depth of the Waist	5 – 2½
Breadth of Beam from inside to inside	4 – 10½
Height between Decks from skin to skin	24
Depth in the Hold	6 – 10

When 4 Months Provisions is on board for 180 Men, her draft of water will not exceed 12½ feet.

Inventory.

Masts yards & Rigging compleat. The greatest part is new.
2 spare Lower Yards
2 Do Topsail Yards
2 Do Topmasts
4 Do Steeringsail booms
6 Do Yards.
2 Compleat setts of Luff Tackle blocks & a sufficient quantity of spare blocks
2 old Cables & a great quantity of old Rigging.
2 Bower Anchors
1 Stream Anchor
1 Kedge Ditto
1 Stream Cable } New
2 Towlines } New
8 Coils of Spare Rigging

Gunners Stores.

18 Six Pounders on the Main Deck
2 Four Do on the Quarter Deck
Britchens & Tackells compleate for them.
1600 Round Shot for them
100 Grape Shot 10 nine ounce balls in each Grape
72 Double headed Shot.
200 Hand Grenades
60 Pole Axes
60 Half Pikes
400 wt of Match Rope
20 Rope Rammers with Spunges.
24 Worms & Spunges.
8 Ladles
20 Staff Rammers with Spunges
42 Cartridge Boxes
36 Match Stafs, or Link Stocks
40 Powder Horns with Primeing Wires
20 Betts
30 Iron Crows
40 Handspikes

Lanthorns bespoke {
8 Horn Signl Lanthorns
1 Dozn Fire Lanthorns
2 Dozn Horn Lanthorns to be made with flat backs for the Guns

Have also ordered 68 Bayonetts & 80 Bayonett belts also 80 Cartouch Boxes
56 Musketts
12 Bayonetts

24 Cutlas[s]es
2 Blunderbusses – Brass Barrells
½ Coil 5 Inch Rope for Britchens
2 Coils of Rope for Gun Tackel falls
6 Arm Chests. Match Tubs for Gun Deck & Tops
Powder lbs Cannot be less than 2000 cwt
Boatswain, Carpenter, Cooper, Steward & Cooks Stores Compleat
Weights Scales & Measures & 2 Copper Water Pumps
2 Deep Sea lands & Lines
3 hand Do Do
Time Glasses & Compasses & Logg lines a sufficient quantity
3 Speaking Trumpets
Furniture for 4 Pumps for the Ship, Compleat.
1 Eight oar'd Barge furniture compleat with swivel stock
1 Whale Boat Do
1 Small Boat Do

Sails

1 Spritsail
1 Do Topsail
1 Fore Topmast Staysl
1 Fore Staysail
1 Fore Sail
1 Fore Top Sail
1 Main Topmast Staysail
1 Main Top Gallt Do
2 Main Topsails
1 Main Top Gallt Sail
1 Mizon Staysail
1 Do Topmast Staysail
1 Mizon
1 Do Topsail
1 Stringtail
1 Topmast Steeringsail
2 Top Gallt Do
16 New Double hamocks

The above sails are all new.

1 Fore Sail
1 Do Topsail
1 Fore Top Gallt Sail
1 Jibb
1 Fore Staysail
2 Top Gallt Royalls
1 Mizon Top Gallt Sail
1 Do Topsail
2 Main Sails

2 Lower Steeringsails
2 Topmast Do
1 Driver
56 Hamocks made out of Old Sails
1 Mizon

The above Sails tolerable good.

A Viol & Messenger & proper Blocks for them
A Compleat set of new Tarpaulins Coats for Masts & Pumps
3 Sutes of Colours. A sufficient quantity of Bunting for Signals. –
Waist & quarter Cloth
I believe there is more Stores am certain there is not less.

John Thos Boucher –

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1. Revolutionary Records, Ship *Defence,* MdHS.

APPENDIX D

CHANDLERY SUPPLIED TO THE CONTINENTAL FLEET[1]

[The Day Book of James Wharton, Philadelphia ship chandler, shows the progress in outfitting the first Continental Fleet under Commodore Esek Hopkins during the winter of 1775–1776. Daily entries specify not only an account of the chandlery provided but give rather definite information as to when each vessel was acquired and when its new name was assigned.

The *Black Prince* appears first in the Day Book on November 4, 1775, and on November 8, after two listings under that name, Wharton's final entry of that day charges the chandlery supplied to "Ship *Alfred.*" Similarly, the Ship *Sally,* first appears November 24, and so continues until December 8, when she becomes the *Columbus.* An unnamed brig is recorded November 17 by Wharton, which on December 19, he calls the *Andrew Doria.* The Day Book lists the *Providence* in the final bill, but the entries Wharton makes December 15, 18 and 22 call her the *Kitty* rather than her proper earlier name, *Katy.*

Because some the chandlery items have long been obsolete, a glossary along with a table of weights then in use have been placed at the end of this appendix.]

November 4 1775
The *Black Prince* Dr
7 Scrapers 6 White Wash brushes
6 Empty Tarr brushes [*sic* barrels?] –
Black Prince had Blocks & Fall
Ship *Black Prince* Dr
6 Berch Brooms
Novemr 7th
Ship *Black Prince* Dr
1 Barrell Tarr
November 8th 1775
Ship *Black Prince* Dr
1 Coil 3½ In Rope Wt

	c	qr	lb
1 Coil 3½ In Rope Wt	2	2	13

18 Empty Tarr Barrells
Ship *Black Prince* Dr
4 Birch Brooms
Ship *Alfred* Cap Dr
24 Scains Marline

		c	qr	lb
1 Coil 2½ In: ½ Do 2½ In: 1 Do 2 Ins: 1 Do Spun yarn	Wt	3	0	25

November 10th 1775
Ship *Alfred* Cap Dr
6 lb hogs Lard 1 lb Lampblack
2 lb Whipping Twine ½ Gn paint oyle

		c	qr	lb
4 Coils 2¼ In Rope 1 Do Spun yarn	Wt	4	0	17

November 11th 1775
Ship *Alfred* Cap Dr

	c	qr	lb
1 Coil 1¼ Inch Rope	0	2	4

Novemr 13th 1775
Ship *Alfred* Cap Dr
2 lb 10d Nails –
Ship *Alfred* Cap Dr

	c	qr	lb
4 Coils 3 yarn Spun yarn Wt	1	3	18
½ Coil 4½ Inch Rope	3	3	12
2 Stays & 1 Coil 6 Shd Rattlg	2	3	9

November 17th 1775
Ship *Alfred* Cap Dr

	c	qr	lb
1 Coil 5½ Inch Rope	5	2	1

Brigt for Congress
8 lb 10d & 20d Nails
Ship *Alfred* Cap Dr
2 Reams & 3 quires Cartrige paper
18th
Ship *Alfred* Dr

	c	qr	lb
Piece 3 Inch Rope	1	1	4½

Novemr 20th 1775
Ship *Alfred* Dr

	c	qr	lb
2 Coils Spun yarn 3 ps Bo[lt] rope and 1 Coil Rattling	1	3	25½
1 Coil 4 Inch Boltrope	3	0	23

6 Birch Brooms
21
Ship *Alfred* Dr
2 lb Nails
Brig for Congress Dr
6 lb 8d Nails
Novemr 22d 1775 –
Brigt for Congress Dr
6 lb. 8d Nails –
November 23d 1775
Ship *Alfred* Dr
2 lb lampblack
4 Short Tarr Brushes
1 Tinn Pint – 1 Tinn Quart
3 lb 8d Nails
1 Quart Tunnell
2 lb Whipping Twine
1 lb Twine
1 Quart Lamp oyle – from W. Harper
24 3 lb – 8d Nails

23 Ship *Alfred* Dr
1 Barrell Tarr
1 Quart Train Oyle – from Wm Harper
4 lb Tallow
2 lb lampblack

24th
Ship *Alfred* Dr

		c	qr	lb
Bulletts	Wt	5	0	0
Do		4	3	0

1 6 lb Ladle and Worme – 6 lb 8d Nails
Brig for Congress
12lb 20d & 8d Nails

Ship *Sally* had Blocks & Fall
Ship *Sally* for Congress
18 Empty Tarr Barrells –
6 Birch Brooms

1 Ca: Tallow	4.	2.	0	51	Terc
1 Do Do	1	3	17	26	
	6.	1.	17		
		2.	21		
Cr	5	2.	24	Nt @	

Ship *Alfred* Cap Dr
16 Sheep Skins
1000 Pump Nails } Gunner's Stores
1 Pump Hammer
Ship *Alfred* Dr
10lb – 8d Nails
Brig for Congress Dr
2lb 8d & 12lb Nails

27
Ship ~~Alfred Dr~~ *Sally*
9 Empty Tarr Barrells
Ship *Alfred* Dr
4 Gallons Train Oyle from Wm Harper
Ship *Sally* Dr for Congress
51 lb Tallow from D: Timmons 31/10
Brig for Congress Dr
3 lb 8d & 3 lb – 20d Nails

Novemr 28th. 1775 –
Ship *Alfred* Dr
5 lb – 6 oz Pump leather
500 Pump Nails
Ship *Sally* for Congress Dr.
26 lb Tallow – from D: Timmons
Ship *Alfred* Dr
2 Grummett Lines

29th
Brig [*sic* ship] *Sally* for Congress Dr
350 lb Tallow
½ Gallon Train oyle from W Harper
Ship *Alfred* Dr
6 Gallons Train oyle from W. Harper
pd for haulg Tallow 1/–
Ship *Sally* retd fall & Blocks

Nover 29th 1775
Ship *Alfred* Dr
1000 Pump Nails
2 Pain[t] brushes

30th
Ship *Alfred* Dr
6 lb – 20d Nails
4 Skeins housline

Decemr 1st 1775 –
Ship *Alfred* Dr
12 lb – 12d & 12 lb – 20d Nails –
Ship *Alfred* Dr

		c	qr	lb
1 Coil 5 In Shroud		2.	1.	24
80 fathm 4½ In. Cable		3.	0.	26
	c	5	2	22

December 2d 1775
Ship *Alfred* Dr

49 yds Broad Buntg	a	2/	4.	18.	–
52½ yds Narrow Do		1/	2.	12.	6
To makg an Ensign Canvas & Shd			1.	2.	8
		£	8.	13.	2

Cr Margt Manny for makg an Ensign £ 1. 2. 8.

4th
Brig for Congress
10 lb – 12d & 10 lb – 20d Nails
Ship *Alfred* Dr

	c	d	
6 lb – 8d & 10 lb – 20d Nails	2	8	do

Ship *Sally* Dr
pr 8 In: Shrouds 3. 3. 18
pr 4½ I. Rope & 3 Cl Spunyn 3. 1. 8
Ship *Alfred* Dr
1 Old Augur – 1½ Inches
Ship *Sally* – for Congress Deld Renard

	qr	lb
Bolt rope	1	11½

1 Bonnite line –

5
Ship *Alfred* Dr
6 Skains Marline
6 Do houseline
12 Sheep Skins
6 lb – 20d Nails

6
Ship *Sally* for Congress Dr

	c	qr	lb
2 Spring Stays	2	1	22
Bolt rope		1	27½
1 Ct 4 in & 1 do 5½ in Rope	7.	3.	3

Ship *Alfred* Dr
1 half Tann'd hyde – 30/ –
Committee of Congress dd Cap: Allen Moore
1 Flagg Blew & White
Decemr 6th 1775 –
Ship *Alfred* Dr
1 Cl 5 Shd hook 1 Do [12]
1 Cl 6 Shd Ratg 1 Do
Wormg 1 Cl 3 [?] Spun yn
& I Do 2 yarn
} c qr lb 2 2 13
2 Marline Needles
12 lb – 20d Nails
Brig for Congress Dr
20 lb 12d Nails
7
Ship *Alfred* Dr
1 Spike Gimblett
Ship *Alfred* Dr
6 Scs Marl[ine]
Committee of Congress deld Peter Anderson
3 Skains housline –
8
Ship *Columbus* for Congress Dr

	qr	lb
2 Coils Rattg	1	27½
6 lb Tallow		
Bolt Rope	3	6

Ship *Alfred* Dr
2 lb Whipg Twine deld Adam Truck
4 hickory brooms [2] Birch do
Ship *Alfred* Dr

	c	qr	lb
½ Coil 3 In: & 3 Coils Ratlg w	2	0	3

2 lb Whipping Twine
Ship *Alfred* Dr
20 lb – 12d Nails
2 lb 8d Do
Ship *Columbus* Dr
18 lb. 12d. Nails
December 9th 1775
Ship *Alfred* Dr
6 Skains Marline
4 Do houseline
6 lb – 8d Nails 1 lb Sewing Twine
Ship *Columbus* Dr

	qr	lb
Bolt rope	[2]	18½

Ship *Alfred* Dr

	c	qr	lb
Bolt rope & Ratling	0	2	13½

Brig for Congress Dr
42 lb Tallow
6 Birch Brooms

December 11th 1775

Ship *Columbus* Dr

2 lb – 8d Nails

12 lb – 20d Do

Committee of Congress deld Wm Moulder

6 Bed laces

2 lb Twine

Ship *Alfred* Dr

12 lb – 12d & 20d Nails

4 lb – 8d Nails

1 Log line

Ship *Columbus* Dr

112 lb Tallow

Ship *Alfred* Dr

	qr	lb
1 Coil 6 Shd Ratling	2	6
10 lb – 20d Nails		

Ship *Alfred* Dr

	c	qr	lb
1 Cl 2 In: & 1 Do 1½ In: Rope	1	3	19½
Ratling		1	1

12th

Ship *Alfred* Dr

24 lb – 20d Nails 12 lb 8d do & 2 lb 20d

Ship *Columbus*

1 Union Flag

Ship *Alfred* Dr

2 lb Tallow

2 lb Whipping Twine

4 lb – 8d Nails

4 lb 20d Do

Ship *Columbus* Dr

7 lb – 20d & 3 lb – 8d Nails

Committee of Congress Dr

1 Flag 5 feet by 7½ amount £1. 10. 11

13

Ship *Alfred* Dr

	c	qr	lb			
½ Coil 3 In ½ Do 2½ In & 1 Coil 2 in Rope	1	3	27			
1 hand line						
20 lb 20d Nails						
4 lb 8d Do – 6 lb 20d Nails						
145 yds Broad Bunting – a 2½				14.	10.	0
8½ do Narrow Do ½					8.	6
Makg an Ensign thread & Oznabrigs				1.	14.	10
				£16.	13.	4

Ship *Columbus* Dr

6 lb – 20d Nails

Decemr 14th 1775

Ship *Alfred* Dr

	c	qr	lb
2 Coils 2½ Inch Rope	2	3	12
1 Barrell Tarr			
2 lb Whipping Twine			
2 Sides Rigging Leather			

8 lb – 20d Nails
20 lb – 20d & 4 lb – 8d Nails
12 Skains Marline
Brig *Cabbut* [*Cabot*] Capt. [J.B.] Hopkins Dr
2½ Gallons Paint oyle
Brig for Congress Dr
20 lb – 20d Nails
Ship *Columbus* Capt Dr
To 2 lb of 8d Nails
pd for haulg Cordage &Ca to the *Alfred* at twice 1/9
Ship *Alfred* Dr

	C	qr	lb
2 Coils Rope	5	1	12

1 7/8 Auger
1 3/4 Do
15th
Ship *Columbus* Dr
10 lb – 20d Nails
Ship *Alfred* Dr
6 lb – 8d Nails
6 lb – 2d Do
Ship *Alfred* Dr
8 lb – 8d Nails
1 hand Saw
2 Sticking Candlesticks
500 – 3d & 500 – 4d Sprigs
Brig for Congress Dr
6 Sewing Needles
4 Marline Do
1 Skain Marline
Committee of Congress Dr
2 Reams Cannon Catrige paper
1 Do Muskett Do Do
60 lb Match Rope
Cash pd for 1 Box
Directed to the Care of Benjn Harrison Esqr
or in his Absence to the Chairman of
the Committee Baltimore –
Sloop *Kitty* [*Katy*] for Congress

1 Cask Tallow	2	3	26	
Disc.		1	10	
Cr	2	2	16	Neat.

2 Tallow Brushes
Decemr 16th 1775
Ship *Alfred* Dr
2 large paint brushes
2 Small Do – from Jno Hannah
2 lb Lampblack
2 Tarr Brushes
5 lb – 20d Nails
5 lb – 8d Do
12 lb – 8d Do
12 lb – 8d Do
Committee of Congress Dr
1 Logline –
2 Bed Laces –

Decemr 18th 1775
Ship *Alfred* Dr
2 pr 9 Inch HL hinges
1 lb – 8d Nails
5 pr 10 In HL hinges
qr lb
2 Pieces Bolt rope 1 13½
c qr lb
6 lb Shot Double headed & Cross Barr'd 3 1 7
6 lb – 20d Nails 6 lb – 8d 6 lb – 20d Nails
Ship *Alfred* Dr
c qr lb
1 Coil 4½ In Rope }
50 fathm 5½ In Do } 8 0 18
Sloop *Kitty* [*Katy*] for Congress Dr
2¼ Gallons paint oyle

19th
Ship *Alfred* Dr
c qr lb
40 fathm 9 In: Rope for a Mesangr 6 1 11
Ship *Alfred* Dr
2 Small Padlocks
2 Large Do
Committee of Congress Dr
1 Pendant 10 Inches 55 feet long
1 Jack (Union) Red, Blew & White
Ship *Alfred* Dr
6lb – 8d & 6lb – 20d Nails
Brig *Andrew Doria* for Congress Dr
6 Skains Marline
2lb Twine
6 Sail Needles, 12 Bolt rope do
12 lb Tallow – 1 Wooden Bowl –
Ship *Alfred* Dr
6lb Tallow – 5lb – 8d Nails

Decr 20th 1775
Committee of Congress Dr
1 Union Flagg Green & Red, 13 Stripes
3 Pendants, 1 Green, 1 White & 1 Red
Ship *Alfred* Dr Gunner's Stores
c qr lb
1 Coil 2½ In: 1 Do 1½ In & 1 Do Spn yn 1 2 26
6 Skains Marline
1 Cable 100 fathm 10 Inches 21 0 21

21
Ship *Columbus* Dr
1lb – 20 Nails
Ship *Alfred* Dr
6lb 8d & 6lb – 20d Nails
lb
Spun Yarn 8
paid for haulg Rope & Shott 1/9
Ship *Alfred* Dr
c qr lb
3 Coils Rope 3 2 10

Ship *Columbus* Dr
Boltrope 8lb
Decemr 22d 1775
Ship *Alfred* Dr
1 Padlock large
1 hand line
Ship *Alfred* Dr
1 pr 7 Inch HL hinges
400 Scupper Nails
1 – pump hammer
300 – 3d Sprigs
300 – pumper Nails
1 Log line
1lb Twine – 212lb Match rope
Sloop Kitty [*Katy*] for Congress Dr
2 lb Lamp black –
1 Gallon Lamp Oyle & Jugg
2 Tarr Brushes
1 Gallon boild oyle
Ship *Columbus* Dr
20lb Tallow
Brig *Andrew Doria* Dr
6lb – 8d Nails
103lb Match rope
Brig *Cobbitt* [*sic Cabot*] Dr
103 lb Match rope
Committee of Congress Dr
61lb Match rope
23d
Committee of Congress Dr
12 Skains Marline
Ship *Columbus* Dr
1 Ensign 18 feet by 30
Committee of Congress Dr
4 Union Pendants 55 feet long –
Ship *Alfred* Dr
28lb Okum – 4 large Padlocks
Brig *Andw Doria* Dr
6 lb 20d Nails
Ship *Alfred* Dr
12½ yds Red Baze
2 Hammers, 1000 Tax
4 Iron bound Shocks, 1 Iron do
6 hickry brooms
Decr [25]
Ship *Alfred* Dr
1 Log Line
1lb Sewing Twine
Ship *Columbus* Dr

	c	qr	lb
3 [?] Spunyarn	1	3	3½

Brigt *Andrew Doria* Dr
2 fishg Lines

Decr [25]—Continued
Ship *Alfred* Dr
3lb – 8d Nails, 2lb 20d Nails
1 pr Chest hinges – 4 lb Chalk
2 Padlocks
Ship *Columbus* Dr
1 large Padlock
3¼ Gallons boild oyle
Ship *Alfred* Dr
36lb Okum deld the Captns Stewart
500 Clout Nails –
27th
Ship *Alfred* Dr
6000 Pump Nails –
Ship *Alfred* Dr
2 yds Green Baze
2 pump hammers from J Bringhurst 2/
Committee of Congress Dr deld Thos Tr[ask]
2 Quires Sheathg paper
Ship *Alfred* Dr
q
1 Ct Spunyarn & 1 Ct 5 Hd Hook 3 8½
6 Scn Marline
4 pr 8 Inch [N] hinges
1 Padlock
28
Ship *Alfred* Dr
10lb Tallow
20lb hog's Lard – from D. Timmons
2 Doz Glass hooks
Ship *Collumbus* Dr
1lb – 20d Nails
6lb – 10d Do
Ship *Alfred* Dr
2 Bed laces
2lb 4d Nails
29th
Ship *Alfred*
4½ yds 7/4 Red Baze
12lb – 10 & 20d Nails deld Jas Young
Ship *Alfred* Dr
21 yds Red Cloth
4 Hydes half Tann'd Leather
1 Side Pump leather wt 16lb
4 Padlocks, large
c qr lb
1 Coil 2½ Inch Rope 1 0 11
Decemr 30th 1775
Ship *Alfred* Dr
2 Hammers dd 1st Lieuft
Ship *Columbus* Dr
4lb 10d & 2lb – 12d Nails

January 1st. 1776

Ship *Alfred* Dr

6 thread Ratling 14lb

Ship *Alfred* Dr

	c	qr	lb
1 Col 4 in: Cable laid Rope wt	2	3	11
1 do 3½ in do	2	1	4½
2 do 3¼ in lanyd Stuff	4	1	4
3 do 2½ In Rope	3	1	23½
3 do 2 In: do	2	1	20
6 Cos Ratlin	2	1	12
2 & 3 yn Spunyarn	3	2	2
1 Coil do		2	22½
2 Tow lines of 4 In & 3½ 100 fathm each	9	0	8
3 Tiller Ropes, White Rope 116lb			

Ship *Alfred* Dr Stores Deld the Master

3 m: Pump Nails

20 Yds Broad Red Bunting

20 yds Broad Blue

20 yds Do White

6 Log lines – 6 fishg lines

30lb Sewg twine

2 hatchetts 2 hammers

Stores deld the Boatswain Viz

6 Doz Marline 3 Doz housline

lb

2 hand lines & [2] leads 18½

30lb Twine – ½ Doz hicky brooms

1½ Doz Birch brooms – 10lb lampbk

8 Short Tarr brushes – 4 long Do

4 Sarvg Mallets 1½ Doz Berch brooms

1 Doz Iron bound Shovells

1 Deep Sea line 120 fathms – 19½lb

1 m: Scupper Nails 1 Padlock

2 hammers 9 Scrapers

Ship *Alfred* Dr deld Wm M[ou]lder

4 Skains Marline

1 log line – dd. Peter Henderson

6 Skains Marline dd Boatsains YewMan

6lb – 8d & 6lb – 10d Nails

2 large Padlocks

Ship *Columbus* Dr

10½lb Boltrope

Committee of Congress

2 Blue & White Flags

1 Green, Blue, White, & Red Do

1 Red – 1 Green & 1 White Pendant

1 Jack, & 1 Pendant blue, White, & Red.

Brig *Andw Doria* Dr

2lb – 8d & 2lb – 20d Nails

January 1st. 1776—Continued
Ship *Alfred* Dr deld the Carpenter.
2 – 2½ In Gauges
1 – 1½ Do.
4 – 1 In Do.
3 – ¾ In Do.
16. Makg Corkg Shapg & Spike Irons
2 half Inch Chizells
2 – 1½ In Augers 1 Copper Pump
3 hammers 2 hand Saws
1 Doz Spike Gimblett Sorted
2 Doz Small Do
28lb Grd Spanish brown & Pott
28lb Grd Yellow & Pott

Jany 2d 1776
Ship *Alfred* Dr
2lb – 8d & 2lb – 10d Nails
1 pr 8 In M hinges
1 Dozen Brass hooks
2 Cupboard Locks

Brig *Andw Doria* Dr
6lb – 10d Nails

Ship *Collumbus* Dr
45 fathm White Rope 3 In wt 126lb
1 Ream of Canon Catridge Paper
2 do of Musquett do
4 Doz fire Stocks
3 large Padlocks
1 Broad Tinn Candlestick

Ship *Alfred* Dr ded the master
1 Dozen Palm Irons
3 Doz Small Fish hooks
10 large Do
4 Doz Bolt rope Needles
1 Broad Pendant
1 lb – 6d Nails
1 pr 9 Inch ML hinges
Cooks Stores
1 large Ladle & flesh fork
4 Skimmers 4 ladles 4 flesh forks
2 Gridirons 1 Chopper
12 Bowles 4 frying Panns
Boatswain Stores

	[c]	[qr]	[lb]
2 Coils 3 Inch Rope	3	1	19½
1 Do 3 In & Sundry Boltr[opes]	3	2	24

2 Reams Muskett cartridge paper
Deld Ship's Stewart – Viz
4 ¼ Minute Glasses –
4 ½ Minute Do
6 ½ hour Glasses
1 large Speakg Trumpett
1 Smaller Do
5 hand Trumpetts
1 Broad Axe
1 Deep Sea lead wt 19½lb

6 Scrubbg Brushes
6 Clamps
4 Groce Spoons
9 Scrapers – from J. Inglis
12 Bowles
4 Dozen fire Stocks

Jany 3d 1776 –
[Brig] *Cobbett* [*sic Cabot*] Dr
1lb 6d Nails
~~Ship *Columbus* Dr~~
~~3 large padlocks~~
~~1 large tinn candlestick~~
Brig *Andrew Doria* Dr
6lb – 20d Nails
Ship *Alfred* Dr
2 Coils 2 Strand Worming qr lb
2 Tinder Boxes Deld the Captn 2 21

4th
Ship *Alfred* Dr
6 Skains Marlines –
12 hickry brooms
3 Tinder boxes Flints & Steel
Ship *Alfred* Dr
2 Pitch Ladles
2½lb Brass Wire
3 large Padlocks
c qr lb
3 Cos 2 strann Worming 1 1 0½
Ship *Alfred*
2 Dutch flags Red White & Blue 7½ by 13½
1 Pendant – 55 feet long
1 Jack Red & White – 13 half breaths Narrow
1 pr Brass Barrell'd Pistols – deld Commodore
1 4 foot mahogany Telescoupe
1 3 foot Do Do
1 pce Green Cloth

5
Ship *Alfred* Dr
c qr lb
12 fm 7 in Rope for Vial 1. 1. 8

Jany 6th 1776
Ship *Alfred* Dr
2 Log Reels
2lb Brimstone
Ship *Alfred* Dr
c qr lb
1 Coil 4½ Inch Rope 4 0 4½

Jany 8th 1776
Ship *Alfred* Dr
1 Dozen Palm Irons
6 Short Tarr brushes
6 Scrubbing brushes
6½ Red Baze
1lb thread, Red, Blue & White
50 Needles

9th			
paid for Porterage of Sundrys to the *Alfred*			1½
17th			
Sloop *Fly* Capt			
pr Coil 3 In: 2Cs2½: 1 Cl 2 in Rope }	C		
2 Cs Ratline & 1 Cl Spunyarn }	5.	1.	26
3 Tallow Brushes 3/6		10.	6
1 Large Speakg Trumpett 10/		10.	–
1 Spy Glass 50/	2.	10.	–
1 Jack 35/. 1 Pendant 27/6	3.	2.	6
	6.	13.	–
Mr Landenberger Dr		11.	3
12 lb 20d. Nails			
6 lb 10d do	£ 7.	4.	3
Jany 18th 1776			
Sloop *Fly* Dr			
3 Hatchetts without Handles		11.	3
The Hon'ble Continentall Congress Dr			
To Ship *Alfred* for amot of her bill	£ 1931.	4.	10
" Brig *Andw Doria* Do	171.	4.	7½
" Ship *Collumbus* Do	161.	18.	2
" Sloop *Fly* Cap Morrow Do	25.	14.	3½
" S: Chandy for Sunds for Brig *Cabot* p Book pg 262	44.	4.	11½
" S.Chandry for Sloop *Providence* pg 264	37.	0.	2½
" S. Chandy for Sunds. Sent to Baltimore	9.	0.	5
	£ 1480.	7.	6
Feby 1st 1776			
Cash Dr To The Hble Continl Congress			
Recd of Capn [Nathaniel] Falconer in full	£1480	7	6

1. James Wharton Day Book, HSP.

[Glossary]

Bed laces:	Cross cords for a rope bed.
Blocks:	Grooved pulleys used to change direction by means of ropes.
Bolt rope:	Cordage sewed on the edge of a sail to strengthen it.
Bonnet line:	Cord used to lace an additional piece of canvas to the top of a gibb or other sail.
Ensign:	A flag or banner, as of a nation.
Fall:	Rope with blocks to which power is applied in hoisting.
Gauge:	A joiner's tool for marking lines parallel to an edge.
Grommet:	A ring of rope used as an eyelet on the edge of a sail.
Houseline:	A small line of three strands used for seizings; i.e. binding, lashing, making fast, etc.
Jack:	Small union or ensign used by a ship as a signal and flown from jack staff in the bow, as an indication of nationality.

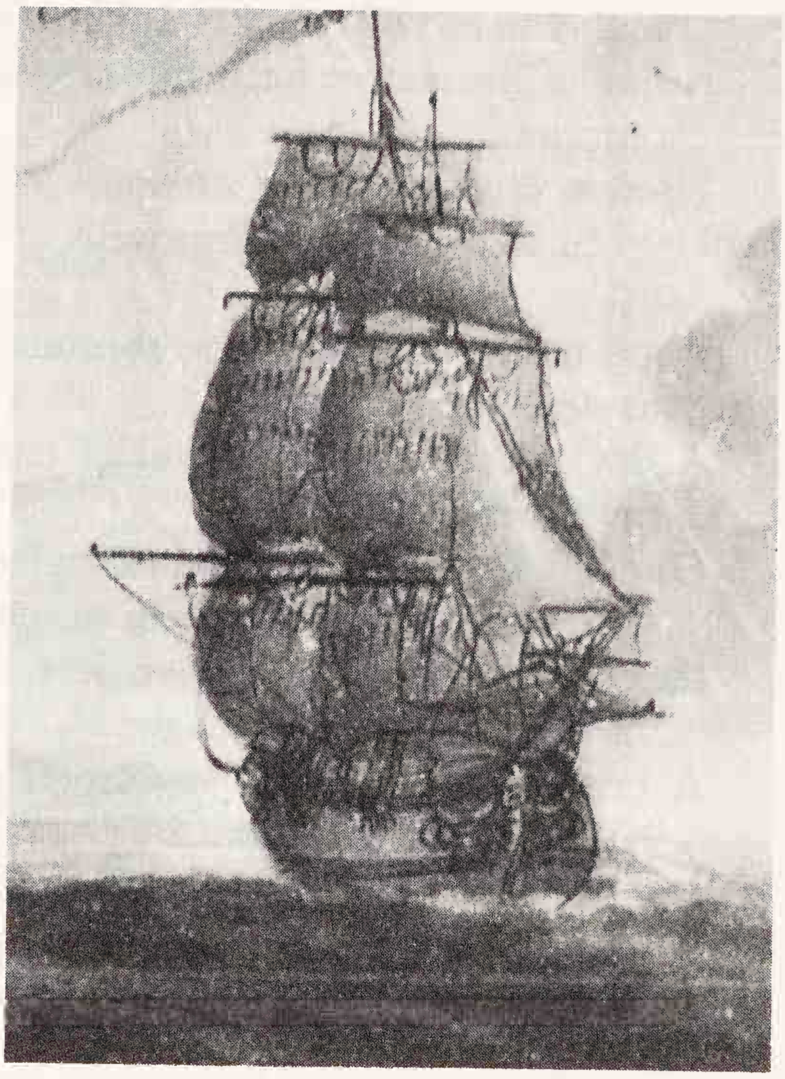
Lampblack:	A fine black pigment consisting of almost pure carbon collected as soot from the smoke of burning oil.
Log line:	A line, graduated by knots, used for measuring the nautical miles a vessel is sailing per hour.
Match rope:	A cord treated to burn at uniform rate, used to fire cannon.
Marline:	Small cord of two loosely twisted strands, used for seizing.
Palm iron:	An instrument worn over the palm of the hand of a sailmaker to serve instead of a thimble.
Pennant:	A flag of distinctive form flown as signal or other special purpose.
Pump leather:	Used in creating pump suction.
Pump Nails:	Used in securing the pump wells.
Pumper Nails:	Same as pump nails.
Ratline:	Rope used to traverse the shrouds horizontally, serving as steps for going aloft.
Shock:	A device for checking recoil of cannon, or any springy movement.
Shroud:	One of a set of strong ropes extended from the mastheads to the sides of a ship to help support the masts.
Spring stay:	Heavy rope supporting mast fore and aft; acts as back up if main stay is damaged.
Sprig:	A brad, or a small wedge-shaped piece of tin plate for holding glass in a sash.
Spun yarn:	Cord formed of rope yarns loosely twisted together; used for serving ropes, bending sails, etc.
Stay:	A strong rope used to support a mast.
Train oil:	Oil obtained by boiling from the blubber of whales, seals, or other fish.
Worming:	To wind yarn spirally round a rope so as to fill the spaces between the strands and render the surface smooth.
Whipping Twine:	Used to bind parts together by whipping or winding about.

[Table of Weights]

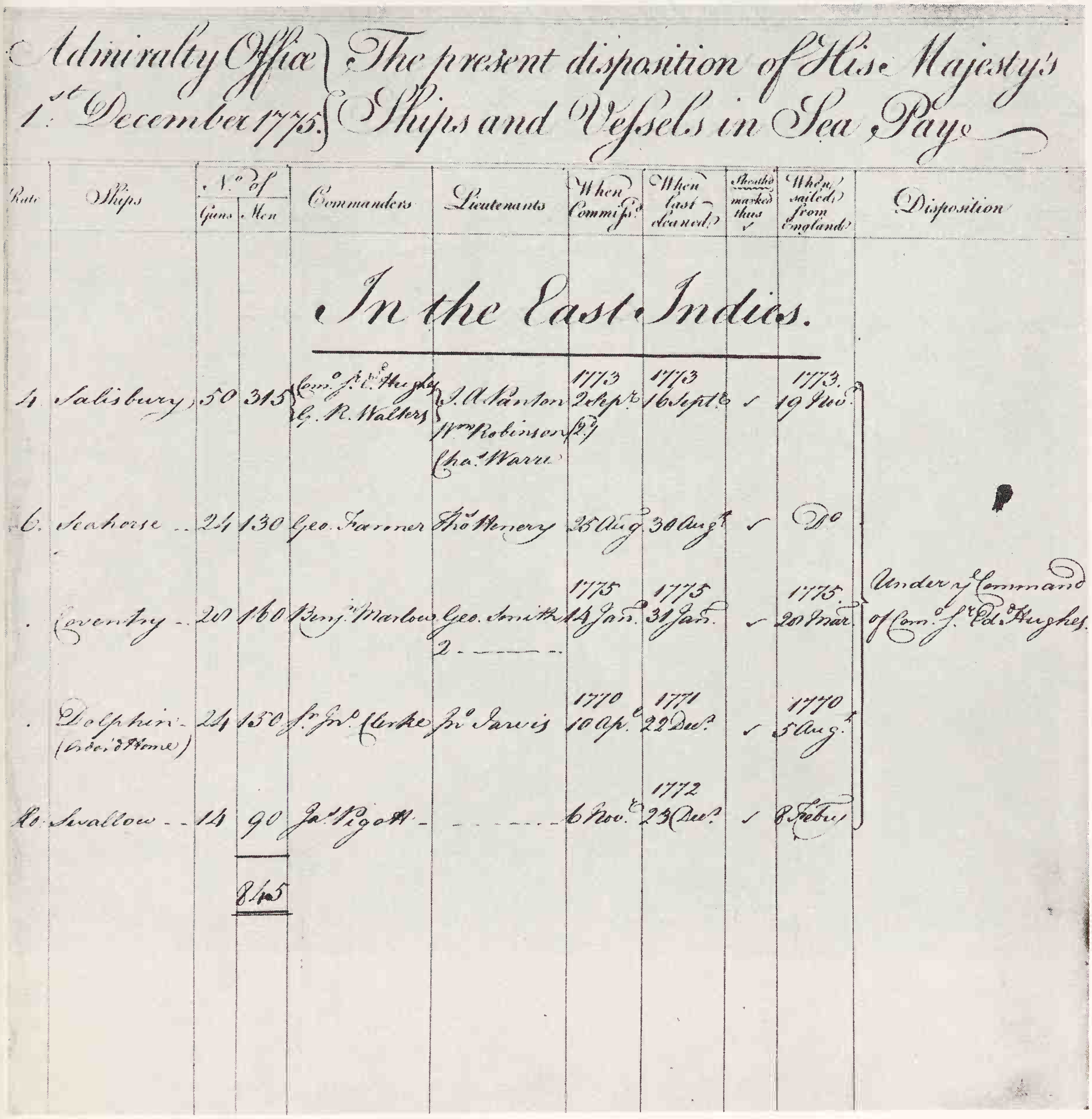
British weights, allowing 28 pounds to the quarter, were in use at this period in the United Colonies.

The abbreviations used in the weight tables were:

lb – pound
qr – quarter (28 pounds).
c – hundredweight (4 quarters).



APPENDIX E[1]



Admiralty Office 1st December 1775. } The present disposition of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels in Sea Pay

In the East Indies.

Rate	Ships	No. of Guns	No. of Men	Commanders	Lieutenants	When Commiss.d	When last cleaned	Sheathd marked thus ✓	When sailed from England	Disposition
4.	Salisbury,	50	315	Comᵒ Sʳ Edᵈ Hughes G. R. Walters	J. A. Panton Wᵐ Robinson Chaˢ Warre	1773 2 Sepᵗ (2)	1773 16 Septᵉ	✓	1773. 19 Novʳ	Under yᵉ Command of Comᵒ Sʳ Edᵈ Hughes
6.	Seahorse ..	24	130	Geo. Farmer	Thoˢ Henery	25 Aug	30 Augᵗ	✓	Dᵒ	
.	Coventry ..	28	160	Benjⁿ Marlow	Geo. Smith 2 ------	1775 14 Janʸ	1775 31 Janʸ	✓	1775. 20 Mar.	
.	Dolphin .. (Order'd Home)	24	150	Sʳ Jnᵒ Clerke	Jnᵒ Jarvis	1770 10 Apˡ	1771 22 Decʳ	✓	1770 5 Augᵗ	
Sl.	Swallow ..	14	90	Jaˢ Pigott	------	6 Novʳ	1772 23 Decʳ	✓	8 Febʸ	
			845							

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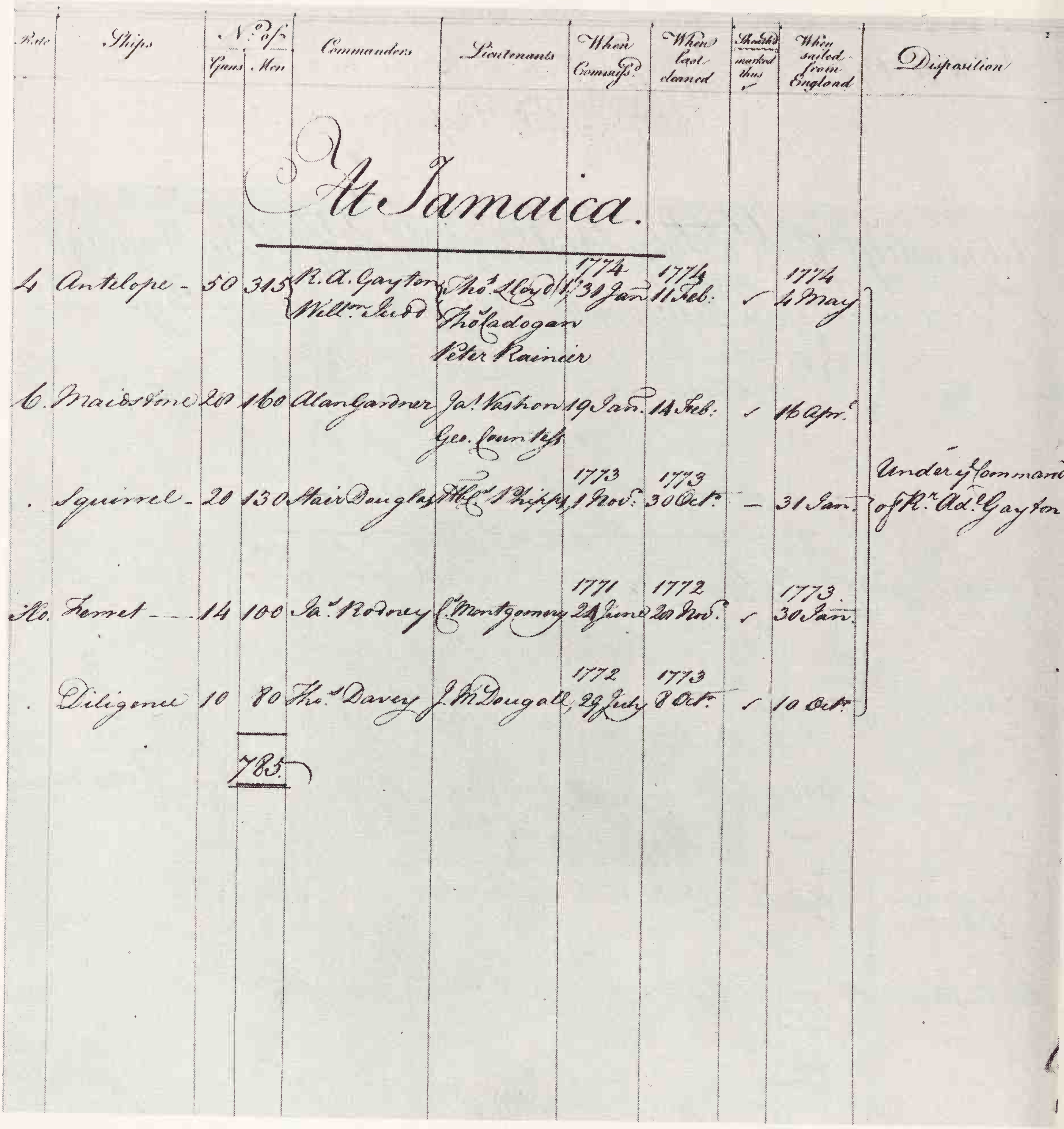
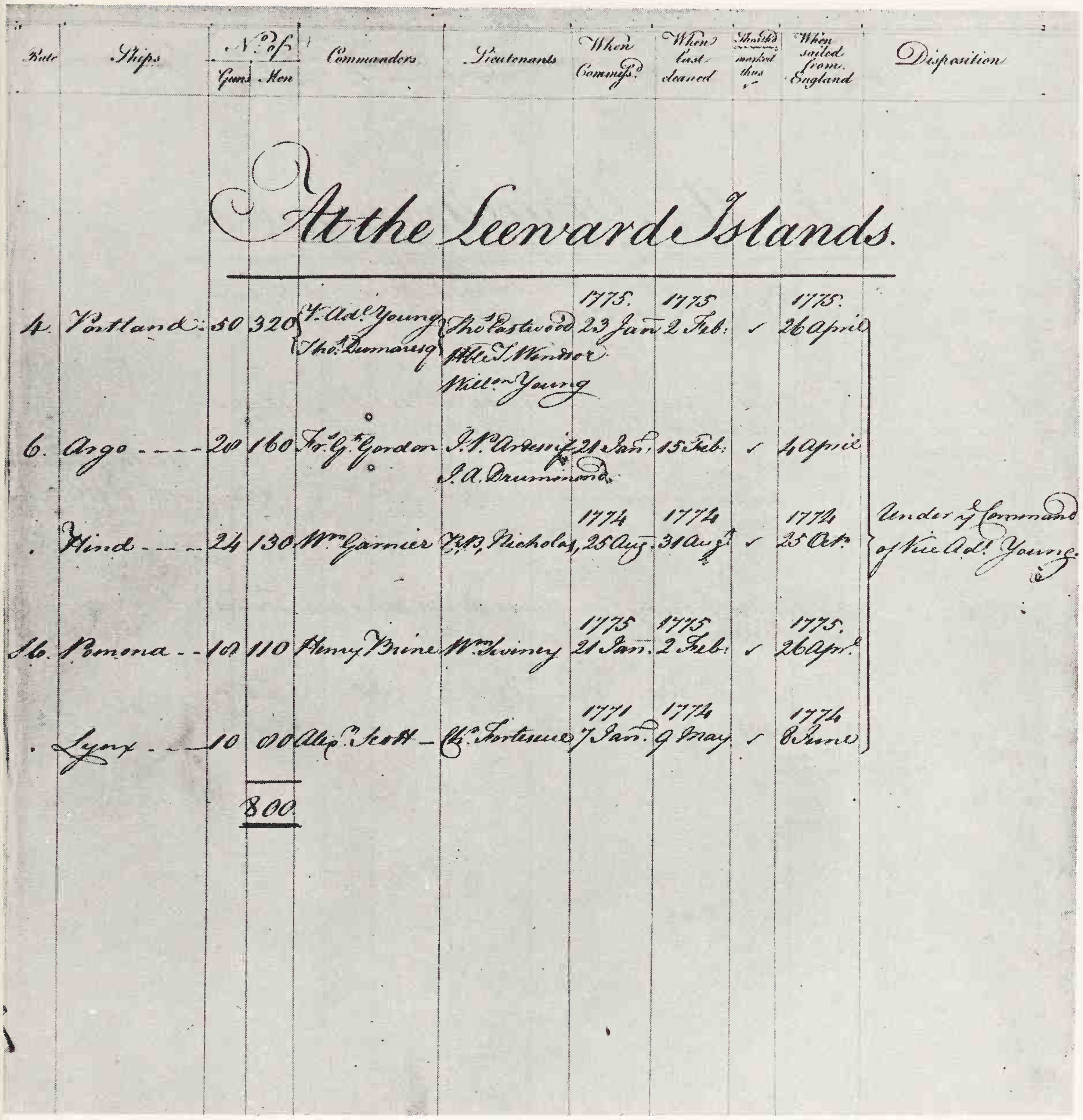
[1] PRO, Admiralty 8/51. These monthly Admiralty lists, while not always reflecting the exact disposition of some ships because of the vast distances from the assigned areas to London, give a wealth of information about deployment, assignment of officers, and the strength of Britain's Royal Navy.



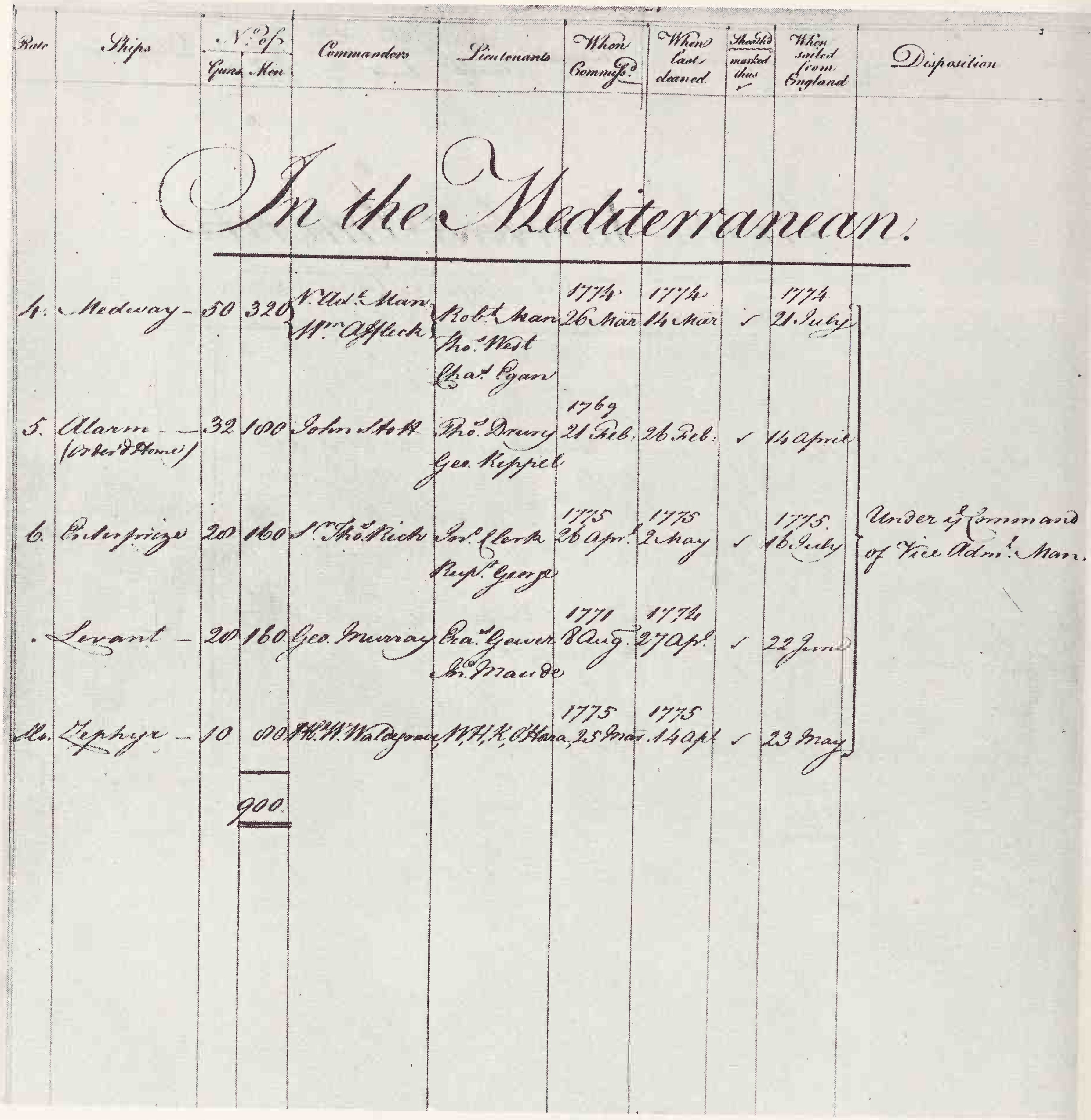
At Jamaica.

Rate	Ships	No. of Guns	No. of Men	Commanders	Lieutenants	When Commiss.d	When last cleaned	Sheathd marked thus ✓	When sailed from England	Disposition
4	Antelope –	50	315	R. A. Gayton Willm. Judd	Thos. Lloyd 1st Thos. Cadogan Peter Rainier	1774 30 Jan	1774 11 Feb.	✓	1774 4 May	Under ye Command of Rr. Adl. Gayton
6.	Maidstone	20	160	Alan Gardner	Jas. Vashon Geo. Countess	19 Jan.	14 Feb.	✓	16 Apr.	
.	Squirrel –	20	130	Stair Douglas	Hble. C. Phipps	1773 1 Nov.	1773 30 Oct.	–	31 Jan.	
Slo.	Ferret – –	14	100	Jas. Rodney	Chs. Montgomery	1771 24 June	1772 20 Nov.	✓	1773. 30 Jan.	
.	Diligence	10	80	Thos. Davey	J. McDougall	1772 29 July	1773 8 Oct.	✓	10 Oct.	
			785.							



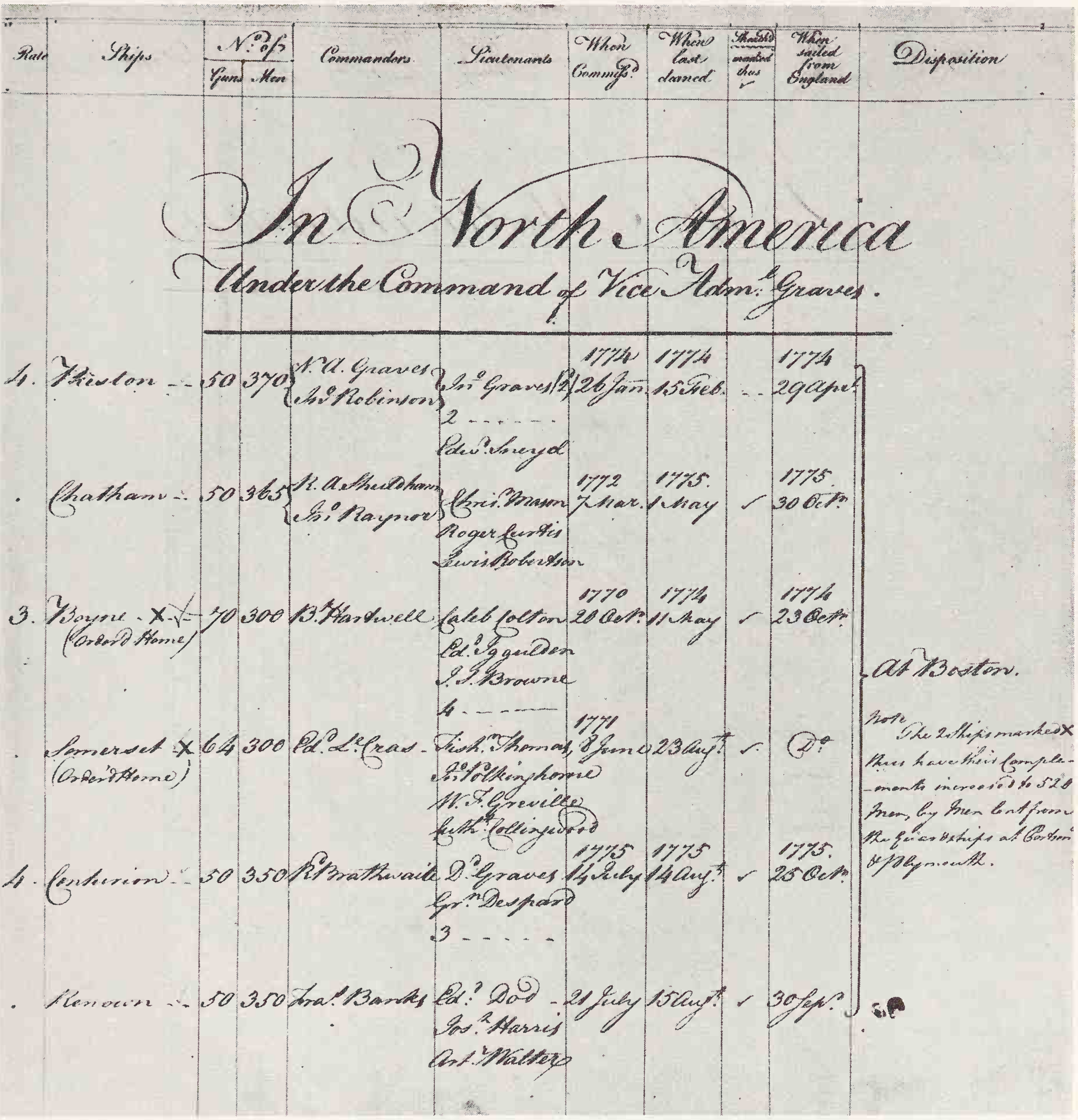
At the Leeward Islands.

Rate	Ships	No. of Guns	No. of Men	Commanders	Lieutenants	When Commiss.d	When last cleaned	Sheathed marked thus ✓	When sailed from England	Disposition
4.	Portland	50	320	V. Adl. Young Thos. Dumaresq	Thos. Eastwood Wm. T. Windsor Willm. Young	1775. 23 Jan.	1775 2 Feb.	✓	1775. 26 April	Under ye Command of Vice Adl. Young.
6.	Argo	28	160	Frs. Gn. Gordon	J. P. Ardesoif J. A. Drummond	21 Jan.	15 Feb.	✓	4 April	
.	Hind	24	130	Wm. Garnier	T. B. Nicholas	1774 25 Aug.	1774 31 Augt.	✓	1774 25 Oct.	
Sl.	Pomona	18	110	Henry Brine	Wm. Swiney	1775 21 Jan.	1775 2 Feb.	✓	1775. 26 Apr.	
.	Lynx	10	80	Alexr. Scott	Chs. Fortescue	1771 7 Jan.	1774 9 May	✓	1774 8 June	
			800							



In the Mediterranean.

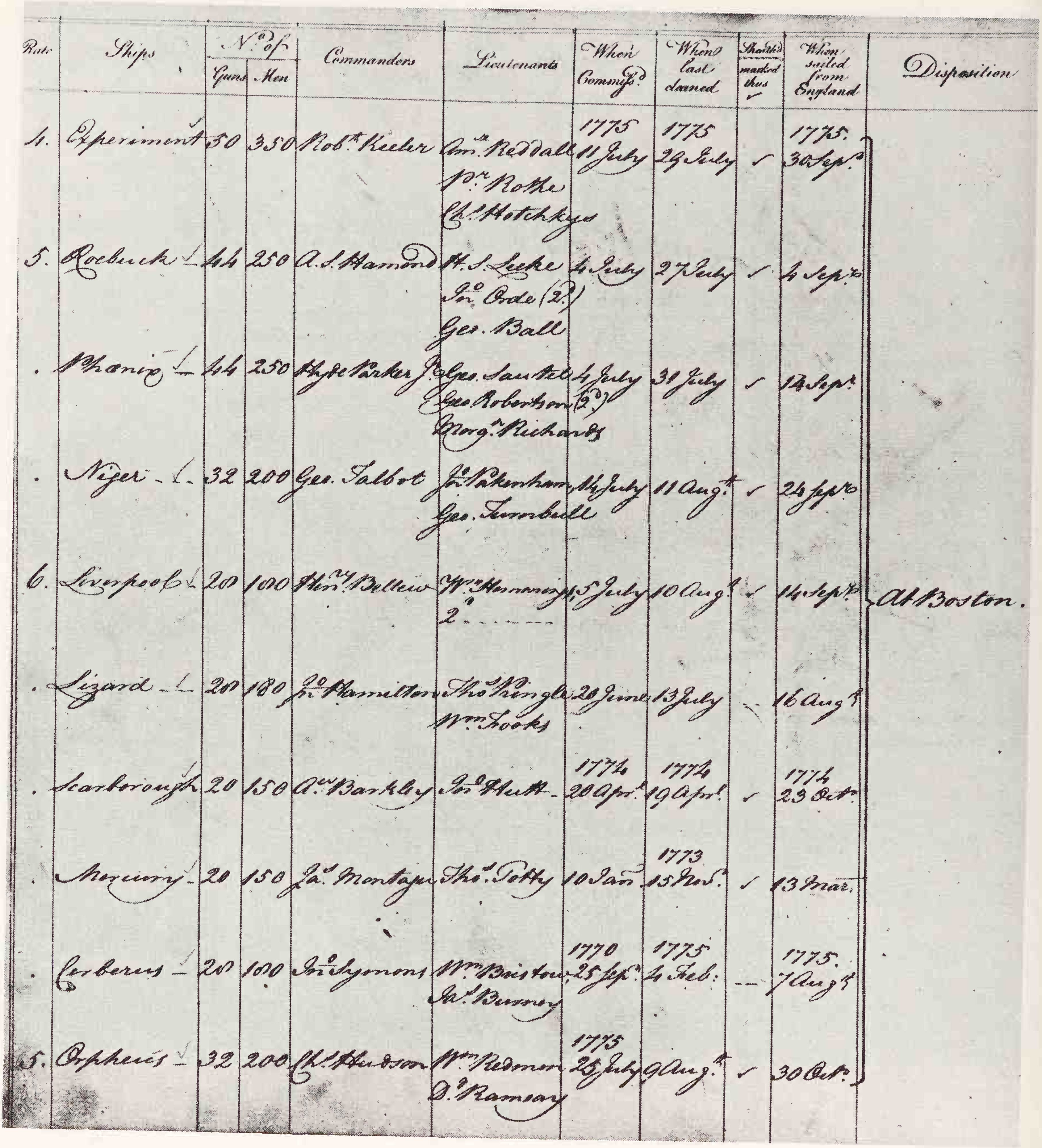
Rate	Ships	No. of Guns	No. of Men	Commanders	Lieutenants	When Commissd.	When last cleaned	Sheathd marked thus ✓	When sailed from England	Disposition
4.	Medway	50	320	V. Adl. Man Wm. Affleck	Robt. Man Thos. West Chas. Egan	1774 26 Mar	1774 14 Mar	✓	1774 21 July	Under ye Command of Vice Adml. Man.
5.	Alarm (Order'd Home)	32	180	John Stott	Thos. Drury Geo. Keppel	1769 21 Feb.	26 Feb.	✓	14 April	
6.	Enterprize	20	160	Sr. Thos. Rich	Josh. Clerk Rupt. George	1775 26 Apr.	1775 2 May	✓	1775. 16 July	
.	Levant	20	160	Geo. Murray	Eras. Gower Jno. Maude	1771 8 Aug.	1774 27 Apl.	✓	22 June	
Slo.	Zephyr	10	80	Hble. W. Waldegrave	W. H. K. O'Hara	1775 25 Mar.	1775 14 Apl.	✓	23 May	
			900.							



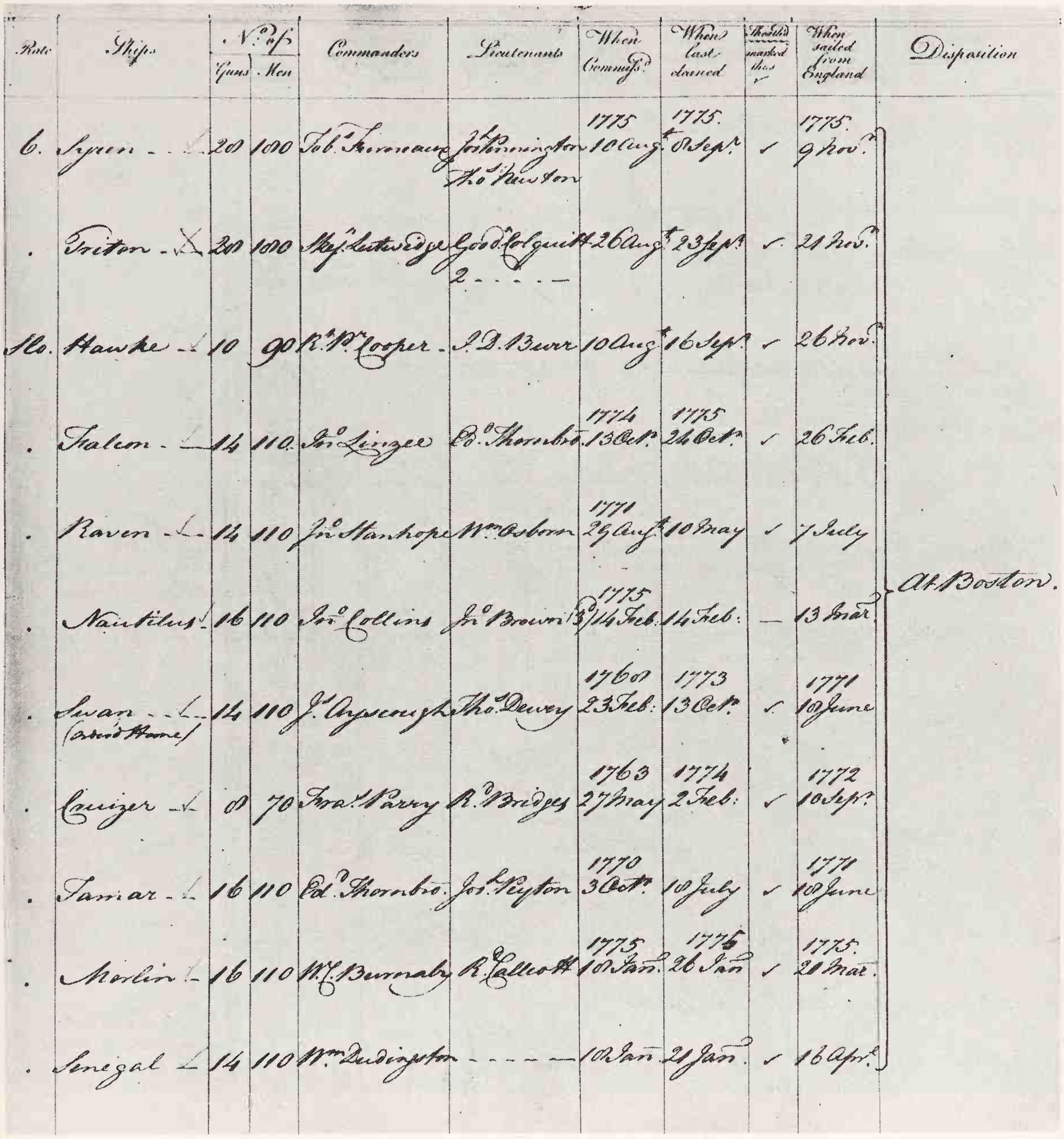
In North America

Under the Command of Vice Admˡ Graves.

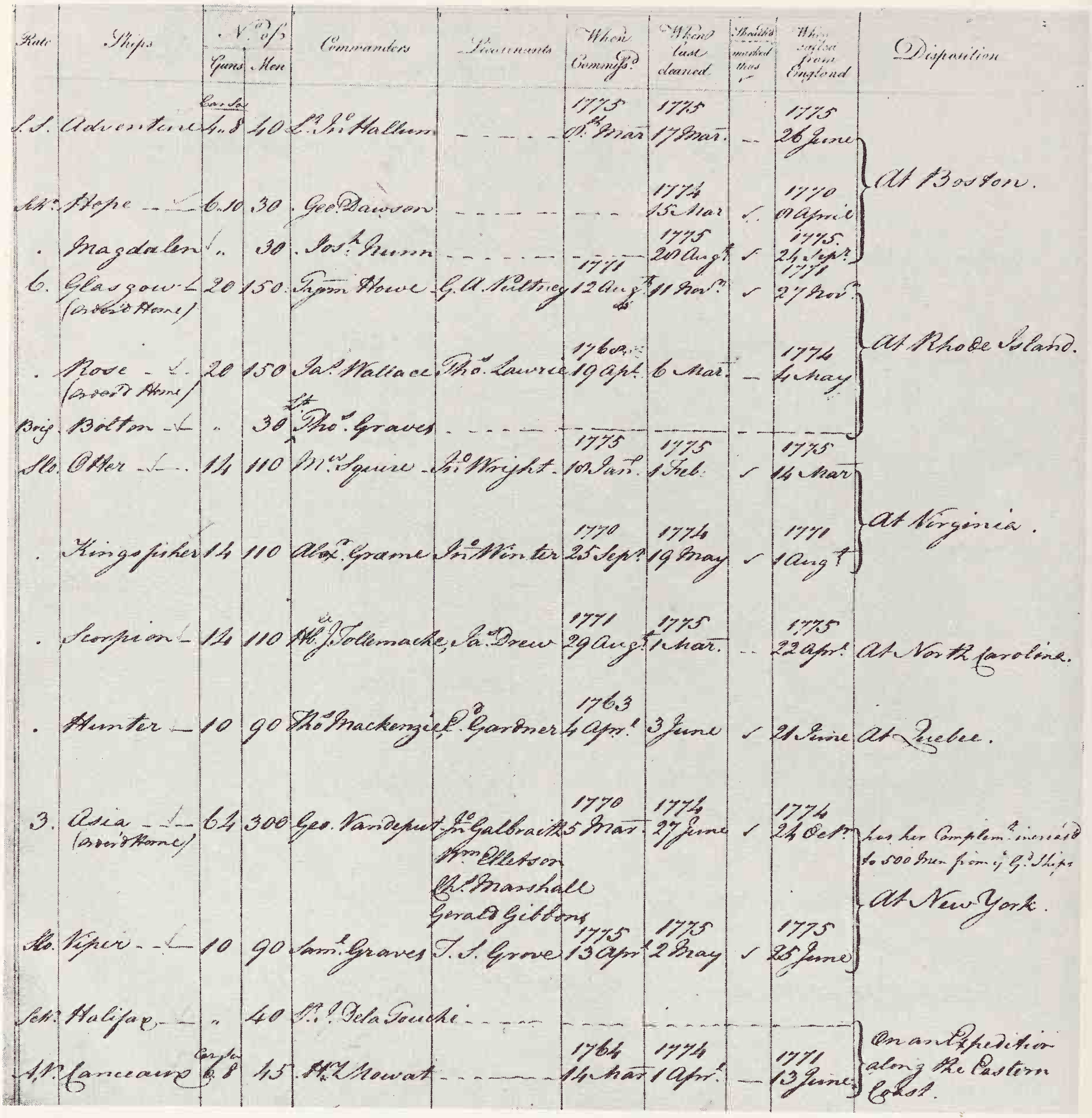
Rate	Ships	Nº of Guns	Nº of Men	Commanders	Lieutenants	When Commissᵈ	When last cleaned	Sheathed marked thus ✓	When sailed from England	Disposition
4.	Preston	50	370	V. A. Graves Jnº Robinson	Jnº Graves (2) 2 - - - - - - Edwᵈ Sneyd	1774 26 Jan.	1774 15 Feb.	- -	1774 29 Apr.	At Boston.
.	Chatham	50	365	R. A. Shuldham Jnº Raynor	Chris. Mason Roger Curtis Lewis Robertson	1772 7 Mar.	1775. 1 May	✓	1775. 30 Octʳ	
3.	Boyne ✕ ✓ (Orderd Home)	70	300	Bᵈ Hartwell	Caleb Colton Edᵈ Iggulden J. J. Browne 4 - - - - - -	1770 20 Octʳ	1774 11 May	✓	1774 23 Octʳ	
.	Somerset ✕ (Orderd Home)	64	300	Edᵈ Lᵉ Cras	Fish. Thomas Jnº Polkinghorne W. F. Greville Cuthᵗ Collingwood	1771 8 June	23 Augᵗ	✓	Dº	Note The 2 Ships marked ✕ thus have their Comple-ments increased to 520 Men, by Men lent from the Guardships at Portsmº & Plymouth.
4.	Centurion	50	350	Rᵗ Brathwaite	Dᵈ Graves Geoʳ Despard 3 - - - - -	1775 14 July	1775 14 Augᵗ	✓	1775. 25 Octʳ	
.	Renown	50	350	Fraˢ Banks	Edᵈ Dod Josʰ Harris Artʳ Walter	21 July	15 Augᵗ	✓	30 Sepᵗ	



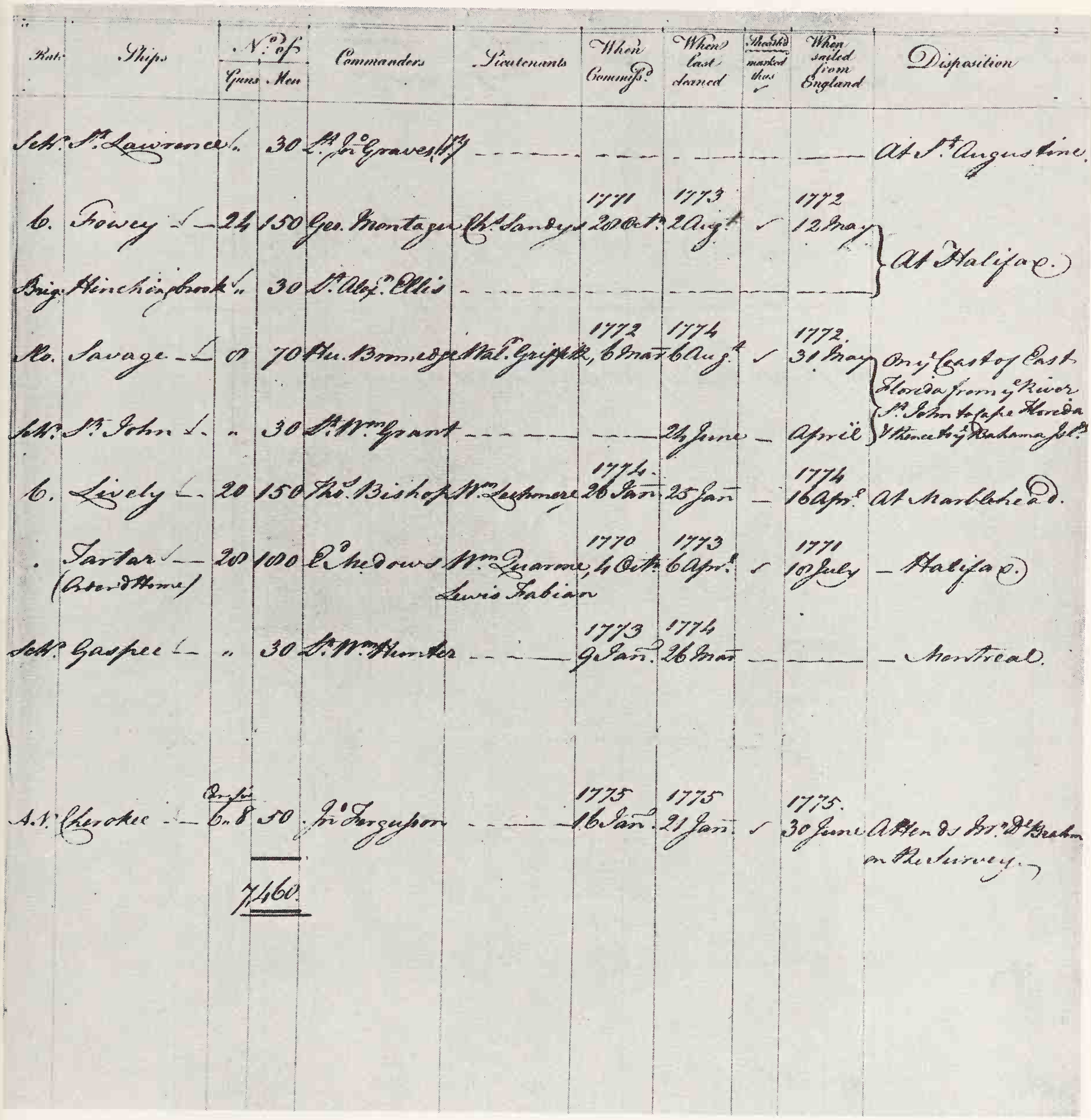
Rate	Ships	No. of Guns	No. of Men	Commanders	Lieutenants	When Commissd.	When last cleaned	Sheathd marked thus ✓	When sailed from England	Disposition
4.	Experiment ✓	50	350	Robt. Keeler	Amr. Reddall Pr. Rothe Chs. Hotchkys	1775 11 July	1775 29 July	✓	1775. 30 Sepr.	At Boston.
5.	Roebuck ✓	44	250	A. S. Hamond	H. S. Leeke Jno. Orde (2.) Geo. Ball	4 July	27 July	✓	4 Sepr.	
.	Phœnix ✓	44	250	Hyde Parker Jr.	Geo. Sautell Geo. Robertson (2d.) Morgn. Richards	4 July	31 July	✓	14 Sepr.	
.	Niger ✓	32	200	Geo. Talbot	Jo. Pakenham Geo. Turnbull	14 July	11 Augt.	✓	24 Sepr.	
6.	Liverpool ✓	20	100	Henry Bellew	Wm. Hennessy 2d. -------	5 July	10 Augt.	✓	14 Sepr.	
.	Lizard ✓	20	180	Jo. Hamilton	Thos. Pringle Wm. Fooks	20 June	13 July	—	16 Augt.	
.	Scarborough ✓	20	150	Arr. Barkley	Jno. Hutt —	1774 20 Apr.	1774 19 Apr.	✓	1774 23 Oct.	
.	Mercury ✓	20	150	Jas. Montagu	Thos. Totty	10 Jan.	1773 15 Nov.	✓	13 Mar.	
.	Cerberus ✓	20	100	Jno. Symons	Wm. Bristow Jas. Burney	1770 25 Sepr.	1775 4 Feb.	--	1775. 7 Augt.	
5.	Orpheus ✓	32	200	Chs. Hudson	Wm. Redmore Dd. Ramsay	1775 25 July	9 Augt.	✓	30 Oct.	



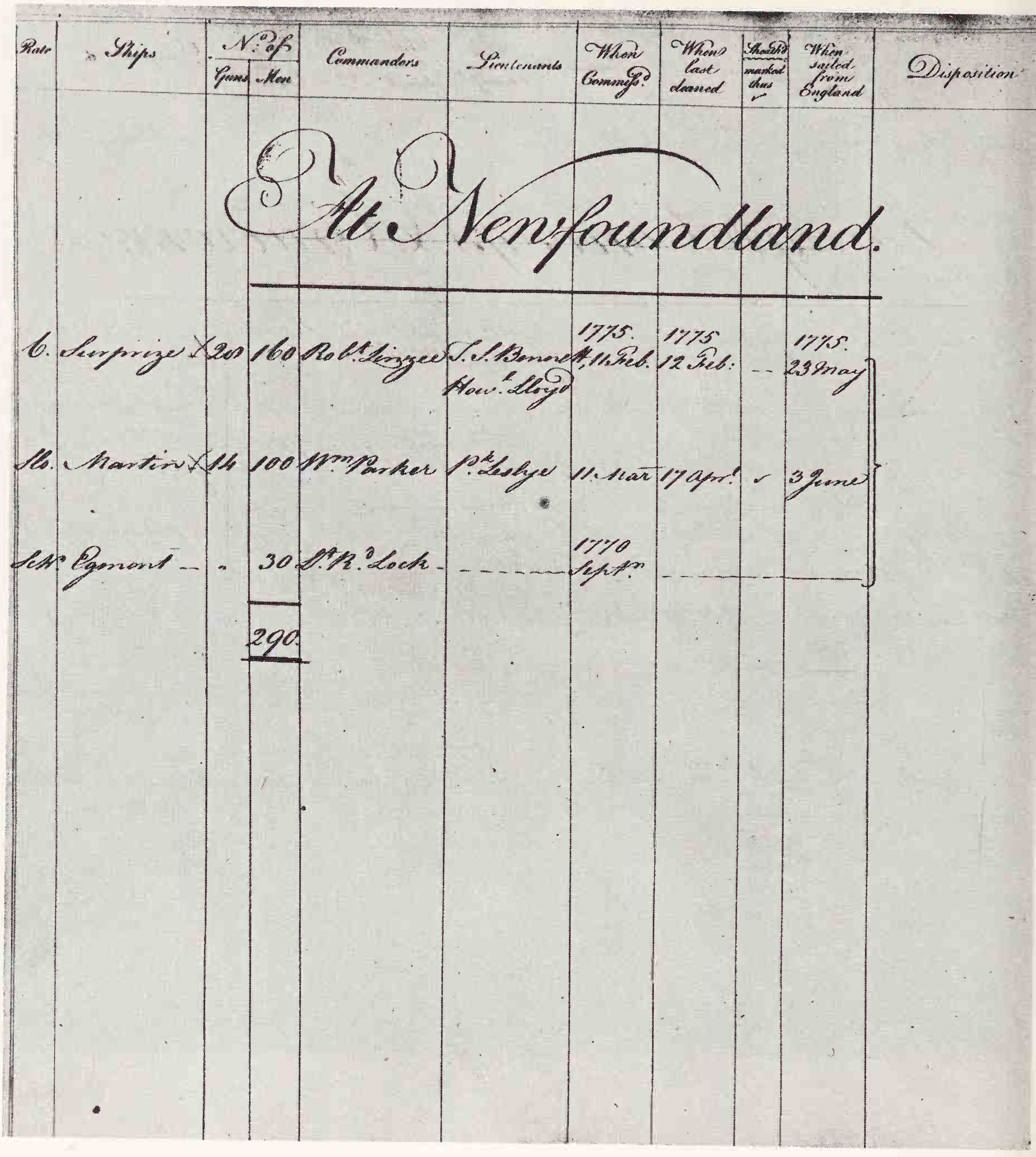
Rate	Ships	No. of Guns	No. of Men	Commanders	Lieutenants	When Commissd.	When last cleaned	Should be marked thus ✓	When sailed from England	Disposition
6.	Syren	20	100	Tobs. Furneaux	Jn. Pennington Thos. Paxton	1775 10 Augt.	1775. 8 Septr.	✓	1775. 9 Novr.	At Boston.
.	Triton	20	100	Skefn. Lutwidge	Good. Colquitt 2 – – – –	26 Augt.	23 Sept.	✓	21 Novr.	
Slo.	Hawke	10	90	Rd. Pr. Cooper	J. D. Burr	10 Augt.	16 Sept.	✓	26 Novr.	
.	Falcon	14	110.	Jno. Linzee	Edo. Thornbro.	1774 13 Octr.	1775 24 Octr.	✓	26 Feb.	
.	Raven	14	110	Jno. Stanhope	Wm. Osborn	1771 29 Augt.	10 May	✓	7 July	
.	Nautilus	16	110	Jno. Collins	Jno. Brown (3d)	1775 14 Feb.	14 Feb:	—	13 Mar.	
.	Swan (ordd. Home)	14	110	Js. Ayscough	Thos. Dewey	1767 23 Feb:	1773 13 Octr.	✓	1771 10 June	
.	Cruizer	8	70	Frans. Parry	Rd. Bridges	1763 27 May	1774 2 Feb:	✓	1772 10 Septr.	
.	Tamar	16	110	Edd. Thornbro.	Jos. Peyton	1770 3 Octr.	10 July	✓	1771 10 June	
.	Merlin	16	110	Wm. C. Burnaby	Rd. Callcott	1775 10 Jan.	1775 26 Jan	✓	1775. 20 Mar.	
.	Senegal	14	110	Wm. Dudingston	– – – –	10 Jan.	21 Jan.	✓	16 Apr.	



Rate	Ships	No. of Guns	No. of Men	Commanders	Lieutenants	When Commiss.d	When last cleaned	Sheath'd marked thus ✓	When sailed from England	Disposition
S.S.	Adventure	Car. Sw. 4. 8	40	Lt. Jno. Hallum	-------	1775 8th Mar	1775 17 Mar.	--	1775 26 June	At Boston.
Ar.d	Hope — ✓	6. 10	30	Geo. Dawson	-------	-------	1774 15 Mar	✓	1770 10 April	
.	Magdalen ✓	..	30	Josh. Nunn	-------		1775 20 Augt.	✓	1775. 24 Sepr.	
6.	Glasgow ✓ (order'd Home)	20	150	Tyrin. Howe	G. A. Pultney	1771 12 Augt.	11 Novr.	✓	1771 27 Novr.	At Rhode Island.
.	Rose — ✓ (order'd Home)	20	150	Jas. Wallace	Thos. Lawrie	1768 19 Apl.	6 Mar.	—	1774 4 May	
Brig	Bolton ✓	..	30	Lt. Thos. Graves	-------	-------	-------		-------	
Slo.	Otter ✓	14	110	Mw. Squire	Jno. Wright	1775 10 Jan.	1775 1 Feb.	✓	1775 14 Mar	At Virginia.
.	Kingsfisher	14	110	Alexr. Grame	Jno. Winter	1770 25 Sept.	1774 19 May	✓	1771 1 Augt.	
.	Scorpion ✓	14	110	Hd. J. Tollemache	Jas. Drew	1771 29 Augt.	1775 1 Mar.	--	1775 22 Aprl.	At North Caroline.
.	Hunter —	10	90	Thos. Mackenzie	Cd. Gardner	1763 4 Aprl.	3 June	✓	21 June	At Quebec.
3.	Asia — ✓ (order'd Home)	64	300	Geo. Vandeput	Jno. Galbraith Wm. Elletson Chs. Marshall Gerald Gibbons	1770 5 Mar.	1774 27 June	✓	1774 24 Octr.	has her Complemt. increas'd to 500 Men from ye Gd. Ships At New York.
Slo.	Viper — ✓	10	90	Saml. Graves	T. S. Grove	1775 13 Aprl.	1775 2 May	✓	1775 25 June	
Schr.	Halifax — ✓	„	40	Lt. J. De la Touche	-------	-------	-------		-------	On an Expedition along the Eastern Coast.
A.V.	Canceaux	Carr. Sw. 6. 8	45	Hy. Mowat	-------	1764 14 Mar	1774 1 Aprl.	—	1771 13 June	

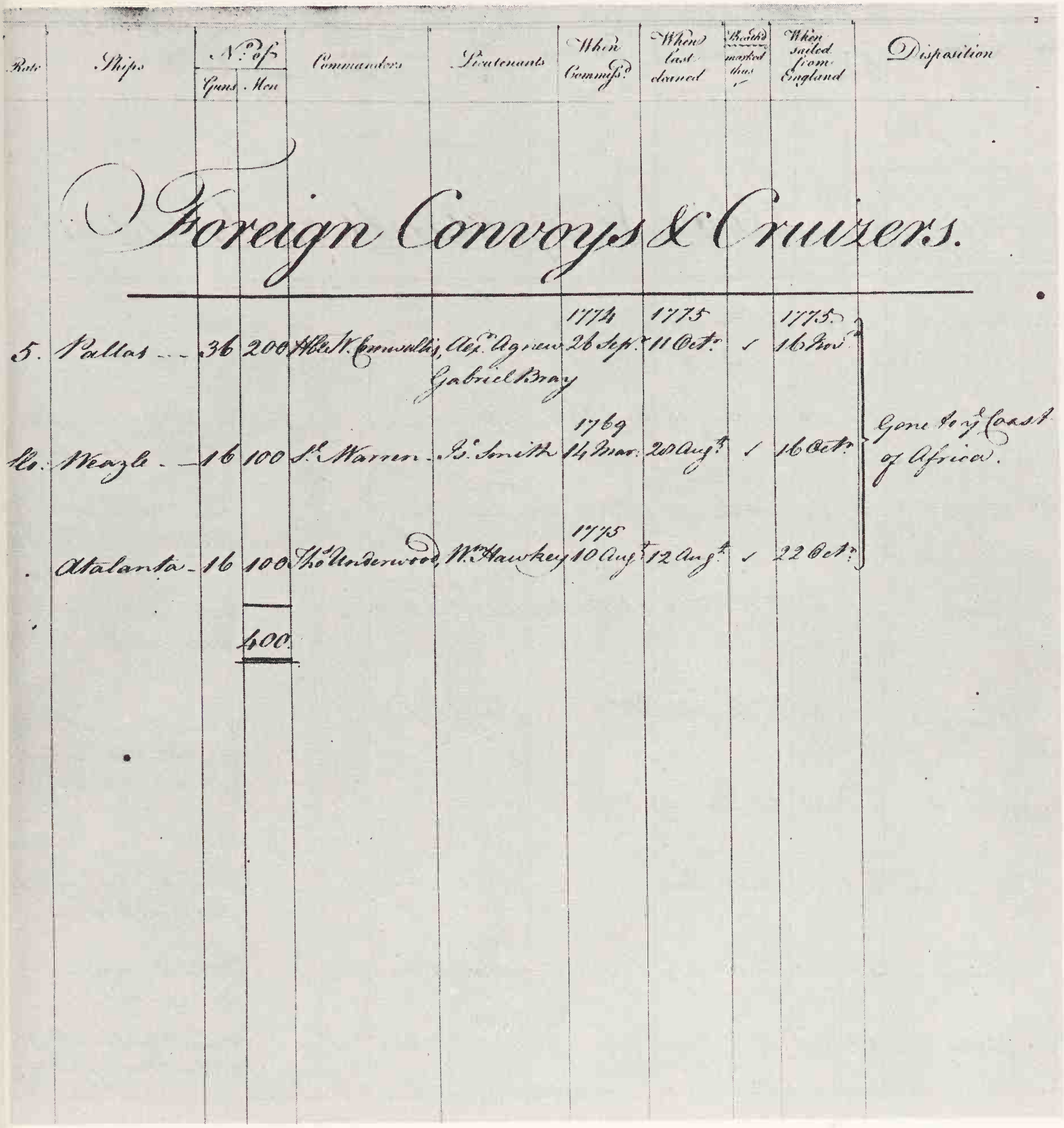


Rate	Ships	No. of Guns	No. of Men	Commanders	Lieutenants	When Commiss.d	When last cleaned	Sheath'd marked thus ✓	When sailed from England	Disposition
Sch.r	St. Lawrence ✓	"	30	Lt. Jno. Graves	---	---	---	---	---	At St. Augustine.
6.	Fowey ✓	24	150	Geo. Montagu	Chs. Sandys	1771 20 Oct.	1773 2 Aug.	✓	1772 12 May	At Halifax.
Brig	Hinchinbrook ✓	"	30	Lt. Alexr. Ellis	---	---	---	---	---	
Slo.	Savage ✓	8	70	Hu. Bromedge	Natl. Griffith	1772 6 Mar	1774 6 Aug.	✓	1772. 31 May	On ye Coast of East Florida from ye River St. John to Cape Florida & thence to ye Bahama Isl.ds
Sch.r	St. John ✓	"	30	Lt. Wm. Grant	---	---	24 June	—	April	
6.	Lively ✓	20	150	Thos. Bishop	Wm. Lechmere	1774. 26 Jan.	25 Jan	—	1774 16 Apr.	At Marblehead.
.	Tartar ✓ (Ordered Home)	20	100	Ed. Medows	Wm. Luarme, Lewis Fabian	1770 4 Oct.	1773 6 Apr.	✓	1771 10 July	— Halifax.
Sch.r	Gaspee ✓	"	30	Lt. Wm. Hunter	---	1773 9 Jan.	1774 26 Mar	—	---	— Montreal.
A.V.	Cherokee ✓	6. 8	50	Jno. Ferguson	---	1775 16 Jan.	1775 21 Jan.	✓	1775. 30 June	Attends Mr. De Brahm on the Survey.
			7460							



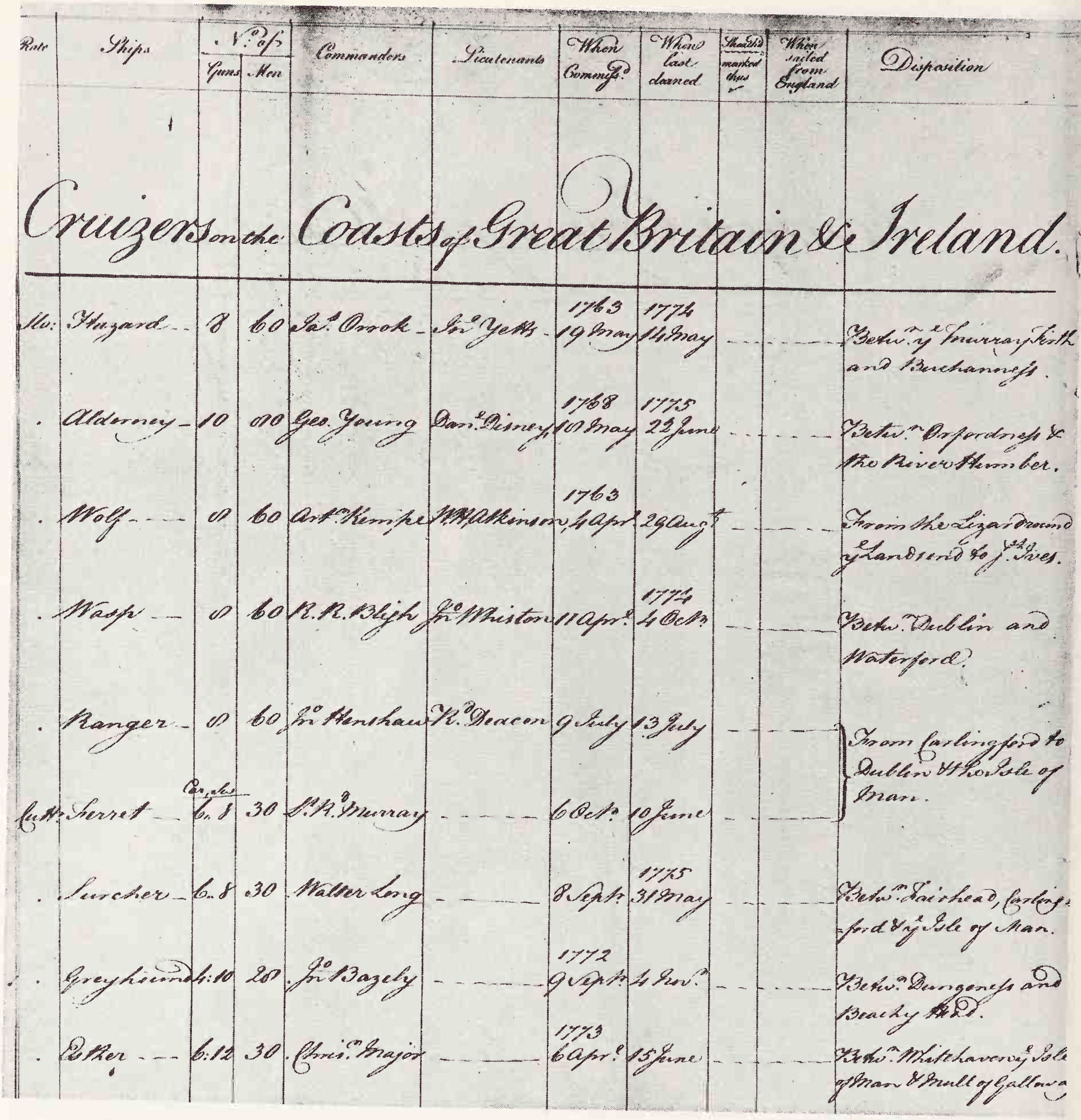
At Newfoundland.

Rate	Ships	No. of Guns	No. of Men	Commanders	Lieutenants	When Commiss.d	When last cleaned	Sheath'd marked thus ✓	When sailed from England	Disposition
6.	Surprize †	28	160	Robt. Linzee	J. S. Bennett Howd. Lloyd	1775. 11 Feb.	1775 12 Feb:	--	1775. 23 May	
Sls.	Martin †	14	100	Wm. Parker	P.k Leslye	11 Mar	17 Apr.l	✓	3 June	
	Schr. Egmont --	..	30	Lt. Rd. Lock -	------	1770 Sept.r	------		------	
			290.							



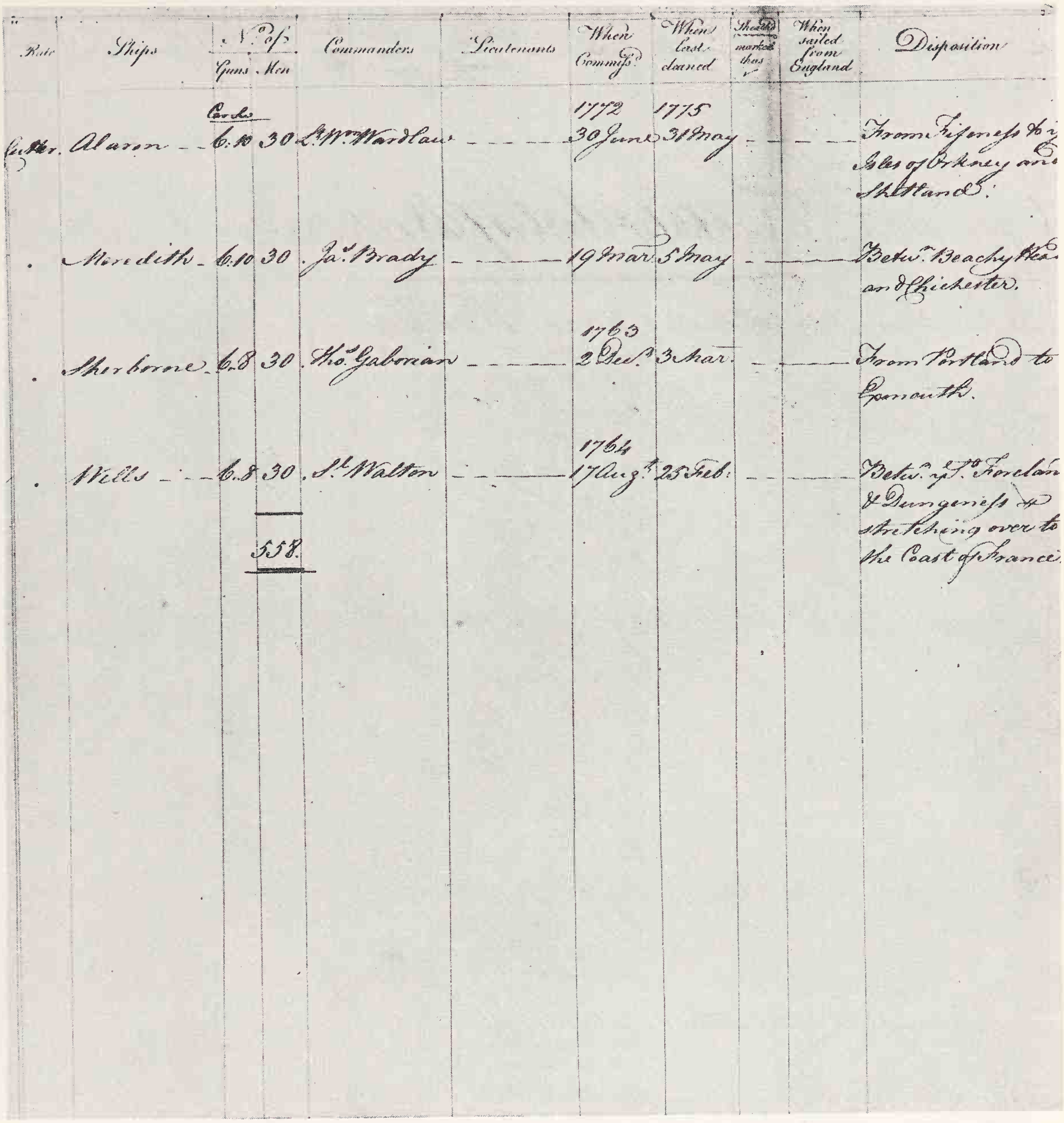
Foreign Convoys & Cruizers.

Rate	Ships	No. of Guns	No. of Men	Commanders	Lieutenants	When Commiss'd	When last cleaned	Berth'd marked thus ✓	When sailed from England	Disposition
5.	Pallas	36	200	Hble W. Cornwallis	Alexr Agnew Gabriel Bray	1774 26 Sepr	1775 11 Octr	✓	1775 16 Novr	Gone to ye Coast of Africa
do.	Weazle	16	100	Sa. Warren	Jo. Smith	1769 14 Mar.	20 Augt	✓	16 Octr	
.	Atalanta	16	100	Thos Underwood	Wm Hawkey	1775 10 Augt	12 Augt	✓	22 Octr	
			400							

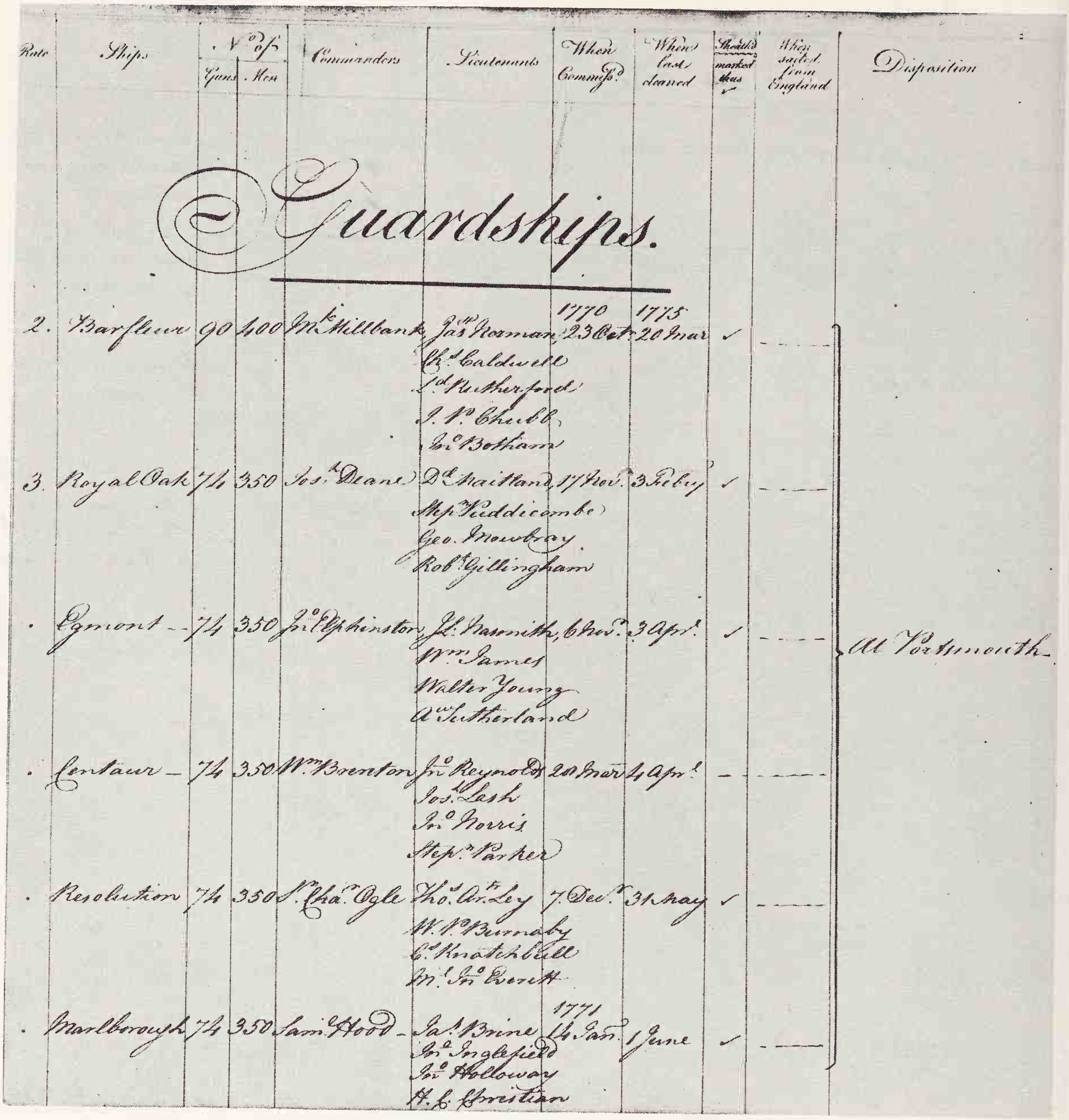


Cruizers on the Coasts of Great Britain & Ireland.

Rate	Ships	No. of Guns	No. of Men	Commanders	Lieutenants	When Commiss.d	When last cleaned	Sheathd marked thus ✓	When sailed from England	Disposition
Slo:	Hazard	8	60	Jas. Orrok	Jno. Yetts	1763 19 May	1774 14 May	— —	— —	Betw. ye Murray Firth and Buchanness.
.	Alderney	10	do	Geo. Young	Danl. Disney	1768 10 May	1775 22 June	— —	— —	Betw. Orfordness & the River Humber.
.	Wolf	do	60	Art. Kempe	Wm. Atkinson	1763 4 Apr.	29 Augt.	— —	— —	From the Lizard round ye Landsend to St. Ives.
.	Wasp	do	60	R. R. Bligh	Jno. Whiston	11 Apr.	1774 4 Octr.	— —	— —	Betw. Dublin and Waterford.
.	Ranger	do	60	Jno. Henshaw	Rd. Deacon	9 July	13 July	— —	— —	From Carlingford to Dublin & the Isle of Man.
Cuttr.	Ferret	Car. Sw. 6. 8	30	Ld. Rd. Murray	— —	6 Octr.	10 June	— —	— —	
.	Surcher	6. 8	30	Walter Long	— —	8 Sept.	1775 31 May	— —	— —	Betw. Fairhead, Carling-ford & ye Isle of Man.
.	Greyhound	4:10	20	Jno. Bazely	— —	1772 9 Sept.	4 Nov.	— —	— —	Betw. Dungeness and Beachy Hd.
.	Esther	6:12	30	Chris. Major	— —	1773 6 Apr.	15 June	— —	— —	Betw. Whitehaven, ye Isle of Man & Mull of Gallowa

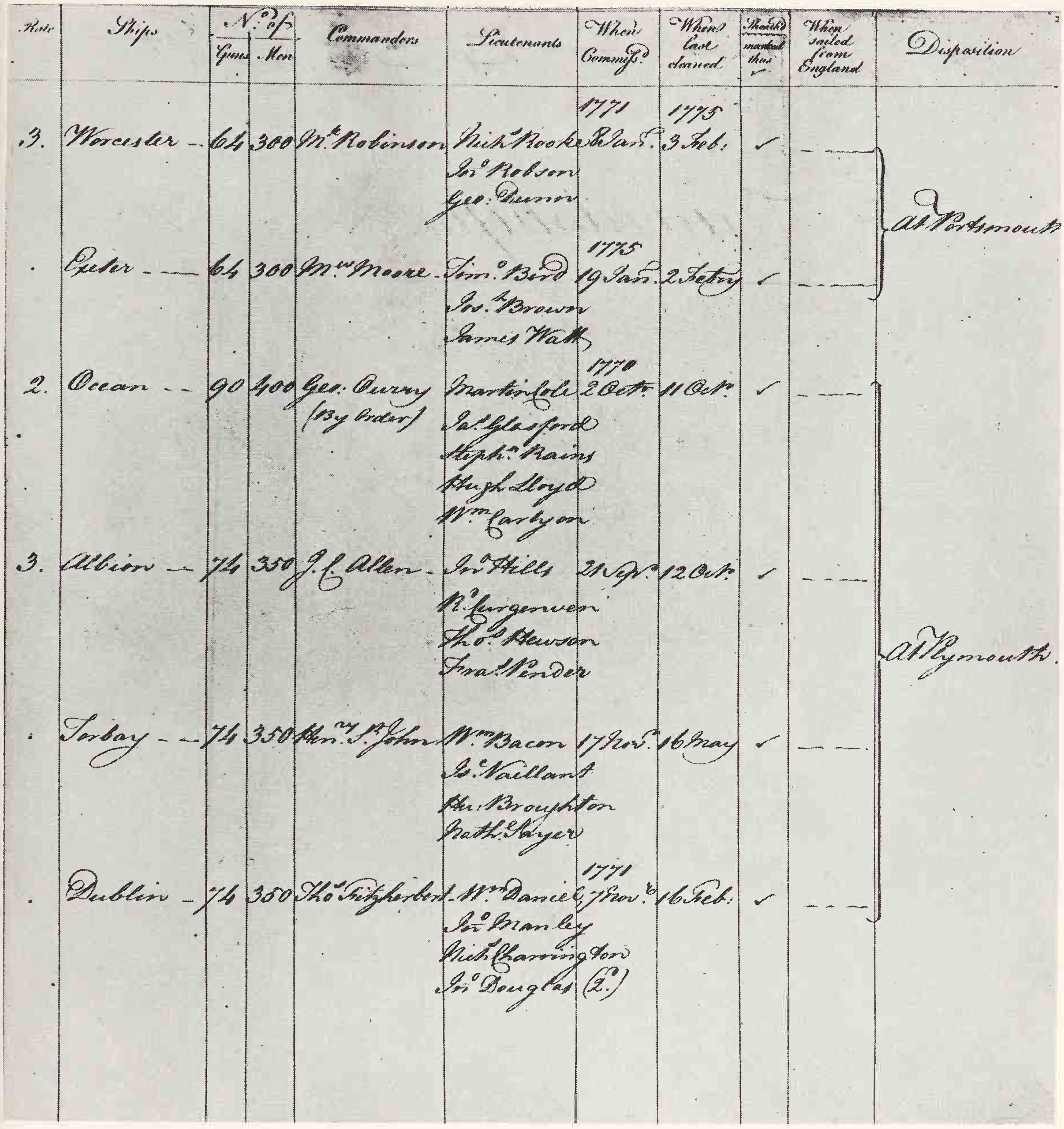


Rate	Ships	No. of Guns	Men	Commanders	Lieutenants	When Commiss.d	When last cleaned	Sheath.d marked thus ✓	When sailed from England	Disposition
		Carr.s								
Cutter.	Alarm	C.10	30	Lt. Wm. Wardlaw	—	1772 30 June	1775 31 May	—	—	From Fifeness to ye Isles of Orkney and Shetland.
.	Meredith	C.10	30	Jas. Brady	—	19 Mar.	5 May	—	—	Betw. Beachy Head and Chichester.
.	Sherborne	C.8	30	Thos. Gaborian	—	1763 2 Decr.	3 Mar.	—	—	From Portland to Exmouth.
.	Wells	C.8	30	Jn. Walton	—	1764 17 Augt.	25 Feb.	—	—	Betw. ye N. Foreland & Dungeness & stretching over to the Coast of France.
			558.							

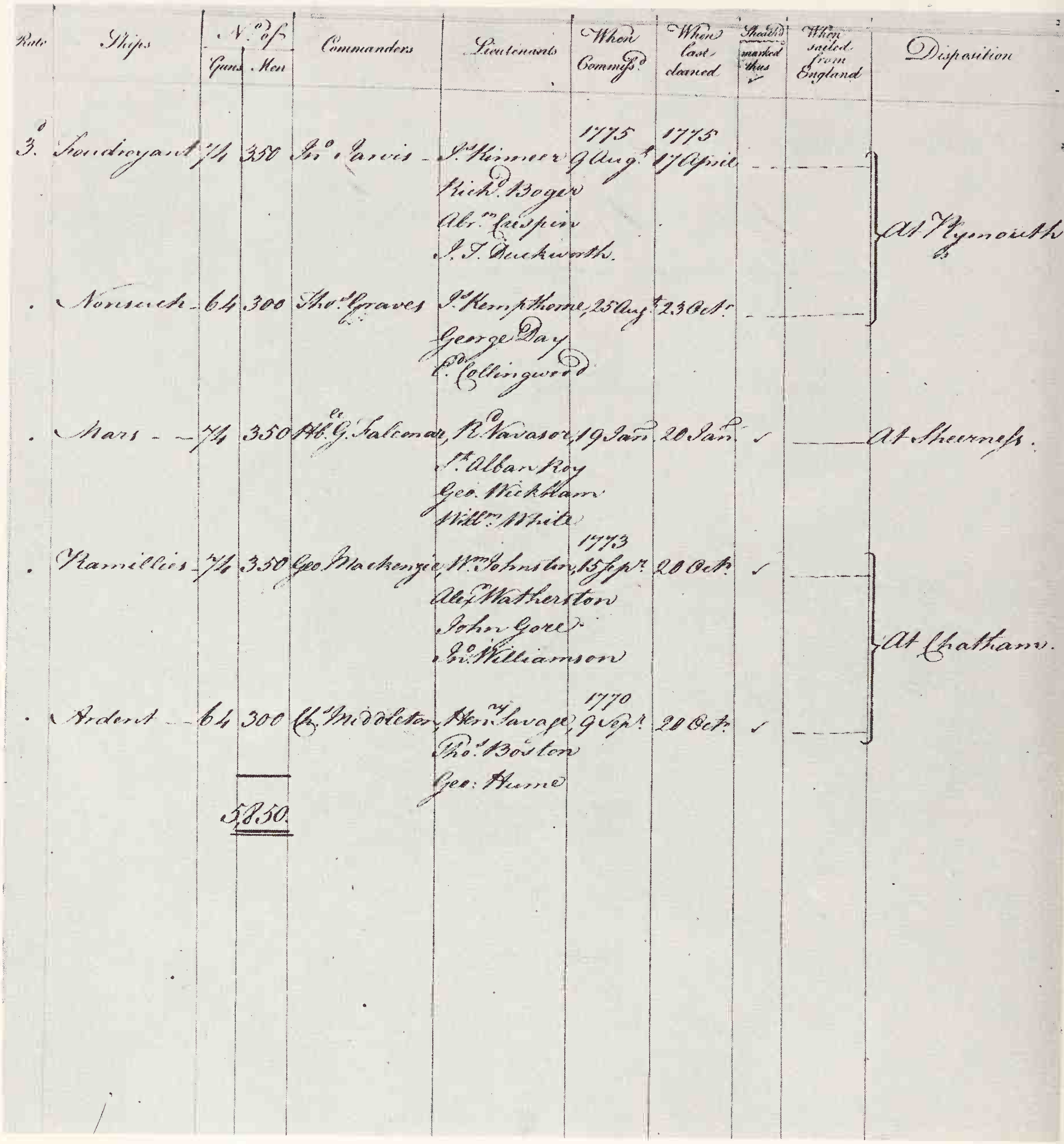


Guardships.

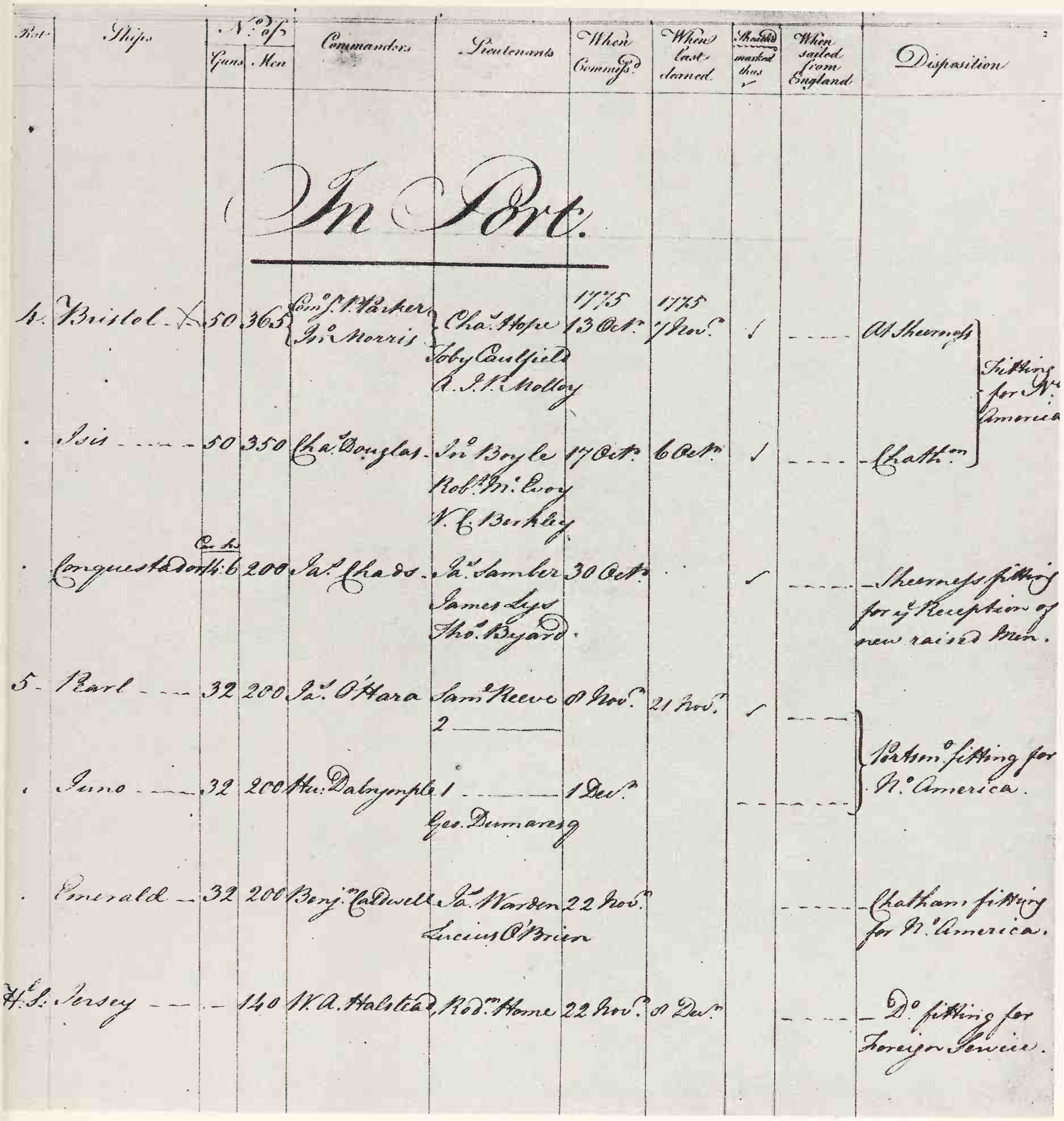
Rate	Ships	No. of Guns	No. of Men	Commanders	Lieutenants	When Commiss.d	When last cleaned	~~Sheath'd~~ marked ~~thus~~ ✓	When sailed from England	Disposition
2.	Barfleur	90	400	Mk Millbank	Jas Norman Chd Caldwell Ld Rutherford J. Vo Chubb Jno Botham	1770 23 Octr	1775 20 Mar	✓	----	At Portsmouth
3.	Royal Oak	74	350	Josh Deane	Dd Maitland Stepn Widdicombe Geo. Mowbray Robt Gillingham	17 Novr	3 Feby	✓	----	
.	Egmont	74	350	Jno Elphinston	Jl. Nasmith Wm James Walter Young Aw Sutherland	6 Novr	3 Aprl	✓	----	
.	Centaur	74	350	Wm Brenton	Jno Reynolds Josh Lash Jno Norris Stepn Parker	20 Mar	4 Aprl	—	----	
.	Resolution	74	350	Sr Chas Ogle	Thos Artr Ley W. Vo Burnaby Cs Knatchbull Mr Jno Everett	7 Decr	31 May	✓	----	
.	Marlborough	74	350	Saml Hood	Jas Brine Jno Inglefield Jno Holloway H. C. Christian	1771 14 Jan	1 June	✓	----	



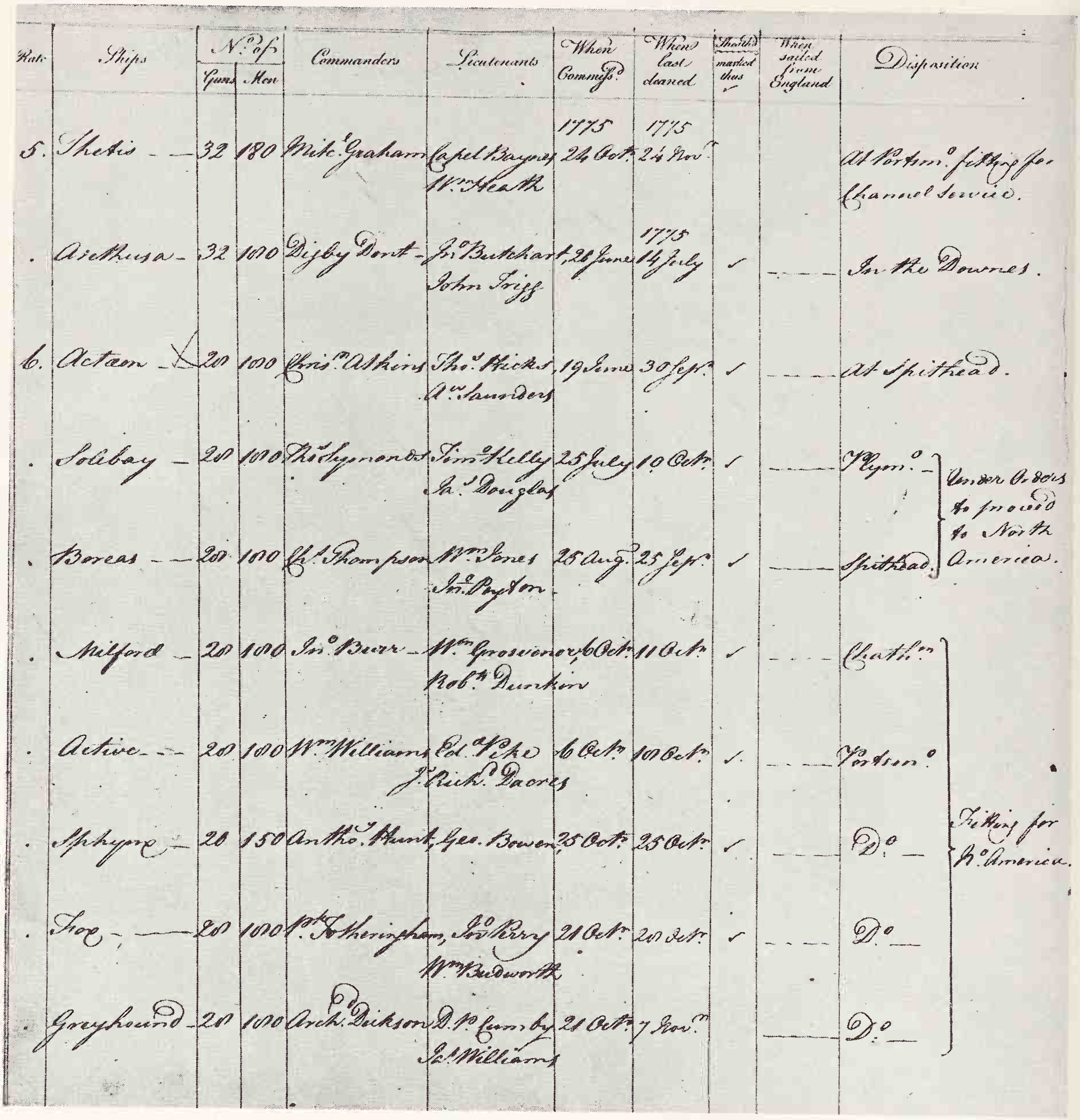
Rate	Ships	No. of Guns	No. of Men	Commanders	Lieutenants	When Commissd	When last cleaned	Sheathd marked thus ✓	When sailed from England	Disposition
3.	Worcester --	64	300	Mk. Robinson	Nichs Rooke Jno Robson Geo: Vernon	1771 26 Jan.	1775 3 Feb.	✓	---	At Portsmouth
.	Exeter ---	64	300	Wm Moore -	Timo Bird Josh Brown James Watt	1775 19 Jan.	2 Febry	✓	---	
2.	Ocean --	90	400	Geo: Ourry (By Order)	Martin Cole Jas Glassford Stephn Rains Hugh Lloyd Wm Carlyon	1770 2 Octr	11 Octr	✓	---	At Plymouth.
3.	Albion --	74	350	J. C. Allen -	Jno Hills Rd Surgenven Thos Hewson Fras Pender	21 Sepr	12 Octr	✓	---	
.	Torbay --	74	350	Henry St John	Wm Bacon Jno Vaillant Hu: Broughton Nath. Sayer	17 Novr	16 May	✓	---	
.	Dublin -	74	350	Thos Fitzherbert -	Wm Daniel Jno Manley Nich. Charrington Jno Douglas (2.)	1771 7 Novr	16 Feb.	✓	---	



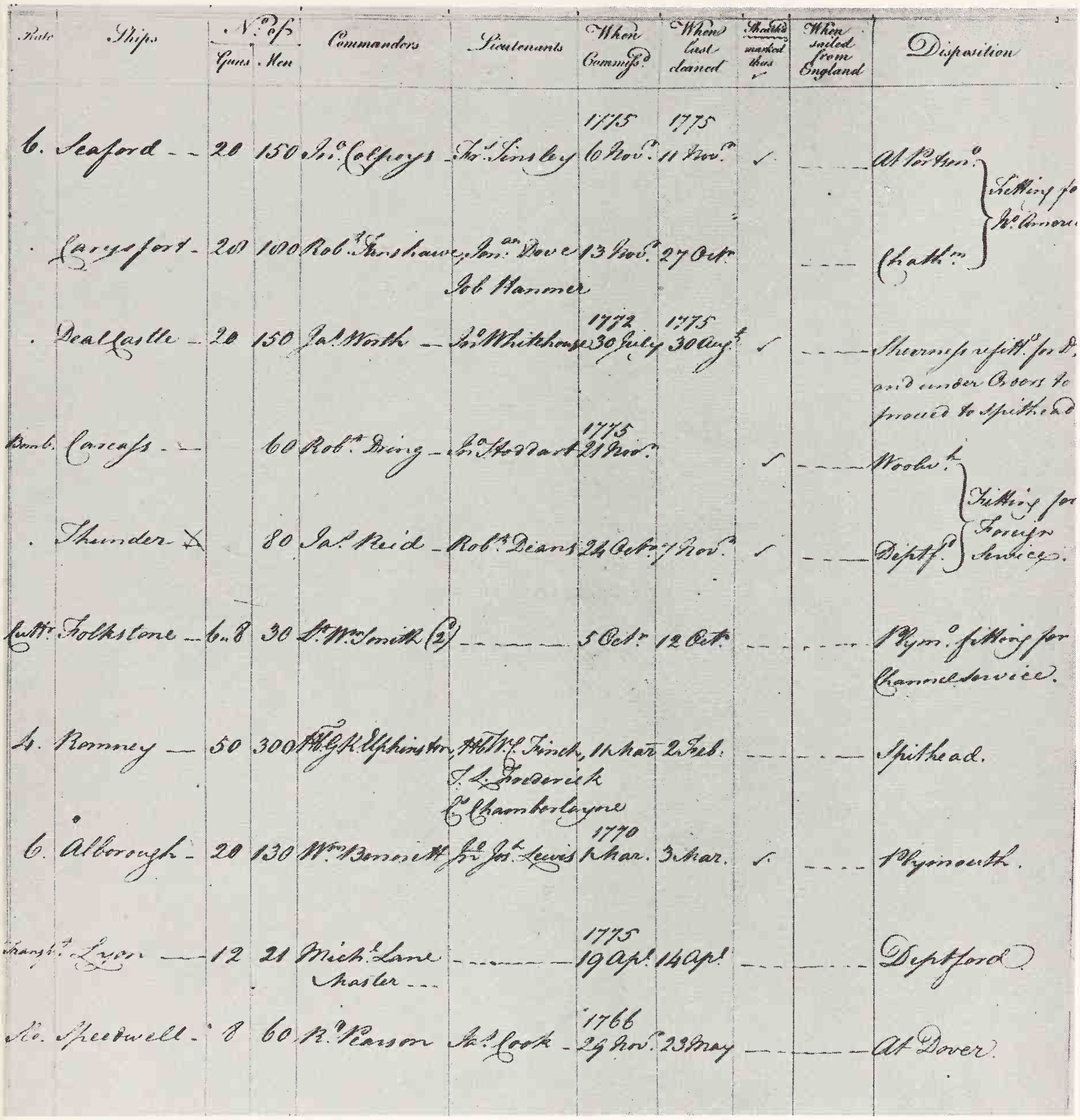
Rate	Ships	No. of Guns	No. of Men	Commanders	Lieutenants	When Commissd.	When last cleaned	Sheathd marked thus ✓	When sailed from England	Disposition
3.	Foudroyant	74	350	Jno. Jarvis	Js. Kimmer Richd. Boger Abrm. Crespin J. T. Duckworth.	1775 9 Augt.	1775 17 April	—	—	At Plymouth.
.	Nonsuch	64	300	Thos. Graves	Jo. Kempthorne George Day Cd. Collingwood	25 Augt.	23 Octr.	—	—	
.	Mars	74	350	Abe. G. Falconar	Rd. Vavasor St. Alban Roy Geo. Wickham Willm. White	19 Jan	20 Jan	✓	—	At Sheerness.
.	Ramillies	74	350	Geo. Mackenzie	Wm. Johnston Alexr. Watherston John Gore Jno. Williamson	1773 15 Septr.	20 Octr.	✓	—	At Chatham.
.	Ardent	64	300	Chs. Middleton	Henry Savage Thos. Boston Geo: Hume	1770 9 Septr.	20 Octr.	✓	—	
			5,850.							



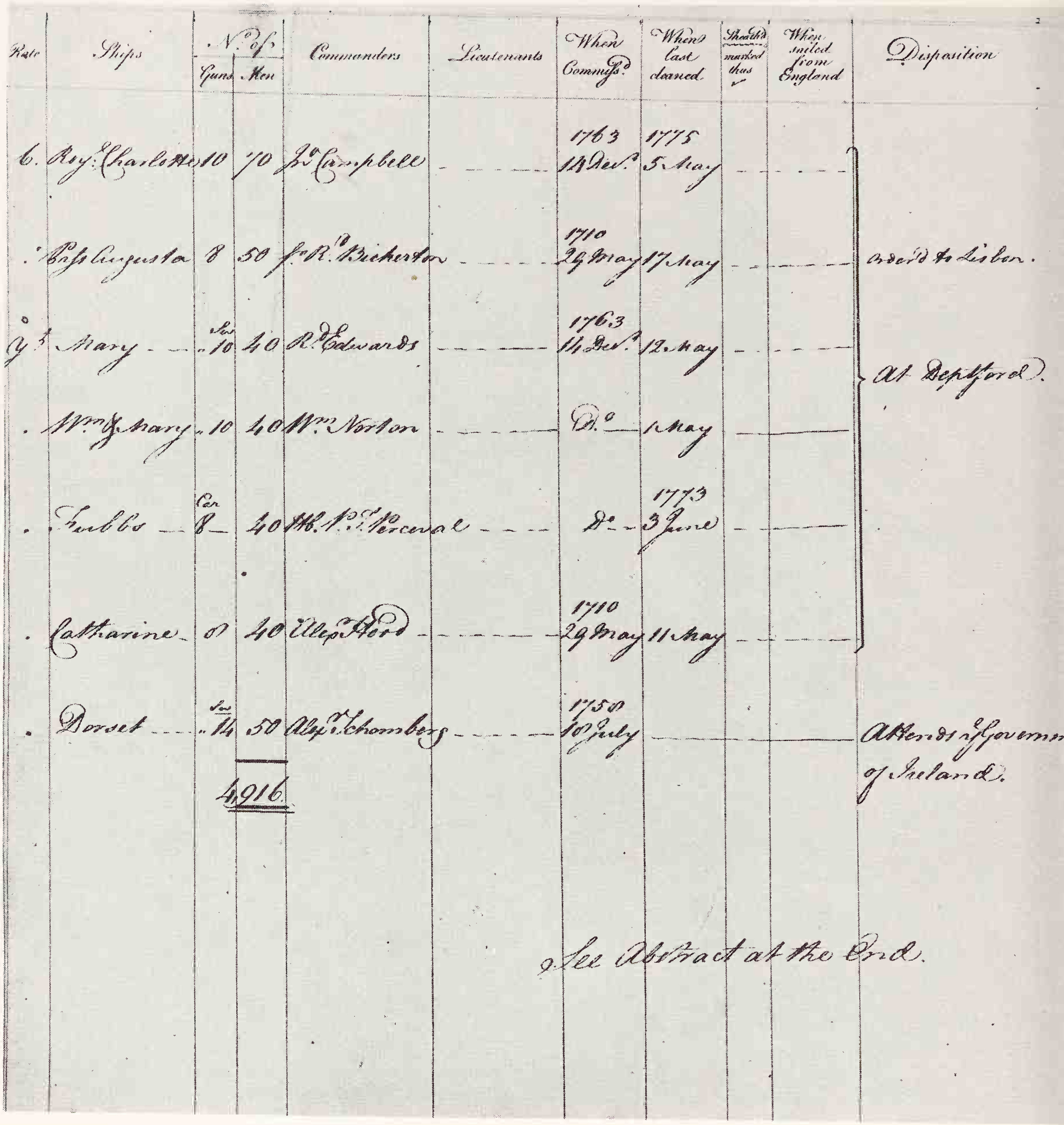
Rat.	Ships	No. of Guns	No. of Men	Commanders	Lieutenants	When Commissd	When last cleaned	Sheathd marked thus ✓	When sailed from England	Disposition
				In Port.						
4.	Bristol ✝	50	365	Comre S. P. Parker Jno Morris	Chas Hope Toby Caulfield A. J. P. Molloy	1775 13 Octr	1775 7 Novr	✓	----	At Sheerness } fitting for No America
.	Isis	50	350	Chas Douglas	Jno Boyle Robt Mc Evoy V. C. Berkley	17 Octr	6 Octr	✓	----	Chattm } fitting for No America
.	Conquestador	Car. ls 14:6	200	Jas Chads	Jas Samber James Lys Thos Byard	30 Octr		✓	----	Sheerness fitting for ye Reception of new raised Men.
5.	Pearl	32	200	Jas O'Hara	Saml Reeve 2 ——	8 Novr	21 Novr	✓	----	} Portsmo fitting for No America.
.	Juno	32	200	Hu: Dalrymple	1 —— Geo. Dumaresq	1 Decr			----	} Portsmo fitting for No America.
.	Emerald	32	200	Benjn Caldwell	Jas Warden Lucius O'Brien	22 Novr			----	Chatham fitting for No America.
H.S.	Jersey	—	140	W. A. Halstead	Rodm Home	22 Novr	8 Decr		----	Do fitting for Foreign Service.



Rate	Ships	N.o of Guns	N.o of Men	Commanders	Lieutenants	When Commiss.d	When last cleaned	Sheath'd marked thus ✓	When sailed from England	Disposition	
5.	Thetis	32	180	Mitc.l Graham	Capel Baynes W.m Heath	1775 24 Oct.r	1775 24 Nov.r			At Portsm.o fitting for Channel Service.	
.	Arethusa	32	100	Digby Dent	Jn.o Butchart John Trigg	26 June	1775 14 July	✓	—	In the Downes.	
6.	Actaeon	20	100	Chris.r Atkins	Tho.s Hicks A.r Saunders	19 June	30 Sept.r	✓	—	At Spithead.	
.	Solebay	20	100	Tho.s Symonds	Tim.o Kelly Ja.s Douglas	25 July	10 Oct.r	✓	—	Plym.o	Under Orders to proceed to North America.
.	Boreas	20	100	Ch.s Thompson	W.m Jones Jn.o Peyton	25 Aug.	25 Sept.r	✓	—	Spithead.	
.	Milford	20	100	Jn.o Burr	W.m Grosvenor Rob.t Dunkin	6 Oct.r	11 Oct.r	✓	—	Chath.m	Fitting for N.o America.
.	Active	20	100	W.m Williams	Ed.d Pike J. Rich.d Dacres	6 Oct.r	10 Oct.r	✓	—	Portsm.o	
.	Sphynx	20	150	Antho.y Hunt	Geo. Bowen	25 Oct.r	25 Oct.r	✓	—	D.o	
.	Fox	20	100	P.k Fotheringham	Jn.o Perry W.m Bedworth	21 Oct.r	20 Oct.r	✓	—	D.o	
.	Greyhound	20	100	Arch.d Dickson	D. P. Cumby Ja.s Williams	21 Oct.r	7 Nov.r		—	D.o	

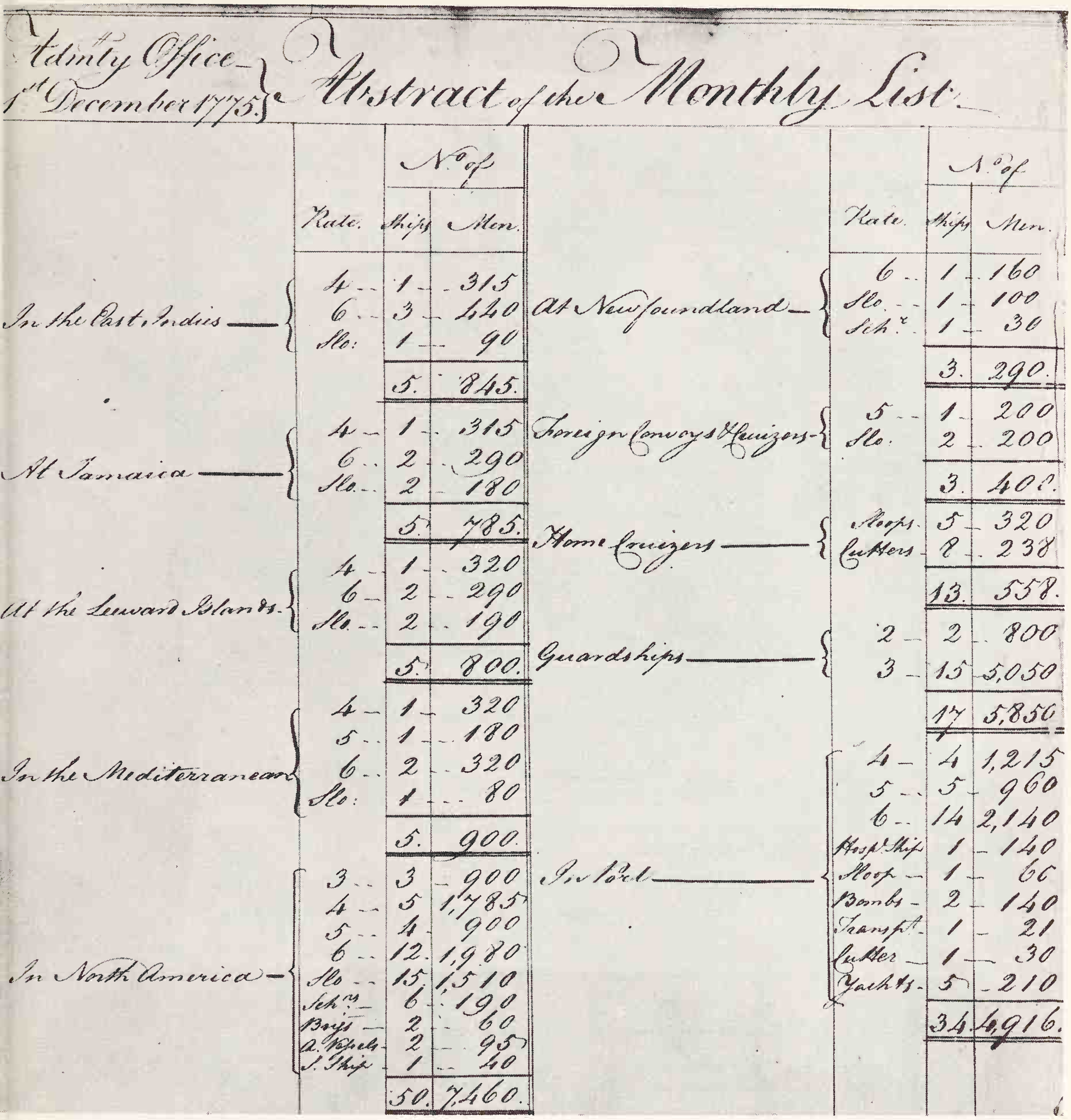


Rate	Ships	No. of Guns	No. of Men	Commanders	Lieutenants	When Commissd.	When last cleaned	Sheathd. marked thus ✓	When sailed from England	Disposition
6.	Seaford	20	150	Jno. Colpoys	Thos. Tinsley	1775 6 Novr.	1775 11 Novr.	✓	---	At Portsmo. } Fitting fo No. Amer
.	Carysfort	20	100	Robt. Fanshawe	Jon.an Dove Job Hanmer	13 Novr.	27 Octr.		---	Chathm.
.	Deal Castle	20	150	Jas. Worth	Jno. Whitehouse	1772 30 July	1775 30 Augt.	✓	---	Sheerness refittd. for D. and under Orders to proceed to Spithead
Bomb.	Carcass		60	Robt. Dring	Jno. Stoddart	1775 21 Novr.		✓	---	Woolwt. } Fitting for Foreign Service.
.	Thunder ✗		80	Jas. Reid	Robt. Deans	24 Octr.	7 Novr.	✓	---	Deptfd.
Cuttr.	Folkstone	6..8	30	Lt. Wm. Smith (2)	------	5 Octr.	12 Octr.	---	---	Plymo. fitting for Channel service.
4.	Romney	50	300	Hon. G.K. Elphinstone	Hon. Wm. Finch, J. L. Frederick Chas. Chamberlayne	11 Mar.	2 Feb.	---	---	Spithead.
6.	Alborough	20	130	Wm. Bennett	Jno. Jos. Lewis	1770 1 Mar.	3 Mar.	✓	---	Plymouth.
Transpt.	Lyon	12	21	Michl. Lane Master	------	1775 19 Apl.	14 Apl.	---	---	Deptford
Sl.	Speedwell	8	60	Rd. Pearson	Jas. Cook	1766 29 Novr.	23 May	---	---	At Dover



Rate	Ships	No. of Guns	No. of Men	Commanders	Lieutenants	When Commissd	When last cleaned	Sheathd marked thus ✓	When sailed from England	Disposition
6.	Roy: Charlotte	10	70	Ld Campbell		1763 14 Decr	1775 5 May			At Deptford.
.	Pss Augusta	8	50	Sr R. Bickerton		1710 29 May	17 May			Order'd to Lisbon.
Yts	Mary	Sw 10	40	Rd Edwards		1763 14 Decr	12 May			
.	Wm & Mary	10	40	Wm Norton		Do	1 May			
.	Fubbs	Car 8	40	Hb. Pr. Percival		Do	1773 3 June			
.	Catharine	8	40	Alexr Hood		1710 29 May	11 May			
.	Dorset	Sw 14	50	Alexr Chambers		1750 10 July				Attends ye Governm of Ireland.
			4,916							

See Abstract at the End.

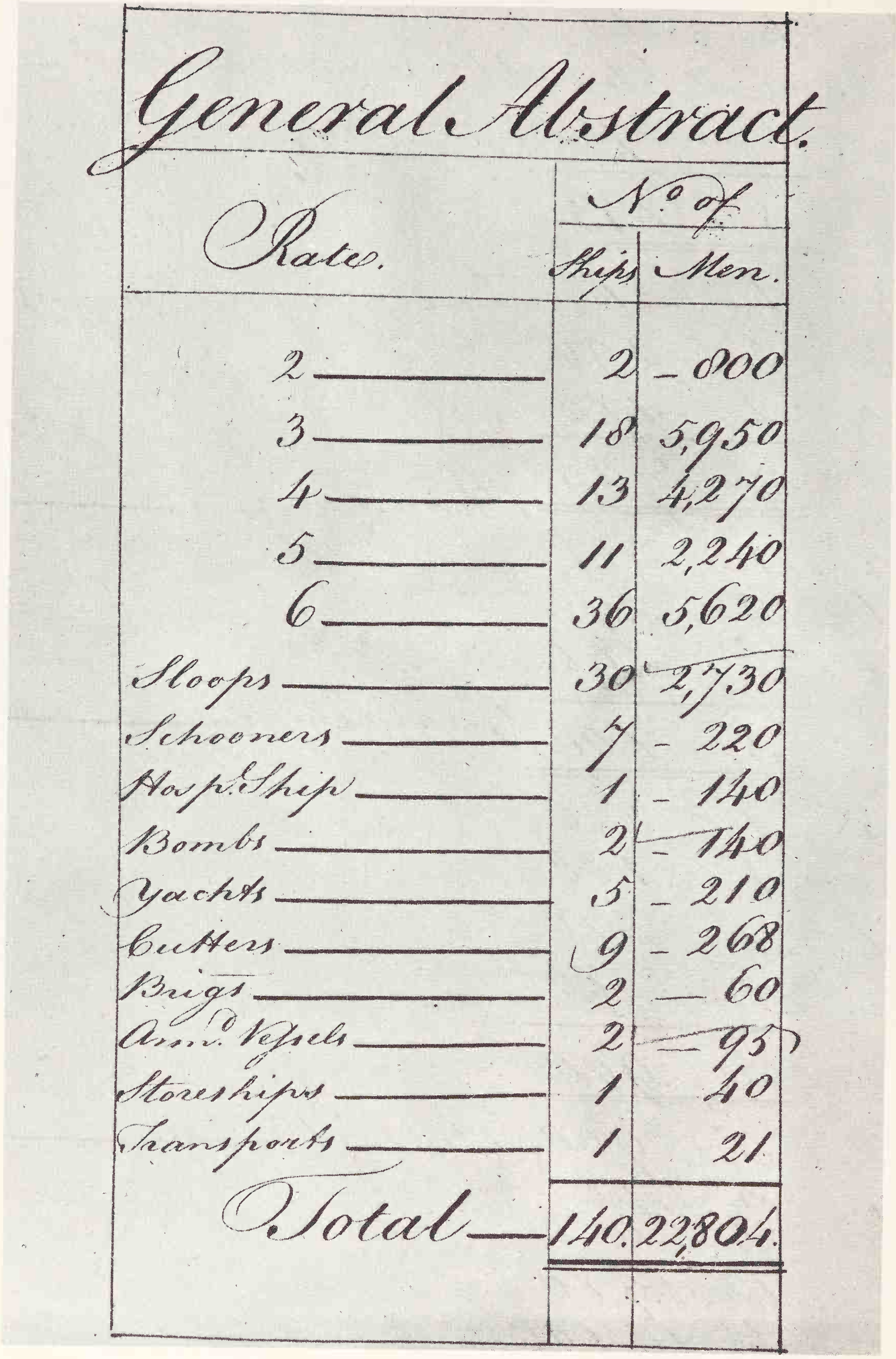


Admty Office—
1st December 1775.

Abstract of the Monthly List—

	Rate.	No. of Ships	No. of Men.
In the East Indies	4	1	315
	6	3	440
	Slo:	1	90
		5.	845.
At Jamaica	4	1	315
	6	2	290
	Slo.	2	180
		5.	785.
At the Leeward Islands	4	1	320
	6	2	290
	Slo.	2	190
		5.	800.
In the Mediterranean	4	1	320
	5	1	180
	6	2	320
	Slo:	1	80
		5.	900.
In North America	3	3	900
	4	5	1,785
	5	4	900
	6	12	1,980
	Slo.	15	1,510
	Schrs.	6	190
	Brigs	2	60
	A. Vessels	2	95
	S. Ship	1	40
		50.	7,460.

	Rate.	No. of Ships	No. of Men.
At Newfoundland	6	1	160
	Slo.	1	100
	Schr.	1	30
		3.	290.
Foreign Convoys & Cruizers	5	1	200
	Slo.	2	200
		3.	400.
Home Cruizers	Sloops	5	320
	Cutters	8	238
		13.	558.
Guardships	2	2	800
	3	15	5,050
		17	5,850
In Port	4	4	1,215
	5	5	960
	6	14	2,140
	Hospl. Ship	1	140
	Sloop	1	66
	Bombs	2	140
	Transpt.	1	21
	Cutter	1	30
	Yachts	5	210
		34.	4,916.



General Abstract.

Rate.	N^{o}. of Ships	N^{o}. of Men.
2	2	– 800
3	18	5,950
4	13	4,270
5	11	2,240
6	36	5,620
Sloops	30	2,730
Schooners	7	– 220
Hosp^{l}. Ship	1	– 140
Bombs	2	– 140
Yachts	5	– 210
Cutters	9	– 268
Brigs	2	— 60
Arm^{d}. Vessels	2	— 95
Storeships	1	40
Transports	1	21
Total	140.	22,804.

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[1] Only printed sources and newspapers not cited in previous volumes. See also "Descriptive List of Illustrations." For manuscript sources see "Depository Location Abbreviations."

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INDEX

Abercorn, Lord, 461

Abigail: brig, 374

Acadians, 1166, 1299

Accomack County (Va.), 1018

Ackland, Philip, 1083

Actaeon: HMS, to carry clothing for Marines, 353; dispatches on, transferred to *Triton,* 358; assigned to Southern Expedition, 361n.; Admiralty orders to join Sir Peter Parker at Cork, 423; arrives at Cork, 511, 523, 533; mentioned: 340, 368, 388, 400, 432, 433, 443, 445, 452, 459, 467, 470, 473, 480, 484, 488, 501, 524, 1410 (Atkins)

Active: HMS, Admiralty orders to join Southern Expedition, 452; replaces *Boreas,* 459; fitting out for sea, 461; arrives at Cork, 524; mentioned: 340, 388, 443, 451, 462, 486, 1410 (Williams)

Adamant: ship, 458, 480n. (Wilson)

Adams, ——, 115

Adams, —— (Capt.), 804

Adams, Alexander P., 940n.

Adams, Andrew, **from** William Hull, 146

Adams, Daniel (Capt.), 1237 (*Hawke*)

Adams, John: leaves Naval Committee, 102n.; appointed to Massachusetts naval committee, 291; portrait, 935*; Autobiography, 1337; **to:** Thomas Cushing and others, 876–77; James Warren, 1284–85; **from:** Samuel Adams, 209; John Borland, 936–38; Samuel Chase, 755–56; Hezekiah Doane and Co., 997; Joseph Hawley, 149; Benjamin Hichborn, 32–35; Benjamin Nicholson, 32–35; Isaac Smith, 856; William Tudor, 45n.; James Warren, 49–50; mentioned: 631, 842, 933, 1074, 1104, 1184, 1248

Adams, Abigail, 856

Adams, Robert (Master), 17n., 48n., 110, 233 (*Little Hannah*)

Adams, Samuel, **to:** John Adams, 209; James Warren, 670–71, 719; **from:** James Warren, 165, 784, 833, 1060; mentioned: 59, 301, 673n., 837, 846, 1152

Adams, William, 863

Adams, William (Surgeon, Cont. Navy), 961 (*Hornet*)

Adams, William, 1362 (*Lynch*)

Adams, Winborn (Capt.), 36, 92, 96, 253, 318 598, 783n., 979n., 1066n. (*Warren*)

Adderley, Abraham (Master), 985n. (*Friendship*)

Admiral Shuldham: transport, 422

Admiralty, British: Proceedings, 334; **to:** All Captains, 349; Christopher Atkins, 423; John Burr, 430, 478; Benjamin Caldwell, 384; Captains Serving Under Sir Peter Parker, 429; Sir George Collier, 459; John Colpoys, 356; Commanding Officers in Home Waters, 405; Commissioners for Victualling, 472; Robert P. Cooper, 342, 380; William Cornwallis, 363; Hugh Dalrymple, 401; Henry Davis, 432; Robert Deanes, 339; Digby Dent, 367, 401, 492, 513; Sir James Douglas, 412, 494, 512; Robert Dring, 384, 431; Robert Fanshaw, 366; James Ferguson, 462; Charles Flyn, 431; Tobias Furneaux, 344, 345; Lord George Germain, 368, 412, 415, 446, 453, 454, 455, 456, 459, 471, 483, 502, 507, 509, 513, 534, 542, 545; Mitchell Graham, 494, 513; William Anthony Halstead, 385; Anthony Hunt, 424; Robert Linzee, 424, 433; Skeffington Lutwidge, 367; John Macartney, 541; Edward Medows, 494; John Morris, 380; James O'Hara, 349; Richard Pearson, 392; Sir Peter Parker, 338, 424, 427, 429, 433, 452, 457; James Reid, 420, 423; Elliot Salter, 459n.; Molyneux Shuldham, 478, 540–41; Thomas Symonds, 388; Charles Thompson, 423; Thomas Underwood, 518; Samuel Warren, 518n.; Lord Weymouth, 453; William Williams, 452; James Worth, 391, 424; **from:** Lord George Germain, 392, 408–09, 416, 420, 456, 461, 463, 476, 482, 516, 523, 524; Lord Weymouth, 459–60

Admiralty courts, 274, 573, 675, 833, 844, 914, 950, 953, 967, 1096, 1102, 1121, 1193, 1303

Advance: sloop, 150 (Eastman)

Adventure: schooner, 1369 (Bartlett); transport, 405n., 586, 1007, 1008, 1400 (Hallum); unspecified, 448

Affleck, William (Capt., R.N.), 1396 (*Medway*)

Africa, possible source of gunpowder, 544; mentioned: 363, 540

African Company, 364

Agatha: sloop, 309, 643–45 (Wilson)

Agnew, Alexander (Lt., R.N.), 544, 1403 (*St. John*)

Agnew, James (Col.), 238

Aisquith [Asquith], William, 1118, 1138

Aitchison, ——, 261

Aitkin, Henry (Master), 1268, 1341 (*Port-Henderson*)

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*Illustration.

Akerman, Simeon (Capt.), 16, 17 (*Dartmouth*)

Alarm: HM Cutter, 1405 (Wardlaw)

Alarm: HMS, 1396 (Stott)

Albion: HMS, 451, 1407 (Allen); victualler, 382, 383

Aldborough [*Alborough*]: HMS, 387, 405, 434n., 1411 (Bennett)

Alden, Judah, 578

Alderney: HM Sloop, 1404 (Young)

Alexander, Charles (Capt., Pa. Navy), 77, 91, 1067, 1322 (*Chatham*)

Alexander, Mark, **from** Ebenezer Hall, 81; mentioned: 60, 1369

Alexander, Morgan (Capt.), 307

Alexander, Robert, **to** Maryland Council of Safety, 1321; mentioned: 721, 818, 1103n., 1153, 1179, 1285–86, 1338

Alexander, William, 741, 763

Alexander, William (Col.) *See* Stirling, Lord

Alfred: Continental Ship [formerly *Black Prince*], Dudley Saltonstall given command of, 117n., 215; significance of name, 173; saltpeter for, 185; Grand Union Flag raised on, 186; Marines, 302, 613; officers, 207, 208n., 302, 1219; illustration of, 303*; description of, 558, 616, 1236; figurehead, 560n., cost of fitting out, 607–9; complement, 790; chandlery, 848, 1377–91; pay, 961; mentioned: 1, 264, 641, 642n., 672, 891, 939, 940, 1088, 1206, 1264, 1307, 1322 (Saltonstall)

Alfred: 1041 (Callender)

Allan, John, 1166

Allen, —— (Capt.), 380n. (*Centurion*)

Allen, Andrew, 803, 998, 1038

Allen, Charles (Master), 1370 (*Speedfair*)

Allen, Ethan (Col.): efforts to exchange, 94; treatment as prisoner, 146–48, 193, 480–81n., 545–47, 1272; sent to England, 162, 318; Narrative of Captivity: 480n.–81n., 545–47; mentioned: 59, 458, 489, 512n., 524, 578, 1088

Allen, J. C. (Capt., R.N.), 1407 (*Albion*)

Allen, James, 1029

Allen, John, 975 (*Minerva*)

Allen, John, 1353, 1354

Allen, Matthew (Capt.), 751, 882

Allen, Paul (Gapt.), **to** Nicholas Brown 1003–4; **from** Nicholas Brown, 322, 735–36; mentioned: 277, 321

Allen, Solomon, 1370

Allen, William (Capt.), 131, 617

Allen, William [Delegate to Cont. Con.], 1127

Alleyne, ——, 480

Allin, Zachariah (Capt.), 1099

Allston, John (Capt.), 192

Alsop, John, 680, 731, 802, 837, 1113, 1153, 1263, 1285–86

Amazon: HMS, 426, 521

Ambuscade: HMS, 426, 521, 541 (Macartney)

America: brig, 570n. (Lambert); ship, 817 (Lamb); sloop, 808 (Graham); unspecified, 1367 (Stacey)

Amherst, Sir Jeffrey (Maj. Gen.), 387, 970

Amherst, John (V. Adm., R.N.), **from** George Jackson, 421, 469

Amity's Providence: transport, 63

Ammunition, 1148*. *See also* Military stores, Munitions, Naval stores

Amphibious warfare [British]: 37, 57, 66, 87, 127, 579–80, 585, 617, 767, 784, 801, 882–83, 1019, 1139–40, 1163, 1252–54; [American]: 108, 626–27

Amphitrite: brigantine, 866, 1002 (McNeil)

Amphitrite: French Frigate, at Jamaica, 232 (De Grasse)

Amputation instruments, 872*

Anderson, ——, (Capt.), 625

Anderson, James, 6n., 497

Anderson, John, **from** Richard Bulkeley, 870, 1332

Anderson, Peter, 1381

Andrew Doria: Continental Brig [formerly *Defiance*]: signifiance of name, 173; Marines, 174–75, 304; boatswain's warrant, 216–17*; officers, 207, 208n., 302, 1219; cost of fitting out, 611–12; description of, 616, 1236; signals, 1287–88; crew enlistment, 1291; sailing qualities, 1307; chandlery, 1385, 1377–91; Journal: 615, 838–39, 1264n., 1349; mentioned: 60n., 264n., 613, 615, 642n., 672, 820n., 848, 863n., 891, 961, 1088, 1219, 1264, 1306, 1322 (Biddle)

Andrews, John, 1081n.

Anna Catherina: ship, to be intercepted, 358; brought to England, 422, 449; released, 455 (Stander)

Anna Teresa: 779

Annapolis (Md.), 927, 1179

Annapolis Royal (Nova Scotia), 1275

Anslow, James, 849

Anstruther, ——, (Capt.), 242

Antelope: HMS, 44, 830, 831, 907, 908, 946, 948, 1022, 1121, 1143, 1192, 1242, 1243, 1295–96, 1331, 1394 (Judd)

Anthony, Joseph, 917, 937–38, 955

Anthony, William, 974

Antill, Edward (Lt. Col.), **to** Major General Philip Schuyler, 1155; mentioned: 314, 742, 768, 780, 846, 918, 1035

Aplin, John, 1228

Aplin, Joseph: Testimony: 1195–96; mentioned: 1145, 1158, 1196n., 1252, 1254

Aplin, William, **to** South Kingston (R.I.) Committee of Correspondence, 1252; mentioned: 1253–54

Apollo: HMS, 340, 370

Appleby, James, 1228

Appleton, Benjamin, 946, 988n.

Apprentices, enlistment, 998, 1038, 1050, 1284

Apthorpe, ——, 386

Apthorpe, Charles Ward, 1282

Apty, Thomas, 131
Arbuthnot, Marriot (Commodore, R.N.), **to:** Samuel Graves, 792; Andrew Snape Hamond, 625; Molyneux Shuldham, 1299–3000; Philip Stephens, 251; **from** Samuel Graves 7, 1096; mentioned: 36, 64, 84, 97, 274, 459, 460, 1006, 1025, 1031, 1057, 1096, 1192, 1266, 1323
Ardent: HMS, 359, 371, 1408 (Middleton)
Ardesoif, J. P. (Lt., R.N.), 1395
Ardin, Charles, 68
Arethusa: HMS, ordered on interception cruise, 367, 401, 406; fitting out for foreign service, 492, 512, 513; ordered to St. Helena, 520; mentioned: 397, 498, 502, 531, 535, 1410 (Dent)
Argo: HMS, prizes taken by, 106, 792; French sloop boarded by, 292; Journal: 570, 791; mentioned: 179n., 415, 708, 779, 1068, 1121, 1298n., 1334, 1395 (Garnier)
Army, British, 16, 28, 29, 41, 97, 123, 136, 161, 180, 182, 188, 212, 213, 231, 333, 341–42, 360, 367, 399, 406, 416, 424, 466, 482, 523, 536, 600, 706, 715, 782, 812–13, 814–15, 951, 969–70, 1136, 1239, 1343. *See also* Boston, seige of; Combined operations; Desertions; Great Bridge, battle of; Clinton, Sir Henry; Howe, William
Army, Continental: Council of War at Cambridge, 1314–15; mentioned: 13, 73, 75, 156, 192, 281, 515, 588, 599, 600, 628–29, 659, 756, 833, 842, 918, 951, 976–77, 1045, 1048, 1072, 1147, 1159, 1181, 1212–14, 1261, 1345–46. *See also* Arnold, Benedict; Schuyler, Philip; Washington, George; Wooster, David
Arnold, Benedict (Brig. Gen.): wounded, 313; conveys news of Quebec assault, 314; nominated brigadier general, 681; confirms Montgomery's death, 731–33; **to:** Continental Congress, 731–33, 741, 949; John Hancock, 1072, 1220–1; Hector McNeill, 840–41; George Washington, 781–82; David Wooster, 314, 570, 596, 624; mentioned: 10, 11, 128, 137, 138, 162, 249, 313, 315, 318, 504, 551, 768, 780, 798, 812, 837, 838, 841, 847, 874, 902, 925, 953, 961, 965n., 970, 1004, 1028, 1035, 1047, 1159, 1185, 1212, 1221, 1255, 1336, 1345
Arnold, David, 751
Arnold, James, Jr., 752
Arnold, Rhodes (Lt., Cont. Navy): appointed, 207, 208n.; mentioned: 302, 1219 (*Columbus*)
Arnold, Thomas, 676, 677, 1228
Arnold, Welcome, 1133
Arthur, ——, (Capt.), 1184
Arthurs, William, 849
Arundell: schooner, 261
Ascension Island, 519. *See also Arethusa* and *Thetis*
Ash, John, 192
Ashburnham, Earl of, 414
Ashcraft, Simeon, 962
Ashe, Samuel, 199
Ashmead, John, 697
Asia: HMS, prizes taken by, 115, 129, 154, 943n., 1137; lying in East River, 241; provisions for, 257, 978, 1320; aids Loyalists, 68 *, 589, 820; prisoners on board, 691, 769, 1217; receives intelligence reports, 698; Shuldham wants to remain in New York, 857; burial of purser, 957, 1086; runs aground, 1334; Journal: 154, 196, 943, 1137, 1218; mentioned: 86, 89, 139, 161, 195, 214, 319, 574, 653, 671, 794, 802, 847, 920, 1008, 1014, 1031, 1037, 1112, 1125n., 1152, 1216, 1232, 1335, 1347, 1400 (Vandeput)
Aspden, Matthias, 980, 1102
Aspell, Phillip, 975
Associators, *see* Philadelphia Associators
Aston Hall: ship, 1369 (Parker)
Atalanta: HMS, model of, 517*; fitting out, 518; ordered to Jamaica, 520; mentioned: 340, 1403 (Underwood)
Atherton, John, 1122
Atkins, Christopher (Capt., R.N.), **to** Philip Stephens 353, 355; **from** Admiralty, 423; mentioned: 429, 511, 1410 (*Actaeon*)
Atkinson, John (Midshipman, R.N.), 145n., 147, 148n.
Atkinson, W. H. (Lt., R.N.), 1404
Atwood, Solomon, 86
Auger, Jonathan, 799
Aurora: ship, 24n., 617 (Read)
Autumn: brig, 1368 (Campbell)
Aver, John (Master), 1370 (*Betsy*)
Avery, —— (Capt.), 309 (*Christian*)
Avery, Samuel (Master), 963n. (*Hibernia*)
Avery, Waightstill, 1070
Axtell, William, 1199, 1216, 1282
Ayer, Elijah, 1166
Ayles, Robert, 991
Aylett, William, 61
Ayres, John (Capt.), 553n., 873, 991, 1077, 1353–65 (*Lynch*)
Ayscough, James (Capt., R.N.), 66, 126, 167, 215, 678, 800 (*Swan*)

B. P., **to** Lord Dartmouth, 186–87; "About an hundred privateers, with the most intrepid marines, and those persons who last natural war immortalized their names, again chosen for captains, are, touching their schemes, no contemptible enemy by sea.", 187
Babcock, Adam, **to** Silas Deane, 128
Babcock, Henry (Col.), **to** Gurdon Saltonstall, 87; **from** Nicholas Cooke, 1145
Babcock, Samuel (Capt.), 167
Babcock, William, 1359
Bache, ——, 158
Bache, Richard, 698

Bachelder [Batchelder], —— (Capt.), 580, 827, 1021
Bacon, William (Lt., R.N.), 1407
Bagge, Traugott, 325
Bagley, John (Master), 1125n. (*Sally*)
Bailey, Jacob (Rev.), **to** David Wooster, 900
Bailey, Reuben, 975
Bailey, Timothy, 975
Bain, ——, 58
Baker, Henry, 1202
Baldwin, Henry, 602
Ball, George (Lt., R.N.), 1398
Baltick Merchant: 342
Baltimore: brig, 1367 (Clark)
Baltimore (Md.): defense measures, 163, 260, 1042, 1116–18, 1138, 1139, 1179, 1337; plan of, 1053 *; port entries, 1367–70
Baltimore Committee: sailing permits issued, 60, 926, 1138, 1237; closes Baltimore harbor, 173; rescinds closure, 259; sailing masters' oaths, 173, 259; requires sailing permits for harbor clearance, 684; refuses sailing permit, 1178; Minutes: 60, 163, 173, 259, 684, 808, 926, 1042, 1138, 1178, 1237, 1367; mentioned: 1089, 1118
Baltimore Packet: 1368 (Kennedy)
Bancker, Evert, 161, 1347
Banister, John, 14
Banks, Francis (Capt., R.N.), **from** Molyneux Shuldham, 1099; mentioned: 151, 370, 404, 406, 652, 972 (*Renown*)
Banks, John, 191
Barbados Islands, 989*; letter from, 990; mentioned: 654
Barber, Francis (Lt.), 1202
Barber, Nat, 990
Barberie [Barbarie], Peter, 253n., 318, 979, 1066
Bard, Peter, 674
Barfleur: HMS, 388, 392, 1406 (Millbank)
Barker, James, 930
Barker, Richard, 540
Barker, William (Master), 1370 (*Peggy*)
Barkley [Barclay], Andrew (Capt., R.N.), **from** Graves, 254; Journal, 1141; mentioned: 471, 584, 632, 633, 794, 992, 1270, 1326 (*Scarborough*)
Barkley, Gilbert, **to** Gray Cooper, 721–22
Barlow, Jesse, 750
Barlow, Levi, 750
Barlow, Obed, 750
Barnard and Apthrope, 375
Barnes, Corbin (Master), 602, 1033 (*Yankee*)
Barnet, William, 1202
Barney, Joshua (Master), 1369 (*Sidney*); Autobiography (signs on as Master's Mate of *Hornet*), 1263–64
Barnham, Levi, 458
Barns, Timothy, 1203
Barnwell, John (Capt.), 721
Baron, David, 199
Barr, Catherine, 962
Barr, James, 962
Barrett, Edward, 1291
Barrington, Samuel (Capt.), 1335
Barron, James (Capt.), 210, 219, 227, 297, 591, 642, 645, 646, 662, 825, 1111
Barron, Richard (Capt.), 685, 722, 774
Barron, Samuel (Capt.), 227
Barron, William (Capt.), 1185n., 1283n., 1368 (*Peggy*)
Barrow, ——, (Paymaster), 1283
Barry, John, 1054
Bartholomew, James (Master), 1369 (*Prince George*)
Bartlet, Elkanah, 291
Bartlett, Abraham (Master), 1369 (*Adventure*)
Bartlett, Ambrose (Master), 270n., 763n., 830n., 931n. (*Rittenhouse*)
Bartlett, Josiah: portrait, 682*; **to:** John Langdon, 683–84, 770, 1115, 1262; New Hampshire Committee of Safety, 196; mentioned: 59, 100, 879, 1153, 1263, 1285–1286
Bartlett, William (Capt.), **to:** Thomas Mifflin, 192; Stephen Moylan, 631, 1108; Salem Committee of Safety, 17; George Washington, 17, 44, 45, 93, 181, 648; **from:** Robert Hanson Harrison, 832–33; Stephen Moylan, 35, 36, 110, 233, 675, 713, 991, 1226; George Washington, 111, 274; mentioned: 274, 554, 584, 599, 1355, 1361
Barton, William (Capt.), 127, 844, 882, 1083
Barwick, Robert, Journal (while prisoner in Quebec), 965
Basse Terre (Guadeloupe), view of, 271*
Basset, —— (Maj.), 813
Bassett, Bart, 54
Bassett, Burwell, 163
Bastian, Caligan, 1203
Batchelder [Batcheldor], Josiah (Capt.), 914, 1144, 1315
Batchelor: sloop, 268, 269 (Scott)
Bateaux, to carry ordnance stores, 115; mentioned: 11, 490, 650, 680, 917, 957, 1122
Bates, Michael, 192
Batles, Daniel, 54
Battle, Isaac, 1170
Batut [Battit] —— (Lt.), 28, 29, 39, 41
Bausset, —— de (Capt.), **to** Gabriel de Sartine, 177 (*Oiseau*)
Bay of Fundy, 237
Bayard, Jackson & Company, **to** William Meston, 770–72
Bayard, John (Maj.), **to** Daniel Roberdeau, 1103–04; mentioned: 698, 699n., 1040
Bayard, Nicholas, 1214
Bayard, Samuel, Jr., 1199, 1214
Bayley, Jacob, 233
Bayley, Nathaniel, 400, 419–20
Baylies, William (Dr.), 125
Baynes, Capel (Lt., R.N.), 1410

Baynes, William & Co., 24
Bayonets, 265*
Bazeley, John (Lt., R.N.), **from** Philip Stephens, 358 (*Greyhound*)
Beach, ——, 129
Beacon Island (N.C.), 20
Beal, Ebenezer, 19, 50, 1132
Beale, M., 905
Beale, Richard, 240, 257, 262, 954
Beard, William, 601
Beaty, Azerrias, 1202
Beaty, William, 607
Beaufort: brigantine, 311 (Reid)
Beaufort (S.C.), 199, 726; Committee of Inspection; **from** South Carolina Council of Safety, 164; mentioned: 61, 664, 1056
Beaumarchais, Pierre-Augustin Caron de, portrait, 526*; **to** Louis XVI, 525–30; mentioned: 333
Beaumont, —— (Dr.), 242
Bedel, Timothy (Col.), **to** James Holmes, 129
Bedford, Lord, 416
Bedon, John Raven, 211
Beekman, Bernard (Capt.), 143, 721
Beekman, James, **to** Pierce & Brown, 300; mentioned: 919, 1335
Begozzat, Pierre, **to** New Hampshire Committee of Safety, 1297–98
Beith: brig, 1369 (Morris)
Belat, —— (Capt.), 596
Belcher, Joseph, 1334n.
Belin, W., 762
Bell, Benjamin, 946, 948, 988
Bellew, Henry (Capt., R.N.), threatens reprisal for withholding provisions, 228, 244; receives answer of Virginia patriots, 295, 307; fires on Norfolk, 618, 808; **to:** Robert Howe, 228, 310; Philip Stephens, 737–38; **from** Robert Howe, 228; mentioned: 584, 617, 1187 (*Liverpool*)
Bellisle, Antoine, 458
Belville: ship, 850
Belvoir, 6n.
Bennet, George, 602
Bennet, Robert, 978
Bennett, T. S. (Lt., R.N.), 1402
Bennot, ——, 240
Benson, —— (Lt.), 1198
Benson, George, 1081, 1230
Bent, Jesse, 1166
Bérard Frères & Co., 383, 805
Berkeley, Edmund, 164
Berketts, John, 863
Berkley, N. C. (Lt., R.N.), 1409
Bermuda: station for British man-of-war, 492; importance of, 537–38; map, 538*; loyalty of inhabitants to Crown, 793; mentioned: 415, 510, 573
Berriman, John, Boatswain's warrant, 216, 217*
Berry, ——, 207
Berton, Peter, 101, 216
Besly, John, 978
Bethell [Bethel], Robert (Capt.), 172, 1336
Betsey [*Betsy*]; brig, 1367 (Roland), 150 (Wormstead); schooner 1369 (Jeffry), 1367 (Snow); sloop, 145n., 147, 148n., 181, 192, 193n., 301n., 341, 552, 561n., 573n., 602, 849n., 1023, 1119n. (Atkinson), 86 (Chapell), 195 (Cooper), 1081n. (Davis), 1079, 1080 (Heath), 985n. (Rankin); snow, 1367 (Waud); HM Tender, 199, 663, 1188 (Wright); unspecified, 1370 (Aver), 420, 421, 430 (Paine)
Betsy and Molly: brig 1001, 1119n. (Calvert)
Betty: brig, 667; sloop, 1369 (Talbot)
Betty and Helen: 1041 (M'Cormick)
Beveridge (Bevrige), David, 60, 130, 184, 1116, 1126, 1186
Beverly (Mass.), "Letter from Beverly," 145; Committee of Correspondence: **to** George Washington, 44; mentioned: 111
Bickerton, Richard (Capt., R.N.), 1410 (*Princess Augusta*)
Biddison, Robert, 609
Biddle, Charles (Capt.), Autobiography, 803–05; mentioned: 462n.
Biddle, Clement, 91, 131, 694, 697
Biddle, James, **from** Nicholas Biddle, 891n., 1307, 1308*; mentioned: 891n.
Biddle, Nicholas (Capt., Cont. Navy), resigns from Pa. Navy, 24 (*Franklin*); appointed to Cont. Navy, 207, 302; Naval Committee orders to join Hopkins' fleet, 658; Account with Naval Committee, 863; **to:** James Biddle, 891n., 1307, 1308*; Lydia McFunn, 1305–06; **from:** Daniel Calligher, 285; Esek Hopkins, 1290*, 1291; John Pringle, 785; mentioned: 60, 891, 962, 1219, 1236n. (*Andrew Doria*)
Biddle, Owen, **from** Benjamin Rush, 259; mentioned: 117, 304
Bigelow, Timothy (Maj.), 251n., 313
Bilbao (Spain), embargo on gunpowder for export, 54–55
Bill, Benjamin, 704
Billings, Andrew (Capt.), 258, 577
Bird, Timothy (Lt., R.N.), 1407
Bishop, Lemuel (Master), 1082 (*Mermaid*)
Bishop, Samuel, 263
Bishop, Thomas (Capt., R.N.), 65, 275 (*Lively*)
Bissel, George, 240
Bissell, Richard (Master), 931, 932n. (*Clarissa*)
Bivins, Thomas, 849
Black Prince. See Alfred
Blackburn, John, **from** J. Loring, 1030
Blackburn, Thomas, 591
Blackney, Godfrey, 1203
Blair, James (Capt. Pa. Navy), 77, 1322 (*Burke*)
Blaitneal, Edward, 1359

Blake, Edward (Capt., S.C. Navy), **from:** Henry Laurens, 1094; South Carolina Council of Safety, 221, 738–39; mentioned: 177, 565, 568, 623, 687, 776, 865, 896, 897, 905, 1071, 1119, 1154, 1326
Blanchard, Lewis, 1202
Blanche: brig, 1292
Bland, Richard, 61
Blenheim: 443
Blessing: transport, 422
Blewer, Joseph (Capt.), 11
Bligh, R. R. (Capt., R.N.), 1404 (*Wasp*)
Blight, Durnford B., 72
Bliss, John (Col.), 855, 1301
Block Island (R.I.), 136
Blodget, Nathan, 4
Blonde: HMS, 405, 426, 427, 443, 470 (Pownall)
Blue Mountain Valley: ship, account of capture, 943, 959–60, 1012–14, 1200–03; cargo, 1014, 1203–04; mentioned: 903, 924, 942, 943n., 959, 978, 979, 1016, 1026n., 1036n., 1037, 1066, 1086, 1101, 1217n., 1303n. (Dempster)
Blunderbuss, 265*
Boardman, Jacob, **to** Massachusetts General Court, 111; mentioned: 125, 183
Boardman, Offin (Capt.), 4, 63 (*Washington*)
Boats: *See* Bateaux, Floating batteries, Pilots boats, Row-galleys, Whale boats
Bob and Joan: schooner, 1096
Boddington, John, **to** John Pownall, 438, 521; **from** John Pownall, 367; mentioned: 400
Boger, Richard (Lt., R.N.), 1408
Bogert, Joseph Outen, 1281
Bohannon [Bahannon] ——, 662
Bohman, John, 175
Bolton: HM Brig, attack on Brenton's Point, 127; landing party from, 153; fires on Conanicut Island, 37, 575; Journal: 127, 153, 575, 690, 752–53; mentioned: 241, 767, 794, 800, 801, 883n., 1008, 1400 (Thomas Graves)
Bonvouloir, Julien Archard de, **to** Count de Guines, 279–285
Bonwell, James, 546
Booth, Amos, 53
Boothe, Jonathan, 88
Bordeaux, Daniel, 1104
Bordeaux, Isaac, 1104
Boreas: HMS, to join Southern Expedition 423; bottom scraped, 439; relieved by *Active,* 452, 459; mentioned: 361n., 368, 370, 388, 400, 432, 433, 445, 451, 488, 489, 500, 507, 514, 1410 (Thompson)
Bores, John, 748
Borland, John [Joseph Palmer], **to** John Adams, 936
Bosley, John, **from** Samuel Swaine, 1235–6
Boston, Thomas (Lt., R.N.), 1408
Boston (Mass.), Siege of: blockade of harbor, 84, 877–78, 1010; Continental Army at, 146, 148, 572, 600, 1045, 1048, 1314–15, 1345; "Letter from an Officer at ——," 194; effectiveness of British Navy during, 276; seizure of British ships during, 793, 914; privateers' activities, 835; condition of garrison, 97, 237, 516, 518, 969–70, 1009, 1056; scarcity of provisions, 122, 136, 213, 1300; dispatch of supply convoys, 224, 234, 347, 383, 388, 555, 557, 632, 884–86, 992, 1056, 1191, 1210–11; reinforcements for, 416, 715, 951; mentioned: 23, 73, 165, 522, 528–29, 551, 689–90, 733, 807, 812, 950, 1006, 1029, 1047, 1049, 1231, 1234, 1274
Boston: Continental Frigate, to be built in Mass., 210n.
Boston Gazette, **1775:** *Dec. 11,* 46; *Dec. 18,* 96; **1776:** *Jan. 1,* 554; *Jan. 22,* 914; *Jan. 29,* 1029; *Feb. 5,* 1076; *Feb. 12,* 1170n., 1227; *Feb. 15,* 1132–33; *Mar. 4,* 405n.
Boston Packet: ship, 1004, 1318 (Shepherd)
Boston Port Bill, 412, 1335
Boston Revenge: Massachusetts Privateer Schooner, 50n., 966n., 991n. (Mascoll)
Bosworth, Samuel, 751
Botham, John (Lt. R.N.), 1406
Boucher, John Thomas (Lt. Md. Navy), 1371
Boucher, Jonathan (Dr.), **to** William Knox, 392–96
Bourdieu & Chollette, 1070
Bourmaster, John (Lt., R.N.), 224, 234 (*Empress of Russia*)
Bourquin, Jean, 458
Bours, Jonathan, 240
Bouteyt, Dall, 1202
Bowdoin, James, 1096
Bowen, Caleb, 800, 1033
Bowen, Elijah (Lt. Cont. Navy), 849 (*Wasp*)
Bowen, George (Lt., R.N.), 1410
Bowen, Jabez, 677, 690–91, 859, 915, 953
Bowen, Oliver, 229, 270
Bowen, Peter, 294
Bowers, Jerathmeel (Col.), 1095, 1144
Bowers, Joseph, 607, 612
Bowers [Bowen], Sylvester, 715, 916, 1228
Bowes, John, 240
Bowie, Archibald (Master), 810, 833n., 844n., 855, 874n., 876, 883n., 914 (*Friends*)
Bowley, Daniel, 1371
Bowman, Frederick, 175
Bowne, Jonathan (Master), 977 (*Success*)
Boyan: ship, 122
Boyce, Nathaniel (Capt., Pa. Navy), 60, 1322 (*Franklin*)
Boyd, John, 1118, 1138
Boyle, John (Lt., R.N.), 1409
Boylston [Boilston] Thomas, 671, 1318
Boyman, —— (Capt.), 407 (*Marquis of Rockingham*)
Boyne: HMS, 20, 112, 319, 451, 469, 1397 (Hartwell)
Bracket, Joshua (Dr.), 950

Brackett, John (Master), 1276n., 1368, 1369 (*Grampus*)
Bradfield, Francis, 677
Bradford, Joseph (Master), 1104 (*Sea Nymph*)
Bradley, Charles, 608, 609, 611, 612
Bradley, Thomas, 248
Bradley, William (Midshipman, R.N.), 1272
Brady, James (Lt., R.N.), 1405 (*Meredith*)
Bragg, John, Diary, 469
Bragge, Edward, 814
Branard, Jeremiah, 974
Brannon, Matthew, 849
Brasher, Abraham (Col.), 558, 560n., 636n., 1124
Brathwaite, Richard (Capt., R.N.), 845, 857 (*Centurion*)
Brattle, James, 77n., 156, 157n., 560n., 613n., 654n., 698
Braxton, Carter, 14
Bray, Gabriel (Lt., R.N.), 544, 1403
Brearton & Gardner, 1369
Brenton, Benjamin, 125n., 954
Brenton, Jahleel, 125n.
Brenton, William (Capt., R.N.), 1406 (*Centaur*)
Brenton Point (R.I.), 127
Brewton, ——, 851
Brice, ——, 479, 510, 511
Brice, James, 1203
Bridges, J., 962
Bridges, Richard (Lt., R.N.), 1399
Bridges, Thomas, 646
Bright, Francis (Master), 927n., 1119n. (*Susannah*)
Brindly, Frank, 1133
Brine, James (Lt., R.N.), 1406
Bringhurst, J., 1386
Brinsmaid, Zacha, 458
Brisbane, John (Capt., R.N.), 470, 535 (*Flora*)
Bristol: HMS, ordered to Spithead, 380; provisions for, 397; ready for sea, 408; to carry Lord Cornwallis, 424; Sir Peter Parker hoists pendant on, 432; arrives at Cork, 484; mentioned: 368, 400, 433, 435, 437, 439, 445, 451, 467, 473, 480, 489, 499, 500, 535, 1409 (Morris)
Bristow, William (Lt., R.N.), 1398
Britannia [*Brittania*]: schooner, 183; 714 (Johnson); store ship, 113, 166 (*White*); unspecified, 1041 (Loxley); ship, 1014
British Colonies of North America, map, 8*
Britten, William (Capt.), 1202
Bromedge [Bromwich], Hugh (Capt., R.N.), to Molyneux Shuldham, 1005; mentioned: 898, 997, 1167, 1168, 1224, 1318 (*Savage*)
Brooke, George, 61, 164
Brooks, Benjamin, 88
Brooks, David (Dr.), 68
Brooks, John, 88
Brooks, John (Maj.), 990
Brooks, Lemuel (Master), 88 (*Neptune*)
Broome, Samuel, 1113
Brothers: snow, 586; ship, 1368 (Craymer)
Broughton, H. (Lt., R.N.), 1407
Broughton, Nicholson (Capt.), 3n., 6, 34, 109n., 165, 214n., 288n., 572, 874n., 1168, 1353 (*Hancock*)
Brown, —— (Lt., R.N.), 1007 (*Tryal*)
Brown, —— (Capt.), 220
Brown, —— (Capt.), 407 (*Seville*)
Brown, —— (Capt.), 866 (*Fortune*)
Brown, —— (Capt. R.I. Militia), 1195
Brown, —— (Col.), 1146
Brown, Abijah, 1102
Brown, Alexander, 608, 611, 612
Brown, Archibald, 644
Brown, Benjamin, 1063, 1064n.
Brown, John [Mass. Navy Committee], 291, 714, 1316
Brown, John (R.M.), 540
Brown, John [British Army], 969
Brown, John [of Fisher's Island, R.I.], deposition, 1063–64
Brown, John [Coachman], 1083
Brown, John (Lt., R.N.), 1399
Brown, John (Maj.), 313, 960, 1072
Brown, John [of Providence, R.I.], on Committee to build two Continental Frigates in Rhode Island, 677; contract with Secret Committee, 879–80; posts owner's bond, 1081, 1333; from: Nicholas Brown, 54; Stephen Hopkins, 24; Joseph Palmer, 1132; to Josiah Hewes, 878; mentioned: 751, 916, 1133
Brown, Joseph, from Henry Laurens, 1326; mentioned: 677, 690
Brown, Joshua (Lt., R.N.), 1407
Brown [Browne], Montfort (Gov. of New Providence), 898
Brown, Nicholas, to: Paul Allen, 322, 735–36; John Brown, 54; Benjamin Comstock, 1062; Nathanael Greene, 1099; Joseph Hewes, 915; Stephen Hopkins, 238, 574; Sylvanus Jenckes, 859, 861; Richard Downing Jennings, 321; Joseph Palmer, 1099–1100; James Westcott, 1249, 1278–9; from: Paul Allen, 1003–04; Solomon Davis, 858; Stephen Hopkins, 24; Penet & Pliarne, 1176; William Wall, 864; mentioned: 634n., 677, 690, 752n., 799, 859, 1063, 1110, 1228, 1230, 1278, 1333,—and John Brown, to Samuel Ward, 879; agreement with Benjamin and Joseph Comstock, 1080–81; contract with Secret Committee, 1153.
Brown & Power, 916
Brown, Samuel, to William Watson, 53
Brown, William, Jr. (Lt.), 129
Brown, William (Capt., Pa. Marines), 1322
Brown, William (Master), 1368 (*Swan*)
Brown, Zephaniah, 1110, 1334n.
Browne, Henry, 868, 988
Browne, J. S. (Lt., R.N.), 1397
Bruce, ——, 33
Brune: HMS, 426, 451, 462, 491 (Ferguson)

Brunswick (N.C.), 199
Brunswick, Duke of, 505
Bryant, Joseph, Jr., 990
Brymer, Alexander, and Richard Lechmere, **to** Molyneux Shuldham, 1318–19; mentioned: 46, 84, 555
Bryne, Henry (Capt.), 179n., 706 (*Hind*)
Bryson, Andrew (Master), 1368 (*Union*)
Buchanan, Archibald, **to** Thomas Johnson, Jr., 578, 684; mentioned: 305, 701, 754, 1118, 1369
Buchanan, John (Capt.), 769
Buchanan, William, 163, 1042, 1118, 1138
Buck, Isaack (Lt., Cont. Navy), 849 (*Wasp*)
Buckle —— (Capt.), 965
Bucklin, Daniel, 690
Bucklin, Joseph, 690
Bucklin & Brown, 858
Buddington, ——, 679
Budworth, William (Lt., R.N.), 1410
Buffon, ——, 281
Buford [Bleuford], Abraham (Capt.), 1019
Bulkeley, Charles, Narrative, 1088
Bulkeley, Richard, **to:** John Anderson, 870, 1332; William Duddingston, 1107; Magistrates of Yarmouth, 121; mentioned: 1167, 1168, 1222
Bulkeley, Richard (Midshipman Cont. Navy), 940n. (*Alfred*)
Bull, Fenwick, 42, 79, 221
Bull, John (Col.), 562, 683
Bull, Nathan (Capt.), 223, 232n., 830, 831, 869, 908, 912 (*Dove*)
Bull, Stephen (Col.), **from** Henry Laurens, 221, 310–12, 664–65, 787, 986; mentioned: 647, 705
Bulldog: 1322 (Henderson)
Buller, John, 335
Bullitt, Thomas (Col.), 118
Bullock, Archibald, **from** Henry Laurens, 665. 1268; mentioned: 270, 567, 728, 1164
Bumper: schooner, 1312n. (Moseley)
Bunker, John, petition of, 632, 689
Bunker Hill (Mass.), 33, 123, 238
Burch, Thomas, 537
Burgess, ——, **from** Stephen West, 1055
Burgoyne, John (Maj. Gen.), 20, 112, 807
Burk, John, 849
Burke, —— (Capt.), 1020
Burke, Edmund, 371
Burke [Burk], John, 35, 110
Burke, Walter (Master), 1369 (*Julian*)
Burke, William (Capt.), commission, 553, 1077; **from** George Washington, 1077; mentioned: 713, 873, 1108 (*Warren*)
Burke: Pennsylvania Armed Boat, 1322 (Blair)
Burlace, Richard (Master, R.N.), 531n.
Burn, —— (Lt., R.M.), 422
Burnaby, W. P. (Lt., R.N.), 1406
Burnaby, William, C. (Capt., R.N.), 276, 1006 (*Merlin*)
Burney, James (Lt., R.N.), 1398
Burns, James, 978
Burns, William (Capt., R.N.), 407, 430, (*Thetis*)
Burr, Aaron, 314, 782
Burr, J. D. (Lt., R.N.), 1399
Burr, John (Capt., R.N.), **from** Admiralty, 430, 478; mentioned: 406, 422 (*Milford*)
Burr, Joseph, 975
Burroughs, Ezekiel (Lt., Cont. Navy), 208, 302, 1219 (*Columbus*)
Burrow, James (Master), 1368 (*Nancy*)
Burton, —— (Capt.), 407 (*Union*)
Burwell, [Burrell], George (Master), 309, 644 (*Swallow*)
Bush, —— (Capt.), 1050
Bushnell, David, 1101, 1111
Butchart, John (Lt., R.N.), 1410
Bute, Lord [John Stuart, 3d Earl of Bute], **from** Charles Stuart, 1029–30; mentioned: 75
Bute: transport ship, 509, 516, 519 (Parry)
Butler, Derney, 975
Butler, John, 1167–68, 1222, 1223
Butler, Samuel (Master), 985n. (*Hunter*)
Butterfield, —— (Capt.), 827
Button, Richard, **from** Thady Turney, 1020
Button & Clarke, 1369
Butts, Benjamin (Master), 985n. (*Mary*)
Byard, Thomas (Lt., R.N.), 1409
Byrnes, Thomas, 174

Cabot, Andrew, 1355, 1365
Cabot, John, 1355, 1365
Cabot, Stephen, 17, 1355
Cabot & Goodhue, 1247
Cabot: Continental Brig [formerly *Sally*], significance of name, 173; officers, 208n., 312, 1219; Marines, 304, 615; cost of outfitting, 612; description of, 616, 1236; deserter from, 700; chandlery, 848, 1383, 1385, 1390; pay, 961; signals for, 1287–88; mentioned: 264, 294, 672, 891, 1088, 1189, 1206n., 1264, 1322 (J. B. Hopkins)
Cadiz (Spain), 409
Cadogan, Thomas (Lt., R.N.), 1394
Cadwalader, John (Col.), 607, 641, 700
Cady, Jeremiah (Maj.), 1231
Caesar (Slave), 163
Cahoone, James, 972
Caicos Islands, 502
Calder, ——, 652
Caldwell, Andrew (Commodore, Pa. Navy), petition from Captains of Pennsylvania Armed Vessels, 1066; **from** Pennsylvania Committee of Safety, 773; mentioned: 772, 1067, 1186
Caldwell, Benjamin (Capt., R.N.), appointed to command *Emerald,* 384, 421
Caldwell, Charles (Lt., R.N.), 1406
Caldwell, Joshua, 1144
Caldwell, Nicholas, 849
Calhoun, James, 260, 1118, 1138

Callbeck, Phillip [Lt. Gov. St. Johns, Que.], released, 130n., 223; returns to Canada, 288, 290n; **to:** Lord Dartmouth, 625–30; Salem Committee of Safety, 80; Molyneux Shuldham, 709–11; George Washington, 223; **from** Molyneux Shuldham, 1144; mentioned: 2, 6, 34, 109n., 299, 1167, 1168, 1222
Callcott, Richard (Lt., R.N.), 1399
Callender, —— (Master), 1041 (*Alfred*)
Callender, Molly, 113
Calligher, Daniel, **to** Nicholas Biddle, 285
Callow, Robert (Master), 1369 (*Escape*)
Calmes, Marquis (Lt.), 307
Calvert, Cornelius, Jr., 643, 1001, 1119n.
Calvert, James (Master), 1001, 1119n. (*Betsy and Molly*)
Calvert, John [of South Carolina], 65, 286, 686
Calvert, John [of Virginia], 1180
Calvert, Maximilian, 309
Calvert: ship, 1368 (Sewell)
Cambden: ship, 1369 (Rogers, Richardson)
Camble, —— (Ensign), 242
Cambridge (Mass.), letter from, 148; Council of War, 1314–15
Cambridge, William, 16
Camden: Pa. Armed Boat, 1322 (Eyres)
Cameron, Alexander, 1120
Cameron, Allen (Lt.), 589n., 590, 606, 635, 1040
Campbell, —— (Capt.), 1334 (*Chetsworth*)
Campbell, Archibald (Dr.), 118, 219, 227, 644
Campbell, Donald (Col.), **to** David Wooster, 312; mentioned: 838, 842, 961, 1072
Campbell, Duncan (Capt.), 606n.
Campbell, James, 174
Campbell, James (Lt.), **to** Maryland Council of Safety, 1090, 1090n.; mentioned: 892, 894n.
Campbell, James (Master), 1368 (*Autumn*)
Campbell, James (Master), 1368 (*Molly*)
Campbell, John [of New York], 391
Campbell, John [of Charleston, S.C.], 623
Campbell, John (Lt.), 1198
Campbell, Robert, 808n.
Campbell, Samuel, 1021, 1022
Campbell, Lady William, 61, 328. *See also* Campbell, Lord William
Campbell, Lord William (Gov. of S.C.): servants seized, 133; lien on personal effects, 136, 221; property of, 143; dispatches for, 348, 358; differences with Gov. Martin, 568; departs for Georgia, 824; mentioned: 15, 42, 79, 105, 162, 164, 286, 568, 569, 663, 664, 665, 667, 725, 759 778, 788, 849, 865, 866, 887, 896, 930, 931, 932, 1120, 1129, 1163, 1295, 1310, 1329
Canada, Patrick, 605
Canada: seapower, influence on, 225; attitude toward rebellion, 731; importance of, 756; arms, 1147; Continental money in, 1159; Congressional Commissioners chosen, 1303; campaign in, 323, 504, 596, 670, 768, 779–81, 785, 841–44, 862, 887, 918, 949–50, 998, 1034–35, 1102, 1147, 1159, 1186, 1212–14, 1230, 1243–44, 1255; mentioned: 23, 435, 437, 475, 505, 1043, 1048, 1049, 1155, 1197, 1230, 1336
Canceaux: HMS, Marblehead expedition, 99; reported unfit for sea, 633; to return to England, 845, 1078; transfer seamen from, 972; sails for England, 1097; Master's Log, 1096; mentioned: 65, 79, 300, 1007, 1008, 1193n., 1400 (Mowat)
Cane, ——, 1093
Cannon, —— (Capt.), 929
Cannon, Daniel, 760
Cannon, William, 679
Cannonballs, 620*
Canso (Nova Scotia), requested British ship, 109; mentioned: 3, 125, 487
Canvas, 1091, 1309
Cape Ann (Mass.), 82, 84, 1108
Cape Cod (Mass.), survey, 124, 151
Cape Fear (N.C.), immediate destination of Peter Parker's squadron, 445; map, 758*; mentioned: 350, 352, 533, 569, 748, 1309, 1341
Cape François (Santo Domingo), source for gun powder, 223; depot of Hortalez & Co., 529; mentioned: 1180
Cape Henlopen (Del.), rendezvous for Esek Hopkins' fleet, 1206n., 1307
Cape Nicholas Mole (Santo Domingo), 409, 906, 1143
Carcass: HM Bomb Vessel, to fit out for service, 384; to join Southern expedition, 431, 433, 452–53; arrives at Cork, 511; mentioned: 405, 462, 484, 486, 523, 524, 543, 1411 (Dring)
Cardin, Richard, **from** J. H. Dempster, 925; mentioned: 903
Carey, Richard (Maj.), 926
Cargill, James (Col.), 158, 857, 875, 1144, 1182, 1276, 1301
Caribbean Islands, 707*
Carle, Jacob, 1202
Carleton, Sir Guy (Gov. of Quebec), Montgomery summons to surrender, 119; alleged prisoner, 194, 213, 625; mentioned: 12, 58, 64, 74, 128, 315, 318, 435, 454, 480, 504, 523, 617, 624, 732, 782, 812, 842
Carleton, John, 1198
Carlyon, William (Lt., R.N.), 1407
Carolina: sloop, 1031
Carpenter, Marshal, 1167, 1168
Carpenters, 751, 902, 917, 953
Carr, ——, 1013
Carr, Isaac (Master), 972 (*Polly*)
Carr, James, 608, 609, 611, 612
Carr [Car], John (Lt.), 882

Carr, Maurice, 1106
Carrington, William, 192
Carroll, Charles (Barrister), **to** Hercules Courtenay, 864; **from:** Hercules Courtenay, 824; William Neil, 1237; mentioned: 864n., 927, 1139
Carroll, Charles of Carrollton, 1303, 1304, 1321
Carroll, John (Rev.), 1303, 1304
Carrs, Samuel, 1083
Carson, Samuel, 1369
Carter, Landon, **from** Francis Lightfoot Lee, 74–75, 1233–35
Cartwright, Daniel (Master), 981 (*Polly*)
Carty, Arthur, 849
Cary, Archibald, **to** Richard Henry Lee, 227; mentioned: 14, 643, 825
Carysfort: HMS, ordered to N. America, 366; fitting out, 461, 535; mentioned: 341, 359, 405, 406, 470, 1411 (Fanshaw)
Case, Thomas (Master), 956 (*Union*)
Casey, Silas, 752
Casheen, William, 975
Cassels, —— (Capt.), 652
Casteleyn, B. Rnt., 389–91
Cathalan, L., 24
Catherine: schooner, 1248; HM Yacht, 1412 (Hood)
Catherine: snow, 1369 (Fortune)
Cathrew, Alexander (Master), 1368 (*Dutchess of Leinster*)
Caton, ——, 1041 (*Rebecca*)
Caton, Isaac (Capt.), 623, 965
Cattel, Benjamin (Capt.), 721
Cattel, William (Capt.), 721, 1120, 1141
Caty: ship, 1198
Caulfield, Toby (Lt., R.N.), 1409
Cavely, Joseph, 1292
Centaur: HMS, 484n., 511, 513, 514, 522, 1406 (Brenton)
Centurion: HMS, arrives at Boston, 845; damage to, 857; Journal, 1227; mentioned: 340, 793, 915, 969, 1008, 1009, 1096, 1397 (Braithwaite); ship, 380n. (Allen)
Cerberus: HMS, to refit at Halifax, 63; arrives at Halifax, 598; mentioned: 276, 470, 615n., 743, 792, 811, 1006, 1008, 1192, 1299, 1313, 1398 (Symons)
Chace, John (Master), 1081n. (*Defiance*)
Chace, William (Master), 1370 (*John*)
Chadbourn, B., 631
Chads, Henry (Lt., R.N.), **to** James Young, 1056; mentioned: 1210
Chads, James (Capt., R.N.), 1409 (*Conquestador*)
Chads, William (Lt., R.N.), 224n. (*Hartfield*)
Chalott & Bease, 774
Chamberlaine, Hooe & Ringgold, 1091
Chamberlayne, Charles (Lt., R.N.), 1411
Chambers, James, 147
Chambers, William, 191
Chamier, Daniel, **to** David Franks, 1274
Champion, Richard, **to** Willing, Morris & Co., 371–73, 416
Champlin, Christopher, **from** Jacob Watson, 1283
Champlin, Stephen, 1252
Champney, ——, 686
Chance: brig, 462, 1115n. (Craig)
Chapman, Phineas, 58
Chapman, Stephen, 1362, 1365
Chappell, Edward (Capt.), 86, 89, 115, 818 (*Betsey*)
Charity: sloop, 159
Charlan, ——, 458
Charles: ship, 1368 (Reily)
Charles II, King of England, 908, 946
Charleston (S.C.): view of, 134*; defense preparations, 143, 176, 687, 705, 720, 727, 728, 730, 777, 809, 828, 839, 851, 898, 905, 928–30, 987, 1027, 1154, 1155, 1164, 1310, 1342; extract of letter from, 1164; threat of attack, 593, 1326; harbor free of British ships, 663. *See also* South Carolina Council of Safety
Charlotte: schooner, 965, 966 (Nathey); 1081 (Thayer); ship, 1369 (Egger); unspecified, 155
Charming Nancy: 342
Charming Peggy: 471, 478, 507 (Conyngham); ship, 1103n. (Dowman); 1283n. (Barron)
Charming Polly: schooner, 681
Charming Sally: transport, 341, 342, 371, 519, 521 (Wilson)
Charrington, Nicholas (Lt., R.N.), 1407
Chase, Jeremiah Townley, 1118, 1139
Chase, Samuel: appointed to Marine Committee, 101; **to:** John Adams, 755–56; Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer, 1152; mentioned: 297, 1038, 1091, 1184, 1185, 1258, 1303, 1304, 1320, 1321
Chase, William, 1276
Chase, William (Capt.), 659, 1138 (*John*)
Chatham, Lord [William Pitt, 1st Earl of Chatham], 373
Chatham: HMS, arrives at Boston with Shuldham aboard, 320; Journal: 585–86, 675; mentioned: 63, 300, 340, 359, 573, 633n., 715, 792, 793, 915, 1007, 1008, 1057, 1397 (Raynor)
Chatham: pilot boat, 1054, 1089, 1138, 1264 (Wells)
Chatham: Pennsylvania Armed Boat, 1321, 1322 (Alexander)
Chauncy, Charles, 52, 631, 877, 968
Cheels, Joseph, 1292
Cheeseman, Jacob (Capt.), 312, 782, 838, 847, 874, 961
Cheever, David, 1157
Cherokee: HM Armed Vessel, ordnance and provisions, 688, 740–41, 789–91, 852; sails from Charleston, 725, 727n.; at Savannah, 840; Master's Log, 667, 1155; mentioned:

14, 29, 133, 143, 191, 202, 568, 582, 593, 664, 665, 666, 675n., 762, 763, 778, 787, 827, 830, 847, 866, 867, 896, 930, 931, 932, 933, 1002, 1142, 1164, 1239, 1310, 1326, 1327, 1401 (Fergusson)
Chesapeake Bay: chart, 243*; map, 1208*
Chester, Peter (Gov. of W. Fla.), 482
Chester, Simeon, 1166
Chester: ship, 1296
Chetsworth: snow, 38, 1334n.
Chevalier, —— (Capt.), 479 (*Unity*)
Chevaux-de-frise, 5, 173, 559, 573, 719, 721, 822, 941, 1087, 1091, 1117, 1235, 1258, 1323. *See also* Fortifications, Harbor defenses
Child, Cromwell, 956
Child, Moses, 1274, 1275
Childs, James (Lt.), 542
Chipman, John, 974
Chiswell [Chisnell], John, 863, 1292
Choiseul, Étienne François Duc de, 473, 499
Christian, ——, 1018
Christian, H. C. (Lt., R.N.), 1406
Christian, John, 608, 609, 611
Christian, Michael, 1119
Christian: sloop, 118, 197, 309 (Avery)
Christie, Andrew (Capt.), 257, 262, 292
Christie, John (Lt., Pa. Navy), 1067, 1321 (*Ranger*)
Christie & Gilmore, 927n., 1119n.
Chubb, J. P. (Lt., R.N.), 1406
Church, Benjamin, 285n.
Clagett, Wyseman, 950
Clap, Supply (Capt.), 121, 273
Clarissa: 931n., 932n. (Bissell)
Clark, Abraham, 885
Clark, James, 1369, 1370
Clark, John, J., 690–91
Clark, Jonathan (Master), 1367 (*Baltimore*)
Clark, Patrick, 1182
Clark, Will (Master), 1106n. (*Nancy*)
Clark, William (Seaman), 602, 631
Clark, William (Private), 1202
Clark & Hays, 546
Clark & Nightingale, **from** Nathaniel Shaw, Jr., 817; mentioned: 24, 241, 574, 751, 916, 1133, 1158, 1228
Clarke, Arthur (Master), **to** Patrick Tonyn, 788; mentioned: 789 (*Diligence*)
Clarke, David, 175
Clarke, James, 954
Clarke, John Innis, 677, 1063, 1081n., 1082, 1194
Clarke, Jonathan, J., 858
Clarke, Joseph, 57
Clarke, Joseph [Treasurer of R.I.], 752, 820, 836, 880, 956, 972, 973, 1081, 1082, 1100, 1110, 1146, 1194, 1228, 1248, 1333
Clarke, William (Master), 1121, 1192, 1242, 1331n. (*Nancy*)
Clay, Joseph, 852, 933
Claypen, George (Purser, R.N.), 957
Cleaveland, Samuel (Lt. Col.), 341–342, 650, 715
Clegg, ——, 191
Clement, Lewis, 294
Clements, ——, 1283
Clempham, George, 1086
Clemson [Clempson], John, 1069, 1070
Clenehey, James, 1203
Clerke, John (Capt., R.N.), 1393 (*Dolphin*)
Clerps, J. (Lt., R.N.), 1396
Cleveland, —— (Lt.), 242
Cleverly, James, 456, 457
Clibborn: transport, 484, 543; ship, 1369, (Thomas)
Clifford, Thomas, 963
Clinton, Sir Henry (Maj. Gen.), to command British Southern Expedition, 397; to sail in *Mercury,* 649; sails from Boston, 900; on way to New York, 1047; arrives in New York, 1124, 1125, 1135; gives assurance British troops will not land in New York, 1184; sails from New York, 1216; arrives at Hampton Roads, 1340n., 1341; Narrative: 1231–32; **to:** Josiah Martin, 735; R. Reeve, 1136; **from:** Josiah Martin, 1267; Patrick Tonyn, 1343; mentioned: 445, 466, 584, 585, 632, 748, 749, 750, 764, 795, 811, 813, 815, 950, 970, 993, 1029, 1045, 1149, 1151, 1152, 1153, 1160, 1161, 1174, 1199, 1231, 1233, 1255, 1259, 1263, 1282, 1302, 1303, 1305, 1328, 1335, 1338, 1341, 1349. *See also, Mercury,* New York City
Clinton, James (Col.), 58, 741, 780, 781
Cloth and Clothing, 168, 192, 341, 407, 1033, 1036, 1051–52, 1153, 1159, 1243, 1274, 1297. *See also* Military stores, Uniforms
Clowes, Samuel, 68
Clymer, George, 172, 286, 328, 647, 1154
Coachman, James (Lt.), 135
Coast defenses and guards; 1183, 1195, 1276, 1317
Coats, John, 608
Coats, Warwick, 608, 609
Coats, William, 192, 608, 609, 612
Cobb, John (Capt.), 3, (*Property*)
Cobble Hill (Mass.), fortified, 146, 149
Cochran, James, 3, 963n.
Cochran, Robert (Capt., S.C. Navy), to recruit seamen in northern colonies for South Carolina Navy, 326–28; in Philadelphia, 820n.; recommended by Congress to Washington, 862, 887; **from:** Massachusetts Council, 1333; South Carolina Council of Safety, 143, 326–27; mentioned: 221, 248, 568, 623, 647, 1045, 1239, 1309, 1316. *See also* South Carolina Navy
Cochran, Thomas, 3, 963n.
Cochran, William, 3
Cockey, Richard, 1018
Cocks, Robert, 1123
Cockspur Island (Ga.), 222, 674, 706

Coddington, William, **to** Nicholas Cooke, 974; mentioned: 184, 917, 938
Coffin, ——, 626
Coffin, —— (Capt.), 878, 1178
Coffin, James (Master), 555n. (*St. Lawrence*)
Coffin, Nathaniel, 375
Coffin, Nathaniel (Dr.), 1313
Coggeshell, George (Master), 1334n. (*Industry*)
Cohoon, John, 608, 610
Coit, William (Capt.), 19, 46, 64, 81, 572, 669, 796, 821 (*Harrison*)
Cole, Benjamin (Capt.), 1107 (*Liberty*)
Cole, Martin (Lt., R.N.), 1407
Cole, Norton (Master), 973 (*Phoenix*)
Collett, John (Capt.), 210
Collier, Daniel, 633
Collier, Sir George (Capt., R.N.), **from** Admiralty, 459; mentioned: 533 (*Rainbow*)
Collings, Benajah (Capt.), 31
Collings, Robert (Master), 1368 (*Neptune*)
Collingwood, Cuthbert (Lt., R.N.), 1397
Collingwood, Edward (Lt., R.N.), 1408
Collins, —— (Lt. R.M.), 492
Collins, ——, 1245
Collins, ——, 1041 (*Hope*)
Collins, John, Sr., 174
Collins, John, Jr., 174
Collins, John [of Newport, R.I.], 240, 836, 844, 938, 1063
Collins, John (Capt., R.N.), 375
Collins, Robert (Master), 60 (*Neptune*)
Collins, Thomas, 1116, 1125
Collins, William, 601, 631
Colpoys, John (Capt., R.N.), **from** Admiralty, 356 (*Seaford*)
Colquitt, Goodman (Lt., R.N.), 1399
Colton, Caleb (Lt., R.N.), 1397
Columbus: Continental Ship [formerly *Sally*] significance of name, 173; officers, 208n., 312, 1219; Marines, 302, 613; cost of outfitting, 609–10; description, 615, 616, 1236; chandlery, 848, 1380–86, 1388–90; pay, 961; signals for 1287–88; mentioned: 264, 615, 671, 672, 891, 1088, 1189, 1264, 1322 (Whipple)
Colvin, ——, 1279
Combined operations [British], 26, 40, 82, 346–47, 367, 398–400, 536, 632, 715, 748, 749, 811, 993, 1231–32, 1293. *See also* Army, British; Navy, British
Comet: S.C. Armed Brigantine, ordnance for, 568; fitting out, 623, 1268; seamen's bounties, 1119; Turpin to command, 1220; mentioned: 41, 312, 647, 664, 777, 930, 1056 (Powell), 1310, 1326 (Turpin); packet boat, 1003 (McDonough); schooner, 1189
Commerce: brigantine, 401, 404 (Rice)
Common Sense [pamphlet], 1174, 1268
Comstock, Benjamin (Capt.), **from:** Nicholas Brown, 1062; agreement with Nicholas and John Brown, 1080–81
Comstock, Joseph (Master), 161, 278 (*Polly*)
Conanicut Island (R.I.), raid on, by Capt. James Wallace, 37, 57–8, 65, 86–7, 215, 575, 1146
Conclusion: brig, 1369 (Newman)
Concord: ship, cargo, 181, 209; crew, 599; ordnance, 713; mentioned: 6n., 40, 48n., 65n., 82n., 86n., 93, 145n., 171n., 497n., 506, 533, 832, 835n. (Lowrie)
Cone, Giles, 974
Congress: frigate, 90n.
Congress: Pennsylvania Armed Boat, 1307n., 1321, 1322 (Hamilton)
Connecticut: Committee of Safety Minutes, 205, 215, 1010; Committee of the Pay Table, **from** David Waterbury, 205; mentioned: 215; Council of Safety, Minutes, 634, 691, 1034, 1084, 1101, 1111, 1183, 1319; General Assembly, state naval forces authorized, 114; mentioned: 128, 157, 603, 1010
Connecticut Courant: Jan. 22, 844n.
Connecticut Gazette, **1775:** *Dec. 29,* 292; **1776:** *Feb. 9,* 1183, *Feb. 16,* 1319
Connecticut Navy: projected strength, 557; row galleys, 634, 1034, 1319; ship construction and purchase program, 691, 1010, 1065, 1111; sail duck, 1084; mentioned: 205
Connell, William, 962
Connely, Thomas, 305
Connet, Edward, 1202
Connet, Moses, 1203
Connolly, John (Dr.), 94, 589, 590, 606, 635, 846, 1040, 1043, 1046, 1052, 1175
Connolly: brigantine, 23 (Dickson)
Connor, John, 294
Connoway, ——, 776
Conquestador: HMS, 359, 1409 (Chads)
Conroy, Edward, 777
Constant, William, **from** Nathaniel Shaw, Jr., 817–8
Continental Agents, 62, 553–54, 599, 796, 1060, 1069, 1108
Continental Association, 567
Continental Congress: grants trade permits, 59, 116, 1016, 1102; debates naval affairs, 91; prize regulations, 101, 795, 1193; plan to use French vessels for Indian goods, 156; specifies British vessels liable to seizure, 171; Restraining Act, 247, 293; considers trade resumption, 258, 753, 837, 838, 1283, 1284, 1320, 1337; requires return of imported military stores, 259; salt importation considered, 263; imports on account, 462, 1263, 1323n.; naval construction program, 551; St. Augustine reduction recommended, 560; warns Virginia of approaching British fleet, 561; bateaux construction authorized, 680; "Rules for the Regulation of the Navy of

the United Colonies," 891n.; export and import of naval stores, 1152, 1258; gunpowder manufacture, 1285; Hudson River fortification plan approved, 1304; Boston assault resolution, 1346n. **from:** Benedict Arnold, 731–33, 741, 949; New Hampshire General Court, 1169; Rhode Island General Assembly, 797–99; David Wooster, 1212; Journal: 12n., 22, 59–60, 67, 90, 100, 116, 130, 176, 184, 207, 216, 258, 293, 578, 588–89, 606, 635–36, 655, 657, 680, 692–93, 736, 770, 803, 818, 837–38, 846, 862, 924n., 925, 944, 960–61, 979, 998, 1016–17, 1037–38, 1050–51, 1066, 1102, 1137, 1152, 1161, 1175, 1184, 1185, 1233, 1257, 1284, 1303, 1320, 1336; mentioned: 88, 99, 154, 158, 260, 268, 434, 583, 590, 600, 648, 660, 727, 888, 890, 891, 901, 940, 941, 957, 979, 992, 997, 1014, 1016, 1017, 1028, 1045, 1046, 1052, 1074, 1077, 1080, 1081, 1092, 1104, 1112, 1116, 1120, 1124, 1147, 1176, 1181, 1186, 1213, 1244, 1262, 1274, 1275, 1294, 1302, 1303, 1321n., 1335, 1353. *See also* Gunpowder; Hancock, John; Military stores; Naval stores

Miscellaneous Committees: transports, 101, 116; Indian affairs, 157n.; Canada, 255; claims, 578, 606, 925; secret correspondence, 74, 279–85

Marine Committee: appointed, 59; frigate construction program, 90, 130, 770; members, 100, 101, 264, 1038; meeting schedule, 117; funds, 130; mentioned: 1, 196, 1172

Naval Committee: recruiting instructions, 162; issued boatswain's warrant, 216, 217*; requires saltpeter, 185; power to issue orders, 208; Russia sheeting requested from, 304; cloth supplies from, 562; pay of naval personnel taken prisoner, 612; naval personnel ordered to board ships, 613; Rules for Distribution of Prize Money, 655–57; in account with Nicholas Biddle, 863; pays for gunpowder, 944n.; in account with James Read, 961–62; functions, 979; funds, 1051, 1161; **to:** Esek Hopkins, 636, 637–38, 847; Pennsylvania Committee of Safety, 185; William Stone, 640, 719–20; Virginia Convention, 640–41; Abraham Whipple, 657–58; **from:** Esek Hopkins, 1017; Samuel Purviance, Jr., 773–74; Minutes: 162, 172; mentioned: 1, 117, 210n., 590, 916, 972, 1189n.

Secret Committee: to procure naval and military stores for frigates, 90; confers with Penet & Pliarne, 324; imports military stores, 534n., 588–89, 617; 878–79; saltpeter purchases, 680, 770; allows trade in military and naval stores, 683; imports naval stores, 1115; gunpowder sent to New York, 1233; grants export permits, 1262; contract: with Nicholas and John Brown, 1153; with Joseph Hewes, 1285; **to** Virginia Committee of Safety, 1262; mentioned: 617, 1080–81, 1161, 1175

Continental money, 158, 250, 558, 1036

Continental Post Office, 1261

Contraband trade, *See* Trade

Conway, Henry Seymour (Gen.), 371

Conway, Richard, 269

Conway [Conyard], Thomas (Capt.), 163, 269, 702, 1298 (*Molly*)

Conyers, John, 1071, 1094 (*Polly*)

Conyngham, Gustavus (Capt.), 471, 507 (*Charming Peggy*)

Cook, James (Lt., R.N.), 1411

Cook, Nathaniel (Master), 1368, 1369 (*Eliza*)

Cooke, H., 168

Cooke, John, 836, 882, 956, 1334n.

Cooke, Nicholas (Gov. of R.I.), recommends Penet & Pliarne to Washington, 94; **to:** Henry Babcock, 1145; Governor of Guadeloupe, 277, 676; John Hancock, 152; Nathaniel Packard, 1109; Rhode Island Delegates in the Continental Congress, 66–7, 137, 1049–50; Sheriff of Hampshire County, 86; Jonathan Trumbull, 1049; George Washington, 56, 167, 901; **from:** William Coddington, 974; Hawkins, 167; J. Peckham, 1254; South Kingston Committee of Correspondence, 1194–95; Jonathan Trumbull, 1254; Samuel Ward, 673, 820; George Washington, 95, 136, 187, 648–49; William West, 954 1082–83, 1158, 1249; mentioned: 24, 86, 238, 328, 634, 676, 677, 679, 833, 880, 925, 956, 972, 973, 1081, 1082, 1100, 1110, 1146, 1153, 1183, 1194, 1230, 1248

Cooke, Nicholas (Jr.), 859, 879, 916

Cooper, —— (Mrs.), 726

Cooper, —— (Capt.), 717

Cooper, Sir Grey, **to** William Knox, 470; **from:** Philip Stephens, 374; Gilbert Barkly, 721–22; mentioned: 539

Cooper, John, 1204

Cooper, Micah Nichols, 1172

Cooper, Robert P. (Capt., R.N.), **from** Admiralty, 375; mentioned: 195, 342, 380, 381, 1312 (*Hawke*)

Cooper, Samuel (Lt.), 570, 782, 961

Cooper, William, 183, 855

Coopers' tools, 317*

Coor, James, 199

Coram, John, 192, 647, 762, 829, 839

Corbett, Thomas, **to** Henry Laurens, 964–5; mentioned: 211, 1341

Corbin, Richard, **from** Lord Dunmore, 1020–21

Corey, Isaac, 956

Corlet [*Cornet*]: brig, 309, 644, 645 (Harris)

Cornelia: sloop, 830, 831 (Sands)

Cornell, Thomas, 68

Cornick, John, 540

Cornthwaite, Cornelius, 579

Cornthwaite, John, 808, 1370

Cornwallis, Charles (Maj. Gen.), to command troops on Southern Expedition, 409, 424; mentioned: 432, 437, 439, 445, 466, 489, 536
Cornwallis, James (Lt., R.N.), 544
Cornwallis, William (Capt., R.N.), ordered to Gambia station, 363–66; to Philip Stephens, 544; mentioned: 518, 540 (*Pallas*)
Corrie, ——, 1041 (*Nancy*)
Cory, James (Master), 290 (*Speedwell*)
Cosslett, ——, 851
Cotterell, Thomas (Master), 1248 (*Catherine*)
Cotton, John, Jr., to Barnabas Deane, 1050; mentioned: 974
Coulson, John, 1132
Coult, John, 975
Council of War at Cambridge, Minutes, 1314–15
Countess, George (Lt., R.N.), 1394
Countess of Darlington: brig, 237
Coupar, —— (Capt.), 802 (*Sampson*)
Courtenay, Hercules, to Charles Carroll, 824–25, 864, 1348–49
Courts martial, 375, 427, 1067, 1350
Coventry: HMS, 1393 (Marlow)
Cowper, Basil, 229, 270, 853, 868
Cox, John (Maj.), 698
Cox, John (Master), 430 (*Friends Adventure*)
Cox, Miller (Capt.), 537
Crafton, Robert, from —— Crafton, 736
Craig, Alexander, 608, 610, 611
Craig, Dall, 1202
Craig, Isaac (Capt., Cont. Marines), muster roll of company, 174–175; mentioned: 304, 613, 641, 961 (*Andrew Doria*)
Craig, James (Capt.), 693, 697, 804
Craig, John (Va. Commissary), 1338
Craig, John (Capt.), 462, 1115n., 1126, 1185 (*Chance*)
Craig, Robert (Capt.), 1042, 1089, 1292, 1309
Craig, Robert (Master), 1367 (*Harriot*)
Cramahé, Hector T. (Lt. Gov. of Quebec), 458, 626
Crane, Stephen: appointed to Marine Committee, 101; mentioned 59
Crane, Thomas, 125
Cranston, Benjamin, 974
Cranston & Johnston, 1158
Craven County (N.C.), 1309
Crawford, ——, 491
Crawford, —— (Capt., Brit. Army), 242
Crawford, —— (Capt.), [of South Carolina], 896
Crawford, ——, 1041 (*Harmony*)
Crawford, Gideon (Capt.), 747, 883, 1099
Crawford, Patrick, 174
Crawford, Anderson & Co., 6n.
Crawford: transport, 615n.
Crawfurd, James, 832
Craymer, Matthew (Master), 1368 (*Brothers*)
Crespin, Abraham (Lt., R.N.), 1408
Crocker, Timothy, 54
Crosbie, J. H. (Capt.), 813
Crosby, Watson (Master), 1367, 1368 (*Polly*)
Cross, Ralph, 5, 52, 875n.
Cross, Stephen, 5, 52, 875n.
Cross, Stephen (Maj.), 124, 1095
Crossen, ——, 292, 323
Crossman, Jesse, 849
Crouch and Gray, 14
Crown Point (N.Y.), 515, 925, 949, 979, 1122
Cruger, John Harris, 1282
Cruizer: HM Sloop, at Brunswick (N.C.), 162; to be relieved by *Scorpion,* 759; condition of, 932; provisions, 1021; fires on Ft. Johnston, 1026; Journal: 246, 1026, 1190n.; tender, 1188; mentioned: 210, 245, 256, 260, 622, 794, 826, 993, 1008, 1040, 1399 (Parry)
Culmer, William, 1121
Cumberland (Nova Scotia), 1165–66, 1298, 1299
Cumby, D. P. (Lt., R.N.), 1410
Cuming, —— (Lt., R.M.), 867, 932, 1105n.
Cummings, Alexander, 1018
Cummings, Robert (Lt., Cont. Marines), 302, 613 (*Columbus*)
Cunningham, John (Master), 645n., 685
Curaçao, 44, 1085, 1229*
Curgenven, Richard (Lt., R.N.), 1407
Currituck (N.C.), Committee, 260
Curry, Joseph (Master), 1369 (*Rose*)
Curson, Samuel, 1085
Curtis, —— (Midshipman, R.N.), 215
Curtis, Elnathan, 953
Curtis, Richard (Master), 1369 (*Phila*)
Curtis, Robert (Lt., R.N.), 1397
Cushing, Caleb, 51, 52, 631, 877
Cushing, Joseph (Col.), 150, 193, 857
Cushing, Nathan, 254, 274
Cushing, Thomas, to John Hancock, 875; John Langdon, 1172; Robert Treat Paine, 952, 1248; from John Adams, 876–77; mentioned: 209, 856, 877, 933, 1316
Cuthbert, Laundrice, 686
Cutlass, 819*
Cutts, Samuel, 212, 1225
Cygnet: HMS, launched 459n., 535 (Salter)

Dacres, James Richard (Lt., R.N.), 1410
Daggett, James, 858
Daily Advertiser [London]: *Jan. 2,* 467n.
Dalrymple, —— (Gen.), 802
Dalrymple, Hugh (Capt., R.N.), 401 (*Juno*)
Dalrymple, William (Col.), 225
Dalton, John, 1207
Dalton, Tristram, 5, 52
Dancey, Arthur, 1291
Dande, Thomas, 974
D'Anglemont, to Gabriel de Sartine, 507
Daniel, Eliphalet (Capt.), 630
Daniel, William (Lt., R.N.), 1407
Daniel: ship, 792; unspecified, 1041 (Hope)

Danks, Isaac (Master), 689 (*Falmouth Packet*)
D'Anville, Jean Baptiste Bourguignon, 505
Darby, John (Capt.), 675, 713
Darby, Richard, Jr., 6
Darby, William, 1291
DarCarrow, John, 849
Darrell, Joseph (Capt.), 730, 929
Dartmouth, Lord [William Legge, 2nd Earl of Dartmouth]: dispatches of, 358, 362; enters Privy Council, 368; **to:** Josiah Martin, 346; **from:** B. P., 186; Phillip Callbeck, 625–30; William Campbell, 568; Lord Dunmore, 140, 617–19, 703, 1266, 1349–50; Robert Eden, 980–81, William Franklin, 635; William Howe, 81, 166, 254, 814–15; Francis Legge, 179, 203, 287, 742–43, 1298–99; Josiah Martin, 757–760; Alexander Schaw; 350; Patrick Tonyn, 231, 788–90, 1328–29; William Tryon, 1217; Thomas Wright, 288; mentioned: 46, 399, 413, 439, 445, 502, 585, 632, 738, 854, 1267
Dartmouth: brigantine, 16–17 (Akerman)
Davey, Thomas (Capt., R.N.), 898, 899, 908 (*Diligence*)
Davidson, John, 849
Davis, Benjamin, 1067
Davis, Charles, 1081n.
Davis, Daniel, 1132
Davis, Edward, **to** Maryland Council of Safety, 58–9
Davis, Henry (Capt., R.N.), **from** Admirality, 432; appointed to *Repulse,* 503; mentioned: 535
Davis, James [of North Carolina], 199
Davis, James [of Kingston, Jamaica], **to** Edward Webley, 946
Davis, John (R.N.), 801
Davis, John (Cont. Navy), 849
Davis, Noah, 54
Davis, Roger, 801
Davis, Simon, 1081n.
Davis, Solomon, **to** Nicholas Brown, 858; mentioned: 1079
Davis, Thomas, 611
Davis, William, 693, 697
Davison, Samuel (Capt.), 39n., 1305
Dawson, George (Lt., R.N.), given command of *Hope,* 275; mentioned: 9n., 994, 1078, 1097, 1345n.
Dawson, John, 905
Dawson, Samuel (Capt.), 617
Day, George (Lt., R.N.), 1408
Day, James, 608, 610, 611
Daymon, Francis, 279, 281, 282, 285n.
Dayton, Elias (Col.), 959, 1202
Dayton, Henry (Lt., Cont. Marines), 304, 615, 962 (*Providence*)
Deacon, Richard (Lt., R.N.), 1404
Deal Castle: HMS, ordered to Spithead 391; to join Southern Expedition, 400; runs aground, 470, 486, 488, 501, 507; leaves drydock, 522; mentioned: 359, 361n., 368, 426, 432, 433, 443, 445, 467, 473, 484, 1411 (Worth)
Dean, ——, 1041 (*Lydia*)
Dean, John (Capt.), 966
Dean, Joseph, 698
Deane, Barnabas, **to:** John Cotton, Jr., 1050; Silas Deane, 917; **from** John Cotton, Jr., 1050; mentioned: 1050n., 1175n.
Deane, Elizabeth, **from** Silas Deane, 116, 263
Deane, Joseph, 934–35
Deane, Joseph (Capt., R.N.), 1406 (*Royal Oak*)
Deane, Nicholas, 1203
Deane, Silas: appointed to Marine Committee; "Naval preparations are now entering upon with spirit . . ." 116; **to** Elizabeth Deane, 116, 263; **from:** Adam Babcock, 128; Barnabas Deane, 917; Dr. Benjamin Gale, 1084; Thomas Mumford, 153, 195; Gurdon Saltonstall, 100, 939–40, 1173–74; mentioned: 59, 91, 102n., 218, 301, 634, 637, 638, 658, 720, 774, 847, 863, 944, 962, 1074, 1104, 1257
Deane, William (Capt.), 145n.
Deanes, Robert (Lt., R.N.), 339, 1411 (*Thunder*)
Deblois, Gilbert, 125n.
DeBrahm, John William Gerard, 29
Declaratory Act, 372
Dee, ——, 809
Deer Island (Mass.), Committee, 150
Defence [formerly *Lilly Ann*]: Connecticut Armed Brigantine, purchase, 114, 205; stores, 215n., 635
Defence: Maryland Armed Ship, receipts for construction, 305, 736, 1018, 1054, 1292; captain's commission, 754; ordnance purchased, 1259; construction estimate, 1371–72; dimensions, 1372; gunner's stores, 1373–74; inventory, 1373; sails, 1374–75; mentioned: 721n., 738n., 945, 1118, 1179, 1206, 1310, 1321n. (Nicholson)
Defence: South Carolina Armed Schooner, Tufts takes command, 133; ordered into Charleston, 177; protects Sullivan's Island, 728; tender for approved, 739; transports troops, 761, 762; attack on, 1164; mentioned: 312, 928, 930, 1002, 1141, 1220, 1342 (Tufts)
Defiance: schooner, 1194n. (Olds); sloop, 1081n. (Chace)
De Grasse, Count François Joseph Paul (Capt., French Navy), 232 (*Amphitrite*)
De Hart, William (Maj.), 1015
De La Corne, Luke, 58
De la Croix (Provost), 360
De la Touche, John (Lt., R.N.): relieved of command of *Halifax,* 151n.
Delaware: Cont. frigate, 90n., 697n.
Delaware Capes, 1040, 1291n.

Delaware River: ice conditions on, 155, 264, 266; defenses of, 559, 573; mentioned: 587, 654, 1116

Delight: sloop, owners' bond, 836 (Rotch); 1369 (Howard)

Dempster, Mrs., 925

Dempster, George, **from** John Hamilton Dempster, 924; mentioned: 903, 1015, 1200

Dempster, John Hamilton (Capt.), **to:** Richard Cardin, 925; George Dempster, 924; mentioned: 903, 959, 960n., 979, 1012, 1013, 1016, 1066, 1086, 1101, 1103, 1200 1203, 1217 (*Blue Mountain Valley*)

Denison, Joseph, **to** George Washington, 679; **from** Robert Hanson Harrison, 874

Denlon, Preston, 458

Denmark, 505

D'Ennery, ——, 473

Dennie, William, 875

Dennis, John, 884, 973, 1292

Dennis, Thomas (Capt.), 1334n.

Denny, John (Capt.), 679, 874 (*Warren*)

Denny, William, 1318

Dent, Digby (Capt., R.N.), **from:** Admirality, 367, 401, 492, 513; George Jackson, 534; Philip Stephens, 396; mentioned: 406 (*Arethusa*)

Deperé, Pierre, 281

Derby, Elias Hasket, **to** Nathaniel Silsbee, 1245; portrait, 1246*

Derby, John (Capt.), 631

Derby, Richard, Jr. (Capt.), **to** Salem Committee of Safety, 17–19; mentioned: 1333

De St. Croix, —— (Capt.), 1283

De Saussure, Daniel, 1268

Des Barres, Joseph, 855n.

Desertion (from American services): inducements, 220; Continental Marines, 700; Continental Navy, 633–34, 863, 1305; Pennsylvania Armed Boats, 941; others: 995, 1097; (from British services) Navy, 27, 93, 112, 117, 756, 953, 970n., 1227; others: 715, 949, 951, 1220, 1259

Despard, G. (Lt., R.N.), 1227, 1397

Devens, Richard, **from** Henry Quincy, 858; mentioned: 183

Devol, —— (Capt.), 1250

Dewees, Cornelius, 705, 839

Dewees, Isaac, 174

Dewees, Thomas, 11

Dewey, Thomas (Lt., R.N.), 1399

De Wolfe, Charles, 1081n.

Diamond, John (Master), (*Lee*)

Diamond: sloop, 675, 766, 915 (Soule); 1249 (Morris); 1272n. (Wilney); HMS, 521

Diana: HM transport, 224n., 234, 633, 1056, 1211; whaling sloop, 374

Dick, Archibald, 944

Dick, Robert, 10

Dickenson, James, 962

Dickerson, Richard, 974

Dickinson, —— (Capt.), 287

Dickinson, John (Col.), 1262n.

Dickinson, John, 74, 158, 284, 944

Dickinson, Richard (Master), 1368 (*Faney and Jeney*)

Dickinson [*Dickinson*]: snow, 1323n. (Meston); Pa. Armed Boat, 1067, 1116, 1321, 1322 (Rice)

Dickson, ——, 803

Dickson, —— (Capt.), 23

Dickson, Archibald (Capt., R.N.), 479 (*Greyhound*)

Diligence: HM Packet, transports British troops to East Florida, 231; mentioned: 788, 789, 1003, 1329 (Clarke); HM Sloop, 908, 1022, 1394 (Davey)

Diligent: Massachusetts Schooner, 1095, 1156, 1226 (O'Brien); as HM Schooner, 714, 841n., 854, 855n., 952n., 1301 (Knight); HM Schooner (New), fitting out in Boston, 1007, 1008 (Dod)

Dillingham, John (Lt.), 750

Dinnes, John, 584

Disney, Daniel (Lt., R.N.), 1404

Dispatch: HM Schooner, 443, 1007, 1008, (Goodridge)

Doane [Doan], Elisha (Col.), 1079

Doane, Elisha, Jr. (Master), 997 (*Hannah*)

Doane, Hezekiah & Co., **to** John Adams, 997

Doane, Isaiah, 748, 1172

Dobbs, William (Capt.), 587, 801, 902, 903, 977, 1013

Dockyards, 464*

Dod, Edward (Lt., R.N.), 1007, 1397, (*Diligent*)

Dodge, Caleb, 45

Dodge, George (Capt.), 1131

Dodge, Richard (Capt.), **to** George Washington, 122

Dodge, Wilkie (Master), 998, 1037 (*Sally*)

Doliber, William, 966, 1130

Dolphin: brig, 838 (Prole); 1272n. (Smith); 1367 (Scott); schooner, 755, 864, 1369 (Kell); 1027n. (Manning); Massachusetts privateer, 50n.; prize of James Cargill, 1183, 1276n., 1301; 1121; sloop, 1257

Dolphin: HMS, 1393 (Clarke)

Dominica, 1245

Donaldson, James, 602

Donaldson, William, 609

Donoven, ——, 851

Dorcius, ——, 965

Dorothy: sloop, 309, 825 (Goodrich); transport, 516

Dorset: HM Yacht, 1412 (Schomberg)

Doten, Thomas (Lt.), 937, 966, 1077

Dougall, J. M. (Lt., R.N.), 1394

Dougherty, Henry (Capt., Pa. Navy), **to** Pennsylvania Committee of Safety, 77; mentioned: 91, 117, 186, 562, 607, 1323n. (*Washington*)

Douglas, Charles (Capt., R.N.), appointed third in command in North America, 356; mentioned, 491 (*Isis*)

Douglas, James (Lt., R.N.), 547, 1410

Douglas, Sir James (V. Adm., R.N.), **to** Philip Stephens, 511; **from:** Admirality, 412, 494, 512; George Jackson, 421, 423, 453–54, 513, 532; Philip Stephens, 363, 370, 373, 392, 397, 403; mentioned: 392, 439, 507, 514, 516, 542, 547

Douglas, John (Lt., R.N.), 1407

Douglas, Stair (Capt.), 1121, 1209 (*Squirrel*)

Douglass, Joseph, 832

Douglass, William (Commodore), 957, 1137

Dove, Jonathan (Lt., R.N.), 1411

Dove: sloop, seized 223, 908–12; mentioned: 232n., 583, 830 (Bull)

Downes: chart, 493*

Downey, Jeremiah, 19n

Downs, —— (Capt.), 1277

Dragon: 337

Drake, Joseph (Col.), 651

Draper, John, 1294

Drayton, Charles (Capt.), 721

Drayton, Stephen, 177, 298, 311, 567, 581, 582, 674, 688

Drayton, William Henry (Capt., S.C. Navy), offers services to S.C. Navy, 105; appointed, 119; to command *Prosper,* 133; applies for officers' commissions, 136; ordered to fortify Haddrell's Point, 176; **from:** Thomas Sherman, 1106; South Carolina Council of Safety, 176; mentioned: 29, 143, 221, 248, 623, 686, 720, 761, 788, 851, 866, 928, 930, 965, 988, 1002, 1022, 1042 (*Prosper*)

Drew, James (Lt., R.N.), 33, 35n., 1400

Dring, Robert (Capt., R.N.), to join Southern Expedition, 452; **from** Admirality, 384, 431; mentioned: 543 (*Carcass*)

Drinker, ——, 685

Drinkwater, William, 458

Driver, Hopkins, 849

Drowne, Solomon, **to** William Drowne, 264

Drowne, William, **from** Solomon Drowne, 264

Drummond, Duncan (Capt.), 750

Drummond, Henry, 234

Drummond, J. A. (Lt., R.N.), 1395

Drummond, Lord James, **to** James Robertson, 1135–36, 1273; mentioned: 590, 607, 658, 683, 919, 920, 1216

Duane, James, papers conveyed to British, 157n.; mentioned: 77n., 101, 285n., 613n., 654n., 698, 999. *See also* Brattle, James

Dublin: HMS, 451, 1407 (Fitzherbert)

DuBois, William, 391

Duboys, Lewis (Maj.), 1072

Duckworth, J. T. (Lt., R.N.), 1408

Duddingston, William (Capt., R.N.), **from:** Richard Bulkeley, 1107; Samuel Graves, 152; mentioned: 262, 275, 1006 (*Senegal*)

Dueling, 867, 932, 1105

Duff and Welch, 76

Dugan, Christopher, 849

Dulany, ——, 448

Dulany: ship, 1367, 1369 (Jarrold)

Dumaresq, George (Lt., R.N.), 1409

Dumas, Charles William Frederick, **from** Benjamin Franklin, 72–74

Dunavan, John, 306

Dunbar, William (Capt.), 242

Dundass, David (Capt.), 970

Dundass, James, 697n.

Dunkin, Robert (Lt., R.N.), 1410

Dunkirk (France), 389–90, 471

Dunmore, Lord [John Murray, 4th Earl of Dunmore] (Gov. of Va.): Gov. Tryon recommends assistance, 89; British sailors ill-treated, 93; joined by Maryland Loyalists, 102; property of, 103; threatens Norfolk, 118, 210, 218, 219, 621, 662; treatment of highlanders by, 139; sends prisoners to Boston, 145; frees slaves belonging to rebels, 158, 227, 621; intercepted letters of, 253, 301; strength of forces, 309; visits *Liverpool,* 324; dispatches for 362; conduct approved by George III, 444; support in Scotland, 484–85; reinforcements, 572; blockade, 703; alleged cruelty, 723; hopes for peaceful settlement, 1020–21; boards *Roebuck,* 1238; fortifies Tucker's Point, 1341; criticizes Southern Expedition, 1349–50; **to:** Richard Corbin, 1020–21; Lord Dartmouth, 140, 617–19, 703, 1266, 1349–50; Matthew Squire, 28; **from** Lord George Germain, 444; mentioned: 1, 13, 25, 26, 28, 34, 41, 59, 75, 77, 94, 115, 138, 149, 186, 188, 197, 242, 260, 279, 280, 296, 307, 425, 446, 454, 466, 506, 510, 579, 602n., 617, 643, 644, 645, 660, 661, 679, 681, 719, 738, 757, 764, 775, 776, 812, 849n., 850, 864, 902, 981, 1000, 1043, 1046, 1090, 1105, 1119, 1120, 1149, 1187, 1234, 1260, 1324, 1345. *See also,* Great Bridge (Va.), Battle of; Norfolk (Va.), Burning of

Dunmore: ship, 621, 808

Dunn, —— (Capt.), 86

Dunn, Benjamin (Sailing Master, Cont. Navy), 616n. (*Andrew Doria*)

Dunn, George (Lt., R.N.), 1407

Dunnet [Dennet], John, 472 (*Homer*)

Dunning, ——, 480

Dunwick, ——, 590

Durfey, Thomas, 1144

Dutchess of Gordon: transport ship, New Yorkers warned not to deliver intelligence reports to, 1011*; provisions, 1281; mentioned: 139, 196, 1037, 1123, 1125n., 1216, 1283n., 1334

Dutchess of Leinster: brig, 1368 (Cathrew)

Dutchess of Russia: transport, 275

Dyar, Charles (Capt.), recommended to command *Harrison,* 796; instructions from George Washington (upon appointment as commander of *Harrison*) 871–73; mentioned: 553n., 937, 1077 (*Harrison*)
Dyckman, Sampson, **to** Lord Sterling, 921; mentioned: 651
Dyer, ——, 1196
Dyer, —— (Maj.), 87
Dyer, Eliphalet (Col.) 561, 770, 1084, 1135, 1173, 1174
Dyke, Daniel, 946, 988n.

Eagle: schooner, 743 (Langdon)
Earl of Darby: ordnance vessel, 435, 438, 511, 523
Earl of Oxford: transport, 407 (Twyman)
Earle, Michael, **to** Thomas Ringgold, 701–02; "I would hold the Olive Branch in one hand & the Sword in the other, & I woud convince the whole World, that this was not by way of threat, but purely to secure my Liberty–", 701
East Florida: defenses, 231, 706, 1343; mentioned: 360
East India Company, 531, 534
East India fleet, 519–21
East Indies, 1393
Eastman, Nehemiah (Capt.), 150 (*Advance*)
Easton, James (Col.), 58, 242, 693, 1072
Eastwood, Thomas (Lt., R.N.), 1395
Eddy, Barnard (Capt.), 677, 1110
Eddy, Jonathan, 1166
Eden, Robert (Gov. of Md.): **to** Lord Dartmouth, 980–81; **from:** George Germain, 446; William Eden, 368, 450; mentioned: 158, 362, 738, 757
Eden, William, **to** Robert Eden, 368, 450; **from:** George Jackson, 491; Philip Stephens, 406; mentioned: 504
Edenton (N.C.), Committee of Safety, 260; master's bond for non-enumerated goods shipped from, 981, 984–85
Edged weapons, 819*
Edmondson, David, 608, 609
Edmondson, Hugh, 609, 611
Edmondson, William, 608, 609, 611, 612
Edward: sloop tender, 927n., 1001n., 1139n., 1209n., 1341n.
Edwards, John, 1310
Edwards, Richard (Capt., R.N.), 1412 (*Mary*)
Effingham: Pennsylvania Armed Boat, Capt. Moore resigns, 563; Hugh Montgomery to command, 1321; mentioned: 1322; Continental frigate, 90n., 697n., 1051n.
Egan, Charles (Lt., R.N.), 1396
Egg Harbor (N.J.), 922
Egger, Thomas, Jr. (Master), 1369 (*Charlotte*)
Egmont: HM Schooner, 1402 (Lock); HMS 484n., 1406 (Elphinston)
Eilbeck: ship, 296, 309, 661
Eilbeck, Ross & Co., 228
Elbert, Samuel, 229, 270, 583, 674, 829
Elderkin, John, 975
Elding, Joseph, 1292
Eldon, Joseph, 605
Eliat, Nicholas, 1203
Eliza: schooner, 1368, 1369 (Cook)
Elizabeth: brig, 666, 669n., 829 (Sullivan); ordnance brig, 536 (Toone); schooner, 1191; ship, 1369 (Spencer); storeship, 341, 453, 455, 461, 463
Elizabeth & Mary: brig, 1368 (Lightbourne)
Elizabeth River (Va.), map, 564*
Ellegood, Jacob (Col.), 261
Ellery, Benjamin, 57
Ellery, William, 240, 917, 937, 938, 955, 1063, 1183
Elletson, William (Lt., R.N.) 1400
Elliot, Andrew, 157, 590, 607, 919, 1216
Elliot, Sir Gilbert, 919
Elliott, Barnard (Maj.), 721
Elliott, Benjamin, 720
Elliott, Thomas (Col.), **to** Patrick Henry, 646; **from** William Woodford, 617; mentioned: 295
Ellis, ——, 762
Ellis, Alexander (Lt., R.N.), 794, 993 (*Hinchinbrook*)
Ellis, John, 594, 945, 1022
Ellis, Richard, 199
Ellis, Robert, 199
Elphinston, George Keith (Capt., R.N.), 409, 489 (*Romney*)
Elphinston, John (Capt., R.N.), 1406 (*Egmont*)
Elsinore, William Alexander, 738, 1002, 1154, 1295
Elstone, Thomas, 1202
Ely, Benjamin (Maj.), 1183
Emerald: HMS, to fit out, 384; commissioned, 421; mentioned: 341, 359, 370, 426, 451, 470 (Caldwell)
Emerson, Jacob, 990
Emery, John (Capt.), 252
Emmanuel: transport, 407 (Spencer)
Emmes, Richard (Capt.), 110
Empress of Russia: HM armed transport, 224n., 234, 1261 (Bourmaster)
English Channel, chart, 428*
Engs, Madett (Master), 810, 876n. (*Sukey*)
Enos, Roger (Col.), 12
Enterprise: New Hampshire privateer, 950 (Jackson); HMS, 24n., 1396 (Rich); sloop, 129n., owner's bond, 1228–30, 1278 (Westcott); transport, 1210
Eolus: HMS, 341, 370, 405
Epes, ——, (Capt.), 1276
Eppes, Francis (Maj.), 78, 1187
Erwin, William, 991n.
Escape: brig, 1369 (Callow)
Espionage, 698–700

Essex Journal: Jan. 12, 747; *Jan. 19,* 855–56, 1010; *Mar. 15,* 385, 388, 1221n.
Esther: HM Cutter, 1404 (Major)
Eufrou Agatha: ship, 384 (Tadamondert)
Eustace [Eustice], John, 1043, 1046
Evans, H. (Capt.), 1064 (*Spy*)
Evans, James, 863n.
Eve, Abraham (Master), 985n. (*Martha*)
Eveleigh, Nicholas (Capt.), 721
Evelyn, William G. (Capt.), 735, 748, 750, 993, 1267
Everett, J. J. (Lt., R.N.), 1406
Everson, George, 1202
Evitts, Joseph, 849
Ewen, William, 177, 298, 311, 567, 581, 582, 688
Ewing, Thomas, 926, 1369, 1370
Exeter: HMS, 1407 (Moore)
Experiment: HMS, Capt. Keeler requests transfer to *Lynx,* 1311; mentioned: 360, 397, 403, 413, 478, 493, 1121, 1210, 1211, 1398 (Keeler, Scott); Pennsylvania Armed Boat 641, 1321, 1322 (Thompson)
Exportation, *See* Trade
Eyres, Benjamin, 697n.
Eyres, Gehu, 697n.
Eyres, Richard (Capt., Pa. Navy), 77, 1322 (*Camden*)

Fabian, Lewis (Lt., R.N.), 1401
Fairfax, George William (Col.), 5
Falcon: HM Sloop, to convoy *Kitty,* 749, 764; sails to Cape Fear, 795, 993; prize taken, 963; Journal, 963; mentioned: 9, 586, 794, 811, 815, 845, 996, 1340n., 1399 (Linzee)
Falconar, G. (Capt., R.N.), 1408 (*Mars*)
Falconer [Falkner], Nathaniel (Capt.), **to** Esek Hopkins, 1051–52; mentioned: 304, 641, 693, 697, 821, 888
Falkland: brig, 403, 406
Falkland Islands, 378n.; whaling fleet seizure, 370, 374, 403, 406, 412; return of, 423, 478–79, 652, 1305
Falmouth (Maine): burning, 433, 443, 468, 471, 630, 1312–14; defenses, 193, 1193; Selectmen and Committees **to** Massachusetts General Court, 53–54
Falmouth Packet: schooner, 689, 1027 (Danks)
Faney and Jeney: snow, 1368 (Dickinson)
Fanning, John (Lt., Cont. Navy), 208, 302, 1219 (*Alfred*)
Fanny: brig, 645n., 662n., 685, 686, 722, 775 [referred to as schooner] (Cunningham); brigantine, 1263, 1285 (Tokley); schooner, 1368, 1369, 1370 (Johnson); sloop, 826 (Hyman)
Fanshaw, Robert (Capt., R.N.), ordered to North America, 366; mentioned: 406, 535 (*Carysfort*)
Farley, Michael, 193, 631, 877, 1157
Farquhar, Robert, 945, 1055
Farmer: schooner, 1000
Farr, John, 1104
Farrar, Benjamin (Dr.) 1310
Farrow, William, 192
Fascine battery, *See* Fortifications
Favourite: HMS, 443; transport, 276
Feariss, Zacariah, 608, 609, 611, 612
Fellows, John (Col.), 918, 1034
Fenwicke, Edward, 1141
Ferguson, Alexander (Master), 1367 (*William*)
Ferguson, James (Capt., R.N.), to command *Brune* 462
Fergusson, John (Lt., R.N.), 14, 1326 (*Cherokee*)
Ferret: HM Sloop, 43, 231, 908, 1022, 1394 (Rodney); HM Cutter, 1404 (Murray)
Ferry Boats, 1083, 1101
Fessenden, Benjamin, **to** James Warren, 765–66; mentioned: 750
Fessenden, Josiah, 1183
Fettyplace, Edward, 966, 1130
Field, Nehemiah, 1000
Finch, W. C. (Lt., R.N.), 1411
Findlay, ——, 594
Firebrand: HM fire ship, 198*
Fire rafts and fire hips, 198*, 286, 559, 791, 821–22, 861, 1051, 1323
Fischer, Adam, 635
Fish, Joseph (Rev.), **from** Gold Selleck Silliman, 128, 205
Fish, Nathaniel, 750
Fish, Samuel, 54
Fish, Simeon (Capt.), 750
Fisher, Henry, **from** John Nixon, 1041; mentioned: 1040
Fisher, Jabez, 51, 52, 631, 877
Fisher, James, 975
Fishers Island (N.Y.), 1063, 1064n.
Fitch, Jonathan, 114
Fitch, Joseph, **to** Edward Webley, 831–32; Affidavit, 830–31
Fitzherbert, Thomas (Capt., R.N.), 1407 (*Dublin*)
Fitzpatrick, John (Lt., Cont. Marines), 302, 613 (*Alfred*)
Fitzsimmons, Thomas, 694, 697
Flags and colors: for Washington's Fleet, 321, 482, 873n.; British Navy, 431; Rattlesnake, 671, 1190; for North Carolina, 1204, 1205n.; Grand Union Flag for Esek Hopkins' fleet, 721, 1189, 1236, 1263, 1264n., 1382, 1384; others, 284, 599, 835, 1375, 1380, 1381, 1385, 1387, 1389. *See also* Signals and Signal flags
Flags of truce: 96, 118, 120, 140, 238, 244, 287, 1221
Flanders, coast of: 508*
Fleming, Edward (Col.), 780
Fletcher, Asaph (Dr.), 675

Floating batteries, 573, 721, 773, 834, 892, 893*, 894n., 1117, 1323. *See also* Bateaux, Boats, Fortifications, Harbor Defenses

Flood, William, 611

Flora: HMS, 370, 451, 470, 535 (Brisbane)

Floreman, Robert, 1291

Florida, 1344*. *See also* East Florida, West Florida

Florida: HM Surveying Sloop, 231, 908, 1143

Flour, 13, 60, 116, 712, 766, 818, 1116, 1138, 1162, 1237, 1264, 1265. *See also* Provisions

Floyd, Mathew (Capt.), 14, 15, 30

Floyd, William, **to** Francis Lewis, 1038; mentioned: 293, 294, 558, 560n., 818

Flucker, Thomas, **from** N. Taylor, 811

Fluent, —— (Mate), 20

Flute, Robert, 991n.

Fly: Continental Sloop, transports Rhode Island recruits, 24; joins Esek Hopkins' fleet, 820n., 839; chandlery, 848, 1390; purchase authorized by Congress 1018n.; description, 1236; signals, 1288; sailing qualities, 1307; mentioned: 1088, 1206n., 1264 (Hacker)

Flyn, —— (Master), 430 (*Sovereign*)

Flyn, Charles, **from** Admirality, 431

Folger, Gilbert (Master), 765 (*Fox*)

Folger, Nathan, 765

Folger, Peter, 765

Folger, Reuben, 765

Folkstone: HM Cutter, 359, 383, 404, 1411 (Smith)

Fooks, Neal, 698

Fooks [Folkss], Paul, 698

Fooks, William (Lt., R.N.), 1398

Forbes, ——, 853

Forbes, Andrew, 319

Forbes, Arthur, 133

Forbes, James (Master), 1368, 1369 (*Tryton*)

Fords, Caleb, 635

Fordyce [Fordice], Charles (Capt.), 28, 29, 39, 41, 141, 188, 261, 308, 812, 902

Forest, Charles (Capt.), 280 (*John* or *St. John*)

Forster, George, 1166

Forster, John (Capt.), 199, 705

Forster, William (Capt.), 17n., 36n., 45, 48n., 62, 602 (*Jenny*)

Forsythe, Robert (Capt.), sailed without permit, 808; **from** Maryland Council of Safety, 864–65; mentioned: 864, 865, 1052, 1370 (*Sam*)

Fort Frederica (Ga.), 221, 312, 583

Fort George (N.Y.), 10–11, 21n., 100, 115, 258, 650, 779, 918, 957

Fort Johnson (S.C.), 740, 827

Fort Johnston (N.C.), 161, 1022n., 1026

Fort Lyttleton (S.C.), 221

Fort Ticonderoga (N.Y.), *see* Ticonderoga

Fortescue, Charles (Lt., R.N.), 1395

Fortifications, 44, 74, 551, 558, 587, 606, 629, 635–36, 654, 670, 687, 693, 705, 727, 728, 760, 816, 822–23, 862, 891, 894, 922, 926, 927, 979, 1042, 1087, 1117–18, 1138, 1151, 1169, 1173, 1179, 1199, 1275, 1280, 1298, 1300, 1304, 1310, 1337. *See also* Boston; Charleston (S.C.); Hudson River; Sullivan's Island; Chevaux-de-frise; Harbor defenses

Fortitude: transport, 1300

Fortune, Nicholas (Master), 1369 (*Catherine*)

Fortune: brig, 1162, 1207, (Moore); brigantine, 866 (Brown)

Foskey, Bryan, 177

Foster, Benjamin, 1131

Foster, Ebenezer, 1360, 1365

Foster, Jedediah, 51, 52, 689, 877, 1276

Foster, John, 200

Foster, Joseph (Capt.), 124

Foster, Robert, 1166

Foster, Theodore, 973

Foster, Thomas Waite (Capt.), 80

Foster, William (Capt.), allowed parole, 110; mentioned: 233, 631, 710, 991, 1185n. (*Jenny*)

Fotheringham, Patrick (Capt., R.N.), 461, 1410 (*Fox*)

Foudroyant: HMS, 387, 451, 1408 (Jarvis)

Fowey: HMS, captures *Washington,* 96, 122; ordered on cruize, 166; at Cat Island, 237; chases privateers, 292; prize taken, 1107; Journal: 292, 900, 1043, 1107, 1156; mentioned: 7, 82, 97, 112, 273, 274, 292, 482n., 488, 489, 600, 601, 631, 807, 874, 913, 914, 1006, 1007, 1008, 1133n., 1188, 1401 (Montagu)

Fowler, Samuel, 167

Fowler, Thomas, 57

Fox, Charles James, portrait sketch 411*; mentioned: 410, 412

Fox: HMS, 340, 359, 388, 443, 461, 535, 1410, (Fotheringham); brig, 765 (Folger)

Foxworthy, ——, 543

France: Bonvouloir proposal to aid Americans, 279–81, 283, 284; Beaumarchais plan, 525–30; trade in military stores, 360, 408, 770–72; embargo on exports of military stores, 414, 415, 417, 419, 461, 465; attitude, 473, 475, 499, 505; mentioned: 333, 1127, 1297

Francis, David Thomson, 1039

Francis, Ebenezer (Capt.), 990

Francis, Philip, **from** Willing, Morris & Co., 1336–37

Francis: HM Transport, 606n.

Francklin, Michael, 1222

Franklin, ——, 57

Franklin, Abel, 57

Franklin, Benjamin: portrait 411*; appointed to committee to go to Canada, 1303, 1304, 1321; **to** Charles William Frederick Dumas, 72–74; **from** Jonathan Williams, Jr., 385; mentioned: 279, 284, 879, 944, 1153, 1277, 1285, 1286, 1302

Franklin, Elisha, 53
Franklin, Samuel, 1125n., 1160
Franklin, William (Gov. of N.J.), **to** Lord Dartmouth, 635; mentioned: 362, 820
Franklin: Pennsylvania Armed Boat, 1321, 1322 (Boyce)
Franklin: Washington's Armed Schooner, crew, 573n.; portage bill, 584; mentioned: 3n. (Selman), 679n., 873n., 874n., 1077, 1122n. (Tucker)
Franks, David, **from** Daniel Chamier, 1274; mentioned: 1181
Franks, Grossman, 1342
Fraser, —— (Capt.), 407 (*Susannah*)
Fraycie, John, 175
Frazer, Andrew, 507
Frazer, John, 1197
Frazer, John Gizzard (Maj.), 224
Frazier, —— (Capt.), 1334
Frazier, Henry, 174
Frederick, J. L. (Lt., R.N.), 1411
Frederick County (Md.), Committee, 589
Fredericks, Frederick (Master), 384
Freebody, Thomas, 836
Freehold (N.J.), Committee, 943
Freeman, James (Col.), 1144
Freeman, Nathaniel (Col.), **to** George Washington 65; mentioned: 96, 125
Freeman, Seth, 750
Freeman, Silas, 1202
Freeman's Journal, or The North American Intelligencer, Aug. 15, 1781, 699–700
French, Joseph, 68
Friends: ship, taken as prize, 810; cargo, 855, 1010; letters concealed on, 874n.; mentioned: 833n., 844n., 875n., 876n., 883n., 914n., 917n., 952n., 1010n., 1017n. (Bowie)
Friends Adventure: schooner 1367 (Fulford); transport 430 (Cox)
Friendship: HM Armed Ship, 433, 484, 486, 504, 523, 533;
Friendship: brig, Maryland Council of Safety suspends lading, 808; agent's request for continuance of lading, 824; manifest of sundries on board, 1052; sailing orders granted, 1054; sailing qualities, 1348; mentioned: 1369 (Martin); brig 1368 (Newell); brig taken by *Hope,* 1225
Friendship: ship, 1029, 1368 (Frost); sloop, 985n. (Adderly); 1368 (Lightbourne); store ship, 166n., 341, 994, 1097 (Miller)
Frigates, *See* Navy, Continental
Frost, William (Master), 1368 (*Friendship*)
Fry, Richard, 752
Fry, Samuel, 849
Frye, Joseph (Gen.), 193
Fryer [Fryers], John (Capt.), 1041 (*New-York Packet*)
Fubbs: HM Yacht, 1412 (Perceval)
Fulford, John (Master), 1367 (*Friends Adventure*)
Fuller, Benjamin, 694, 697
Fuller, Stephen, **to** Lord George Germain, 1022
Fundran [Frundan], William (Branch Pilot), 1123, 1198, 1199n.
Furlong, Jonathan (Maj.), 1120
Furman, David (Col.), 885
Furnald, Simeon, 16
Furneaux, Tobias (Capt., R.N.), **to** Philip Stephens, 723, 931–32; **from:** Admirality, 344, 345; Philip Stephens, 343, 344, 348; mentioned: 757, 930 (*Syren*)

Gaborian, Thomas (Lt., R.N.), 1405 (*Sherborne*)
Gadsden, Christopher (Col.), appointed to Marine Committee, 101; **to** Esek Hopkins, 720–21, 805, 806*, 807; mentioned: 59, 216, 217, 218, 637, 638, 657, 658, 720, 721, 774, 1115, 1173, 1174, 1189n., 1190, 1239, 1268
Gadsden, Thomas, 1190
Gaff, Barney, 849
Gage, Thomas (Maj. Gen.): dispatches for, 344; **from** Philip Stephens, 387; mentioned: 32, 85, 93 342, 483, 815, 1064, 1120
Gage, Thomas (Mrs.), 969
Gaillard, John, 851
Galathea: HMS, 341, 370, 405
Galbraith, ——, 218
Galbraith, John (Lt., R.N.), 1400
Gale, Benjamin (Dr.), **to** Silas Deane, 1084
Gallard, John, 602
Gallaway, James, 305
Gallaway, Thomas, 704
Galleys, *see* Row-galleys
Gamble, William (Capt.), 242
Gamecock: Massachusetts private sloop, fitted out, 5; commission of Captain Roberts to command, 52; mentioned 63n. (Peter Roberts)
Gansevoort, Peter (Maj.), 10
Gantley, Peter, 975
Garden, Alexander, 601
Gardiner, Caleb, 1196
Gardiner, Matt, 591
Gardiner, Sylvester, 1146
Gardner, Alan (Capt., R.N.), **to** Clark Gayton, 1121; mentioned: 223, 831n., 910, 911, 912, 1106 (*Maidstone*)
Gardner, Christopher (Master), 752n. (*Sherburne*)
Gardner, Edward (Lt., R.N.), 1400
Gardner, Henry, 602
Gardner, Jonathan, 57
Garland, Barnett [Barnard], 863n., 1291
Garnadier,—— (Capt.), 706
Garnier, William (Capt., R.N.), 106, 570, 779, 791, 1121 (*Argo*)
Garwood, William, 609
Gaspee: HM Brig, prisoners from, 128; 994; deposition of crew members, 1272; mentioned: 242, 670, 1007, 1401 (Hunter)

Gates, Horatio (Brig. Gen.), **to:** Speaker of Massachusetts House of Representatives, 601–02; Henry Edwin Stanhope, 951; John Knight, 952; —— ——, 1047; mentioned: 1223, 1314
Gaul, —— (Maj.), 813
Gautier, Michael, 458
Gayton, Clark (V. Adm., R.N.): reply to Writ of Habeas Corpus, 868, 869, 988, 1329, 1331; portrait, 1330*; **to:** Francis L'Montais, 1295–96; Philip Stephens, 43–44, 231, 906, 1143; **from:** Alan Gardner, 1121; Thomas Harrison, 869–70, 908, 1310; George Jackson, 409; Edward Webley, 832, 1243; mentioned: 360, 364, 502, 524, 545, 830, 831, 910, 946, 1192, 1242
Gefferina George, 9, 86n.
Gelston [Gilson, Gilston], —— (Dr.), 66, 1083, 1135
General Gage: HM Sloop, 276, 996n., 1006, 1009, 1033n., 1076, 1133n., 1134n.
General Ward: schooner, 50n., 165 (Kelley)
Generous Planter: store ship, 166n. (Calf)
Gentelley, Thomas, 1359
George III, King of England: orders reinforcement to British Navy in North America, 333; portrait, 411*; proclamation of distribution of prize shares, 440; **to** Lord Sandwich, 499–500, 504; **from:** Lord North, 539; Lord Sandwich, 492; mentioned: 1, 236, 405, 460n., 573, 600n., 681, 981
George, Rupert (Lt., R.N.), 1396
George: brig, 1236 (Pennock); sloop, 158, 575
Georgetown (S.C.), 726; Committee, **from:** Henry Laurens, 223; South Carolina Council of Safety, 594; mentioned: 61, 286, 312, 646, 686, 1238.
Georgetown: packet, 596n., 667, 669n., 763n., 1072n. (Wyley)
Georgia: violations of Continental Association, 191; contraband trade, 231, 310; to consider St. Augustine expedition, 560; illicit trade, 565–67; defenses, 674; governor and council arrested, 853, 867; ease of conquest by British Navy, 1271; estimate of situation in, 1327; mentioned: 351, 360, 466, 582
Georgia Council of Safety: warned by South Carolina of illegal exportations, 104; considers importation of military stores, 270; committee to obtain gunpower, 582–83; suspends rice exports, 688; arrest of governor and council, 987; Journal: 229, 270, 582, 674–75, 688, 706, 778, 829, 853, 867–68; **to** South Carolina Council of Safety, 177; mentioned: 329, 565, 581, 854, 986, 1002, 1069, 1270
Georgia Provincial Congress, **from** Henry Laurens, 1325
Germain, Lord George [1st Viscount Sackville]: dispatches from, 362; appointment as Secretary of State for Colonies, 366; **to:** Admiralty, 392, 408, 412, 416, 420, 456, 461, 463, 476, 482, 516, 523, 524; Lord Dunmore, 444; Robert Eden, 446; Sir Basil Keith, 532; Josiah Martin, 445–46; General of the Ordnance, 406; Royal Governors, 444; **from:** Admiralty, 368, 415, 446, 453, 454, 455, 456, 459, 471, 483, 485, 492, 502, 507, 509, 513, 534, 542, 545; Stephen Fuller, 1022–23; Thomas Lyttelton, 536–39; George Bridges Rodney, 366; Lord Sandwich, 460; mentioned: 369n., 379, 399, 400, 413, 430, 433, 439, 466, 482, 490, 514, 516, 519, 535, 539n.
Gerrish, Joseph, 51, 52
Gerry, Elbridge, 19, 184, 479n., 714, 856, 876, 1248
Gerry, Samuel Russell, claim for loss of schooner *Charlotte,* 965–66
Gervais, John Lewis (Col.), 1268
Gibbes, ——, 929, 1042
Gibbons, Gerald (Lt., R.N.), 1400
Gibbons, William, 229, 270, 867
Gibbs, George, 167, 954
Gibbs, Solomon (Master), 14, 42, 849n. (*Thomas & Stafford*)
Gibson, George (Capt.), 645
Gibson, Jacob, 974
Gibson & Co., 164
Gickie, William, 667, 686, 687
Gidney, Isaac, 884, 887
Gilbert, Francis (Lt., Pa. Navy), 1322
Giles [Gyles], Samuel, 1363, 1365
Gill, Giles, 975
Gill, John (Lt.), 1077
Gill, Moses, 51, 124, 877, 933, 1028
Gillegan, ——, 546
Gilleland, William, 294
Gillingham, Robert (Lt., R.N.), 1406
Gillon, Alexander (Capt.), **from** Henry Laurens, 222; mentioned: 211, 1238, 1239, 1310
Gilman, Nicholas (Col.), 252, 912
Girardeau, John, 868
Gist, ——, 975
Givens, ——, 309
Gladding, ——, 1158
Glaser, Beamsley, 969
Glasford, James (Lt., R.N.), 1407
Glasgow: HMS, fires on Newport, 20; deserters, 112; lands foraging party on Prudence Island, 784; Journal: 37, 767, 1134; mentioned: 86, 214, 226n., 794, 800, 951n., 1008, 1103n., 1400 (Howe); tender takes prize, 88; mentioned: 678, 752, 753
Glasgow Packet: 275, 993, 1232, 1340n.
Glass, David, 458
Glazier, —— (Col.), 803
Gleason, —— (Dr.), 1145, 1158, 1195, 1253, 1254
Glen, William, 686, 687
Glinn, William, 777

Gloucester (Mass.) Committee of Safety, **from** Massachusetts Council, 991

Glover, Daniel, 1365

Glover, John (Col.): to prevent landing at Marblehead, 95; takes charge of *Betsey*'s crew, 148n.; **from** Stephen Moylan, 6; mentioned: 80, 92, 233, 602, 631, 713

Glover, Jonathan: instructed to expedite disposal of prizes, 599; **to:** Samuel Tucker, 1108–09; George Washington, 165, 253; mentioned: 192, 1060

Goddard, ——, 1204, 1261

Godwin, —— (Capt.), 976

Goforth, William (Capt.), 225

Golden Rule: transport, 407 (Thompson)

Gondolas, 1243. *See also* Bateaux

Good Intent: 473 (Woodfall)

Goodman, Michael, 175

Goodrich [Goodrick], (Capt.), 309 (*Dorothy*)

Goodrich, Bartlett, 775

Goodrich, John, 61, 618, 619, 645, 722, 774, 775, 825, 850, 1139

Goodrich, John, Jr., 61, 775, 825

Goodrich, William, 61, 249, 618, 619, 703, 775

Goodridge, —— (Lt., R.N.), 1007 (*Dispatch*)

Goodwill: HM Cutter, 430

Goodwin, John (Capt.), 990

Goodwin, Ichabod (Maj.), 173

Goold, Arthur, 1167, 1168, 1222

Gopety, John, 991n.

Gordan, ——, 987

Gordon, Alexander, 631

Gordon, Francis Grant (Capt., R.N.), 179n., 292, 415 (*Argo*)

Gordon, John, 1291

Gore, John (Lt., R.N.), 1408

Gorham, Benjamin, 748, 1172

Gorham, Joseph, 1167, 1222

Gorham, Sturgis, and others, **to** Massachusetts Council, 748; mentioned, 1172

Gorthrop, Thomas, 602, 631

Gosport (Va.), 723, 756

Gough, Charles, 849

Gough, William, 962

Gould, —— [British surveyor], 908

Gould, ——, 1108

Govan, Archibald, 118, 197

Goven, Joseph, 609, 611

Governeur, Isaac, 679, 717, 1065, 1085, 1231

Gower, E. (Lt., R.N.), 1396

Graeme, Alexander (Capt., R.N.): designated commander of *Kingsfisher*, 375; conveys Henry Clinton and staff on *Mercury* to Virginia, 632, 749, 750, 993; to convoy *Kitty* to New York, 795; in command of *Kingsfisher*, 1188; **from** Samuel Graves, 649, 715, 749, 795; mentioned: 750, 1104, 1231 (*Mercury, Kingsfisher*)

Grafton, Duke of [Augustus Henry Fitzroy, 3rd Duke of Grafton], 368, 373, 413, 808

Graham, J., and Co., 1069

Graham, John, **to** Alexander McDougall, 943; mentioned: 884, 886, 945, 1054

Graham, Mitchell (Capt., R.N.), 494, 513, 534 (*Thetis*)

Grampus: sloop, 60, 1276n., 1368, 1369 (Brackett)

Granger, Peter, 975

Grant, ——, 1300

Grant, James (Maj.), 238, 254, 764, 992, 994

Grant, James (Brig. Gen.), 970

Grant, James (Col.), 1120

Grant, John, 69

Grant, Robert, 472, 557, 994

Grant, Thomas (Dr.), 1130

Grant, William (Lt., R.N.), **to** Samuel Graves, 898–900; mentioned: 794 (*St. John*)

Grantham, Lord [Thomas Robinson, 2nd Baron Grantham], **to:** Lord Rochford, 356; Lord Weymouth, 490

Graum, Joseph, 975

Graves, David (Lt., R.N.), 1397

Graves, George (Surgeon), 275

Graves, John (Lt., R.N.), **from** Patrick Tonyn, 15–16; mentioned: 688, 1271, 1329 (*St. Lawrence*)

Graves, Samuel (Capt., R.N.), **from** James Young, 1191, 1331; mentioned: 375, 1312 (*Viper*)

Graves, Samuel (V. Adm., R.N.): orders survey of Armed Brig *Washington*, 9; relationship with Gage, 85; alleged corruption, 85; disposal of naval prisoners, 112; displeased with departure of *Senegal* and *Merlin*, 125; orders *Senegal* not to impress Nova Scotians, 152; instructions for determining state of rebellion, 159, 160; criticism of, 194, 433, 496, 811, 995, 1030; orders *Roebuck* not to obey Royal Governors, 235; orders enforcement of Prohibitory Act, 236; issues impressment warrants, 237; suspects Nova Scotia's loyalty, 275; relieved by Shuldham, 300; recall to England, 319; strength of fleet under, 335; defended in Commons, 337; dispatches for, 344; differences with Howe, 516, 518; rum supplies for Boston garrison, 555, 557; acknowledges receipt of orders, 573–74; transfers command to Shuldham, 794, 845; sails for England, 1078, 1096; Narrative: 36, 64, 97, 125, 166, 292, 300, 319, 584, 633, 649, 749–50, 795, 845, 914, 953, 972, 1006, 1078, 1096; **to:** Marriot Arbuthnot, 7, 63, 1096; Andrew Barkley, 254; William Duddingston, 152; Alexander Graeme, 649, 715, 749, 795; Andrew Snape Hamond, 84, 235, 236, 237; William Howe, 82, 632; Edward LeCras, 36; Francis Legge, 84; John Linzee, 748–49, 764, 795; James Morden, 97; Anthony Parry, 555; Molyneux Shuldham, 794, 845, 1006–07; Philip Stephens, 112, 274, 573, 992–95, 1030–31, 1078–79; **from:** Marriot Arbuthnot, 792; William Grant, 898–900;

Andrew Snape Hamond, 598, 689; William Howe, 585; William Hunter, 128; Francis Legge, 109; Henry Mowat, 20; Hyde Parker, Jr., 154; Philip Stephens, 375, 382, 383; William Tryon, 89; George Vandeput, 158; James Wallace, 278; mentioned: 32, 81, 431, 471, 481, 483, 485, 489, 492, 510, 577, 586, 653, 738, 793, 812, 814, 855n., 857, 920, 930, 995, 1005, 1025, 1030n., 1078, 1097, 1102, 1104, 1105n., 1209, 1266, 1300, 1318, 1397

Graves, Thomas (Capt., R.N.), 1408 (*Nonsuch*)

Graves, Thomas (Lt., R.N.), 127, 374, 383, 690, 752 (*Bolton*)

Gravesend (England), 402*

Gray, ——, 1106

Gray, Finlay (Master), 1369 (*Thornton*)

Gray, George, 981

Gray, Harrison, 810, 856

Gray, Lady Harrison, 914

Gray, Isaah, 1202

Gray, James, 602

Gray, John, 458, 810, 856, 876, 1203

Gray, Lewis, 810, 855, 914

Gray, Nathaniel (Master), 1367 (*Salley*)

Gray, Pardon, 956

Gray, William, 458, 1361

Grayson, William (Col.), 1207

Great Bridge (Va.), battle of, 1, 25, 26, 28, 39, 40, 78, 132, 140–42, 187–89, 219, 220, 242, 244, 260, 296, 308, 1187

Green, Amos, 458

Green, David (Col.), 990

Green, Jacob & Co., 290

Green, James (Master), 13n. (*Industry*)

Green, John [of Beaufort, N.C.], 199

Green, John (Capt.), 343 (*Pomona*)

Green, John (Capt.), 905, 1019

Green, William, **to** Pennsylvania Committee of Safety, 177; mentioned: 1291, 1305

Greene, Christopher (Lt. Col.), 137, 251n., 313, 842, 902, 1049

Greene, David, **to** Russell Hubbard, 413

Greene, Jacob, **from** Nathanael Greene, 181

Greene, John, 826

Greene, Nathanael (Brig. Gen.), **to:** Jacob Greene, 181; Samuel Ward, 149; **from** Nicholas Brown, 1099; mentioned, 1100

Greene, Thomas, 677, 766, 836, 837

Greene, William, 1146

Greenleaf, Abner, 4

Greenleaf, Benjamin, **from:** Thomas Jones, 4; Jonathan Titcomb, 4; mentioned: 51, 52, 124, 1322

Greenleaf, Jonathan, 875

Greenough, Epes (Capt.), instructions for a powder voyage, 743, 746 (*Eagle*)

Greenwich (Conn.) Committee of Inspection, **to** Jonathan Trumbull, 257

Greenwich: sloop, 752n. (Sweet)

Greenwood & Higginson, 854, 1328

Gregory, ——, 35, 110

Gregory & Guille, **from** Willing, Morris & Co., 22–24

Grendal [Grindall], Jonathan (Capt.), 1029n., 1033, 1061n., 1076n. (*Norfolk*)

Grenell [Greenol], John (Master), 558, 560n., 636

Greville, W. (Lt., R.N.), 1397

Greyhound: brig, 791, 1121, 1305 (Stephens or Stevens)

Greyhound: HMS, British reconciliation commissioners on board, 371; ordered to fit out, 479; mentioned: 388, 443, 498, 521, 541 (Dickson); HM Cutter, to seize *Anna Catherina,* 358; arrives at Dover with *Anna Catherina,* 422; mentioned: 455, 1404 (Bazeley)

Grice, Francis, 697, 1040

Griest, Isaac, 163, 1042, 1118, 1138

Griffin, Sir J. G., 337–38

Griffin, James, 975

Griffin, John, 16

Griffith, Benjamin, 1042, 1118, 1138

Griggs [Gregg], John (Capt.), sells *Lilly Ann* to Connecticut, 114; mentioned: 205, 215, 603, 691

Grimaldi, Jeronimo, Marquis de, 356, 490

Grimes, John (Capt., R.I. Navy), 676, 677

Grimes, Mathias, 849

Grimes, Terence, 945

Grinnal, William (Capt.), 574

Griswold, Edward, 975

Griswold, Matthew (Dep. Gov. of Conn.), **from** Giles Hall, 115; mentioned, 1111

Grosvenor, William (Lt., R.N.), 1410

Groton (Conn.), 1173, 1174

Grove [Groves], ——, 1069, 1093

Grove, T. S. (Lt., R.N.), 1400

Groves, Mathew (Master), 934–36

Guadeloupe: view of Basse Terre, 271*; source of gunpowder, 277, 817; source of military stores, 583; Governor of, from Nicholas Cook, 676; mentioned, 1085

Guilderoy, John, 601, 631

Guines, Count de, **to** Count de Vergennes, 340, 359, 370, 387, 404, 414, 425, 426, 434, 443, 451, 504, 505, 515, 535; **from:** Archard de Bonvouloir, 279–85; Count de Vergennes, 377, 391, 417, 467

Gulf of St. Lawrence, view of Pierced Island, 597*; mentioned: 487, 1298

Gun carriage, 556*

Gunners' quadrant, 1148*

Gunpowder: exempted from trade restrictions: 166, 634, 651, 672, 679, 736, 817, 856; attempts to obtain supplies by Continental Congress, 655, 657, 670, 818, 820, 837;—Connecticut, 557;—Maryland, 755, 1297, 1309;—Massachusetts, 150, 183, 193, 632;—New Hampshire, 62, 79, 270, 272, 746, 754;—New Jersey, 635;—New York, 587, 605–06, 679–80, 802, 862;—North

Carolina, 133, 1150, 1204;—Pennsylvania, 172, 821;—Rhode Island, 277, 321;—Virginia, 61, 722, 775–76, 825; arrival of shipments in American ports, 172, 681, 710, 820, 877, 942, 1049, 1157, 1169, 1185, 1338; vessels loading, 361; smuggling, 404; Bermuda supply taken, 415; Spanish embargo on export, 55, 490, 533–34 [*see also* France]; St. Eustatius as source, 500; Beaumarchais plan for securing supplies, 527; South Carolina unable to provide to North Carolina, 592–93; scarcity, 628, 1045, 1234, 1345; at Great Egg Harbor, 655; price, 660, 1003; voyages to obtain, 743–46, 803–05; Indian trade, 853; supplied to *Hornet* and *Wasp,* 1001; powder tester, 1148*; capture of, 1155, 1326; manufacture, 1285; mentioned: 42, 54, 56, 62, 79, 223, 292, 403, 471, 551, 618–19, 654, 661, 817, 853, 879, 880, 882, 884, 887n., 944, 952, 956, 964, 965, 986, 987, 999, 1001, 1004, 1012, 1052, 1061, 1071, 1089, 1092, 1132, 1142n., 1179, 1205, 1218, 1238, 1254, 1260, 1279, 1285, 1292, 1293. *See also* Military stores, Munitions, Naval stores, Saltpeter

Guns, 265*

Guthrie, James, 700

Guy, Alexander, 652

Gwyn, Walter, 163

Habersham, Joseph, 270, 583, 674, 853

Hacker, Hoysteed [Hoysted] (Capt., Cont. Navy): appointed, 207, 208n., 302; mentioned: 888–91, 891n., 1088, 1206, 1219, 1236, 1291n., 1306 (*Fly*)

Hackett, James (Maj.), 197n., 912

Hackett, John, petition to Pennsylvania Committee of Safety, 1067; mentioned: 1116

Hadley, E., 1001

Hail, Jacob, 975

Hains, —— (Capt.), 884, 885, 886, 887 (*Polly and Ann*)

Hains, Bartholomew, 884, 886

Hair, Joy, to William Neil, 287; mentioned 105

Haislop, William, 175

Haldimand, Frederick (Maj. Gen.), **from** Francis Hutcheson, 212, 237, 238, 811–12, 969–70, 995, 1097

Halifax (N.S.): smallpox outbreak, 180; map, 289*; proposed raid on, 1046, 1047; defenses, 1275; mentioned: 460, 1046, 1133n.

Halifax (N.S.) Naval Yard: defenses, 251, 252, 1300; mentioned: 7, 63, 275, 459, 792, 1025

Halifax: HM Schooner, convoys refugees, 97; chases made by, 151, 914; Quarme replaces De la Touche, 151; to carry intelligence, 292; increase in complement approved, 375; prizes taken, 912, 913, 1273, 1345; Master's Log: 151, 689–90, 912–14, 1049, 1273; mentioned: 122, 1006, 1007, 1008, 1400 (Quarme)

Hall, David, 975

Hall, Ebenezer, to Mark Alexander, 81

Hall, Giles (Capt.), to decommission *Minerva,* 114; **to:** Matthew Griswold, 115; Jonathan Trumbull, 88; mentioned: 974 (*Minerva*)

Hall, James (Capt.), 996n., 1029n., 1033, 1061n., 1076 (*Happy Return*)

Hall, John, 864n., 927, 1055, 1139

Hall, Thomas W. B., 688

Hall, Samuel, 299n.

Halle, Joseph, 1125n.

Haller, Samuel, 68

Hallett, Enoch (Maj.): to James Otis, 1276–77; mentioned, 1302

Hallock, William (Capt., Cont. Navy), 672, 849 (*Wasp*)

Hallum, —— (Lt., R.N.), 1007 (*Adventure*)

Halsal, John, 728, 730

Halsey, Jeremiah (Lt.), 10, 692, 693

Halsted, William Anthony (Capt., R.N.), orders to fit *Jersey* for service, 385; mentioned: 405 (*Jersey*)

Ham, Richard (Capt.), 729

Hamblin, Dwight, 635

Hamburg, 504

Hamilton, Charles, 248

Hamilton, James (Capt.), 91

Hamilton, James, 832

Hamilton, John (Capt., R.N.), 36, 446, 453, 454, 460 (*Lizard*)

Hamilton, John (Capt., Pa. Navy), 1322 (*Congress*)

Hamilton, Jonathan, 77, 962

Hamilton, Patrick, 608, 609, 612

Hammett, Lucy, 321

Hamond, Andrew Snape (Capt., R.N.): to command British ships off Virginia, 276; ordered to prepare *Roebuck* for sea, 625; under command of Molyneux Shuldham, 814; ordered to destroy Philadelphia floating batteries, 834; takes command of Virginia squadron, 1188; **to:** All Naval Captains in Virginia, 1188, 1350; Samuel Graves, 298, 689; James Montagu, 1266, 1293; Francis Parry, 1209; Matthew Squire, 1323–24; John Wright, 1188; **from:** Marriot Arbuthnot, 625; Samuel Graves, 84, 235, 236, 237; Molyneux Shuldham, 814; mentioned: 794, 1266, 1310 (*Roebuck*)

Hampshire County (Mass.), 86

Hampton, ——, 769

Hampton (Va.), prizes taken to, 117–18

Hampton Roads (Va.), British ships at, 309

Hanchet, Oliver (Capt.), 249

Hancock, John: appointed to Marine Committee, 101; portrait, 1044*; **to:** Philip Schuyler, 917, 1159; George Washington, 11, 209, 887; **from:** Benedict Arnold, 1072, 1220–21; Continental Congress, New York Delegates, 802; Nicholas Cooke, 152; Thomas Cushing, 875; Charles Lee, 1184, 1217, 1335; Thomas Lowrey, 979; Robert Ogden, 1200–04; Samuel Purviance, Jr., 642; Philip Schuyler, 10, 100, 195, 258, 323, 716–17, 768, 785, 957, 976–77, 998, 1034, 1122, 1147, 1197, 1255; Lord Stirling, 170, 959, 1014–16, 1101–02, 1137; Matthew Tilghman, 643; Pierre Van Courtland, 587–88; Artemas Ward, 1109; George Washington, 45, 94, 147, 232, 600–01, 733–34, 782–83, 950, 1043–45, 1180, 1273, 1345–46; David Wooster, 1004–05, 1244; mentioned: 1115, 1172

Hancock: Continental Ship, to be built in Massachusetts, 90n., 210n.

Hancock: Pennsylvania Armed Boat, 1321, 1322 (Moore)

Hancock: Washington's Armed Schooner, crew pay, 552, engagement with *General Gage,* 995–96, 996n., 1009n., 1031; run aground by *Hope,* 1062n., 1078, 1079, 1097n., 1169–70; officers, 1077; bill for hiring, 1130; mentioned: 3n., 679n., 553n., 753n., 874n., 1023, 1046, 1234, 1345n., 1353 (Manley)

Hancock and Adams: ship, 285n., 1323n. (Forest)

Hands, Thomas B., 864n.

Hanes, —— (Capt.), 137

Hanmer, Job (Lt., R.N.), 1411

Hannah, John, 1383

Hannah: brig, 602, 684, 701, 755, 774 (Luce); schooner, 997, 997n. (Doane), 1368 (Towner), 1370 (Van Bebber)

Hanson, Ed., 1162

Hanson, John, 589

Hanson, Jonathan, 1227

Happy Return: ship, 995n., 996n., 1024, 1033, 1060, 1061n., 1076, 1077n., 1111n., 1133n., 1134n., 1185n. (James Hall)

Harbeson, —— (Capt.), 318

Harbor defenses, 121, 654, 721, 726, 791, 809, 816, 821–24, 834, 839, 941, 1051, 1117–18, 1154, 1193, 1235, 1259, 1264–66, 1323, 1326, 1346

Harding, Jesse (Master), 856, 877, 1370 (*Endeavor, Jenny*)

Harding, Seth (Capt.), 691, 1010, 1065, 1111

Hardy, Francis, 449

Hardy, John, 962

Hardy, Robert, 199

Hare, ——, 1243

Harlequin: sloop, 277

Harleston, Isaac (Capt.), 721

Harley, Thomas, 234

Harman, Francis (Master), 430 (*Prince of Piedmont*)

Harman, Samuel, 608, 610

Harmony: 1041 (Crawford)

Harper, William, 1378–79

Harper, William (Master), 1367 (*Hawke*)

Harriot: brig, 1369 (Southcomb); packet, 371 (Lee); unspecified, 484 (Lusby); 1367 (Craig)

Harris, ——, 1222

Harris, —— (Capt.), 242

Harris, —— (Col.), 64

Harris, Francis Henry (Capt.), 229, 270, 867, 868

Harris, George (Capt.), 125, 483, 484n.

Harris, John, 116

Harris, John (R.N.), 867

Harris, John (Conn. Navy), 974

Harris, John (Capt.), 309 (*Coronet*)

Harris, Joseph (Lt., R.N.), 1397

Harris, Thomas, 1167

Harris, William, 602

Harrison, Benjamin, to Edmund Pendleton, 1263; mentioned: 35n., 74n., 163, 186, 209, 284, 837, 944, 998, 1127, 1151, 1320, 1383

Harrison, George, 752

Harrison, Gilbert (Master), 1142n., 1326n., (*St. John*)

Harrison, Joseph (Surgeon, Cont. Navy), 185n., 641 (*Alfred*)

Harrison, Richard, from Maryland Council of Safety, 865; mentioned: 268, 269, 685, 774, 864, 1266

Harrison, Robert Hanson (Lt. Col.), to: William Bartlett, 832–33; Joseph Denison, 874; Jonathan Jackson, 874; Massachusetts Council, 1247; Stephen Moylan, 873–74; committee of Springfield, 1132; William Watson, 870–71; Joshua Wentworth, 783; Eleazer Wheelock, 62; from William Wood, 1075

Harrison, Thomas (Advocate General of Jamaica), to Clark Gayton, 869–70, 908n., 1310; mentioned: 868, 912, 988, 1042, 1118, 1138

Harrison: Washington's Armed Schooner, chimney repairs, 86; crew, 113, 573n.; payment for fitting out, 165; colors, 321; to be examined for fitness, 669n., to continue in service, 796; Washington's instructions for, 870–73; Charles Dyar to command, 870; sails, 937; icebound, 1033; officers, 1077; mentioned: 64n., 966, 1024 (Dyar)

Hart, John, 1102

Hart, John (Capt.), 747

Hartfield [*Hatfield*]: transport ship, 224n., 633, 1056, 1211n. (Chads)

Hartley, David, 437

Hartnett, Cornelius, 1152, 1205

Hartwick, Lawrence, 691, 769

Harvey, John, 962

Harvey, Samuel, 174

Harwood, John, 1291

Harwood, Simon, 174

Harwood, Thomas, 1291 (*Andrew Doria*)

Harwood, Thomas, 269, 892

Haslar Hospital (England), 509, 514, 522

Haswell, ——, 992

Hatch, Mark, 1074
Hatfield, Aaron (Lt.), 1202
Hatfield, Moses (Master), 1369 (*Sea Flower*)
Hatfield, Smith (Capt.), 1202
Hathaway, John (Master), 1333 (*Kingbird*)
Hathaway, Joshua (Capt.), 1276
Hatton, John, 990
Havens, Thomas, 609, 611, 612
Hawk: brig, 449, 459–60 (Tingey)
Hawke: schooner, taken by *Falcon,* 996n.; 1237 (Daniel Adams); unspecified 1367 (Harper)
Hawke: HM Sloop, sails for Boston with dispatches, 404, 405n.; to be under Sir Peter Parker's orders, 486; damaged by gale, 531; Master's Log, 530–31; mentioned: 342, 360, 368, 388, 400, 433, 439, 445, 1311, 1399 (Robert Cooper)
Hawke: South Carolina Armed Pilot Boat, 327, 568, 596, 623, 647, 1141 (Vesey)
Hawkes, —— (Capt.), 804
Hawkey, William (Lt., R.N.), 1403
Hawkins, Job, **to** Nicholas Cooke, 167
Hawley, Joseph, **to** John Adams, 149
Hay, —— (Lt., R.N.), 533
Hayden, Uriah (Capt.), 1010, 1065, 1084
Hayman, John, 305
Haynes, —— (Capt.), 309 (*Peggy*)
Hays, William, 609, 611, 863n.
Hayward, William, 724
Hazard, Ben, 633
Hazard, John (Capt., Cont. Navy), commission, 695*, 696; personal qualities, 1306; mentioned: 302, 658n., 671, 672, 891, 1219, 1236 (*Providence*)
Hazard, Jonathan, 87
Hazard [Hassard], Robert, 1195, 1196, 1253, 1254
Hazard, Stephen, 1252
Hazard: HM Sloop, 388, 443, 514, 1404 (Orrok)
Hazelhurst, Isaac, 694, 697
Hazelwood, John (Capt., Pa. Navy), appointed to command fire rafts, 286
Hazen, Moses (Col.), 1155
Heans, Philip, 849
Heany, Patrick, 611
Heany, Thomas, 849
Heard, Nathaniel (Col.), 589, 1015, 1215
Heastie, James, 1292
Heath, James, 1291
Heath, William (Master), 1079–80 (*Betsey*)
Heath, William (Maj. Gen.), Memoirs, 80; mentioned: 137n., 1314
Heath, William (Lt., R.N.), 1410
Hebb, ——, 309
Hedge, Barnabas, 113
Hemmings, —— (Lt), 737
Hempstead, Joshua, **from** Meredith Stewart, 716; mentioned, 939 (*Lizard*)
Henderson, ——, 23
Henderson, Alexander (Capt., Pa. Navy), 77, 117, 1322, 1336 (*Bulldog*)
Henderson, Peter, 1387
Henderson, Thomas (Maj.), 884, 885, 886
Hendricks, William (Capt.), 570, 782, 961
Hendrix, John, 1202
Henry, Patrick (Col.), **from:** Thomas Elliott, 646; Edmund Pendleton, 218; mentioned: 210, 398, 645, 1207
Henry, Silas (Master), 985n. (*Polly*)
Henry, Thomas (Lt., R.N.), 1393
Henry and Esther: transport brig, 1109n., 1121, 1145n., 1182n. (Nellis)
Henshaw, John (Capt., R.N.), 1404 (*Ranger*)
Hepburn, Stacey, 1257
Herbert, F. (Master), 1370 (*Nancy*)
Hercules: ship, 1368 (Norwood)
Herle, Roger, 608
Hero: Pennsylvania privateer 130 (Humphreys)
Herrick, Stephen, 635
Herring, John, **to** Abraham Lott, 1136; mentioned, 1147n.
Herriot, Thomas (Master), 129 (*St. Helena*)
Hetty: Sloop, 14, 42 (Milligan)
Hewes, Joseph: appointed to Marine Committee, 101; contract with Secret Committee of Congress, 1285; **to:** Samuel Johnson, 658–59, 1153, 1218–19, 1260, 1261; Emperor Moseley, 76; Samuel Purviance, Jr., 1038; Robert Smith, 672–73, 681; **from:** Samuel Johnston, 201, 210; William Lowther, 207; William Hooper, 1149; mentioned: 217, 218, 637, 638, 658, 685, 720, 774, 818, 847, 1152, 1153, 1205n., 1258n., 1263
Hewes, Josiah, **from:** John and Nicholas Brown, 878; Nicholas Brown, 915; mentioned: 76, 879
Hewes & Smith, 207
Hewlet, John, 68
Hewlet, Richard, 68
Hewson, Thomas (Lt., R.N.), 1407
Heyliger, Abraham, **to** James Young, 105–6
Heyward, Thomas, Jr., 286, 664, 839
Heyward, William, **to** Mrs. Pemble, 569; mentioned: 286, 287n., 298
Hibbart, Joseph (Capt.), 1108
Hibernia: brig, 963n. (Avery); South Carolina Pilot-Boat, 1342 (Thomas Smith)
Hichborn, Benjamin, **to** John Adams, 32–35
Hicks, Thomas (Lt., R.N.), 1410
Hicks, Whitehead, **from** William Tryon, 159; mentioned: 1282
Higens, William, 1202
Higgins, ——, captured, 2, 31; released, 130n.; mentioned: 34, 288n., 299, 1167, 1168, 1222, 1223
Higgins, Jesse, 974
Higginson, ——, 1328
Highland Immigrants, 103, 455, 1150, 1232, 1260

Hill, —— (Lt.), 810, 876, 951
Hill, James, 197n.
Hill, John (Master), 1341n. (*Joseph*)
Hillegas, Michael, 328, 558, 647, 1206
Hills, John (Lt., R.N.), 1407
Hilton, Jacob, 650
Hinchinbroke, Lord, 337
Hinchinbrook: HM Schooner, Marblehead attack, 99, 273; ordered to Savannah, 56; sails for Savannah, 584; prizes taken, 1155; mentioned: 7n., 292, 585, 633, 794, 811n., 993, 1008, 1142, 1165, 1239, 1242, 1401 (Ellis)
Hind: HMS, 706–08, 779, 791 (Bryne)
Hinds, Benjamin, 1203
Hinman, Elisha (Lt., Cont. Navy), **from** Esek Hopkins, 1206; mentioned: 153, 241, 634, 939, 940, 1088n. (*Cabot*)
Hispaniola: warlike activities on, 231; source of military stores, 254; mentioned: 502, 587, 654, 942, 1143, 1257. *See also* Santo Domingo
Hobart, Aaron, 1248
Hobart, John Sloss, 1113, 1335, 1347
Hobson, John, to Stephen West, 448
Hodge, John (Capt.), to the New York Committee of Safety, 652–53; mentioned, 651
Hodge & Bayard & Co., 1104, 1154
Hodgkin, Philip, 150, 875
Hodshon, ——, 858
Hogg, Robert, 1013
Holbrook, Thomas, Affidavit, 1009
Holden, ——, 1146
Holden, Benjamin (Lt. Col.), 990
Holder, John (Ensign), 307
Holland, *see* Netherlands
Hollingsworth, Jesse, 163
Holloway, Daniel, 836
Holloway, John (Lt., R.N.), 1406
Holmes, James (Col.), **from** Timothy Bedel, 129; mentioned, 115
Holmes, John, 945, 946
Holroyd, James, 1238n.
Holsted, John, 950
Holt, James, 61
Holt, John Hunter, 809n.
Holten, Samuel, 51, 631, 877, 1332
Holton, Francis, 608, 611, 612
Holyokes, Edward A. (Dr.), 598–99
Homan, Joseph, 966, 1130, 1131
Home, Rodman (Lt., R.N.), 1409
Homer: snow, 472 (Dunnet)
Honduras, 545
Honyman, James, 954
Hood, Alexander (Capt., R.N.), 1412 (*Catharine*)
Hood, Samuel (Capt., R.N.), 1406 (*Marlborough*)
Hood, Thomas, 611, 612
Hooe, Robert T., **to:** Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer, 702–3; John Scott, 268
Hoomes, Benjamin (Ensign), 41
Hoop driver, 317*
Hooper, William: "Do we now not play a Game, where Slavery or Liberty are the Stakes . . .," 1151; ". . . the whole force of the Colony should be collected ready for immediate exertion when called upon, & bid adieu to plough shares pruning hooks till the Sword can find its Scabard with safety & honor to its [bea]rer . . .," 1151–52; **to:** Joseph Hewes and John Penn, 1149; Samuel Johnston, 1151; mentioned: 301, 1218, 1262, 1359
Hope, ——, 1041 (*Daniel*)
Hope, Charles (Lt. R.N.), 1409
Hope [formerly *Sea Nymph*]: HM Brig, commissioned by Graves, 275; sinking of *Hancock,* 1062, 1078, 1079; Master's Log: 1009, 1061, 1225; mentioned: 966n., 994, 1076, 1096, 1097n., 1105n., 1111n., 1134n., 1156, 1225, 1227n., 1276, 1276n., 1345n. (Dawson)
Hope: HM Schooner, decommissioned, 275; mentioned: 241n., 1400 (Dawson)
Hope: ordnance storeship, 519, 521; sloop, owner's bond, 1146 (Sweet); snow, 1368 (Hyde); transport, 405n.; unspecified, 342, 1041 (Collins)
Hopes, David, 1359
Hopkins, Daniel, 150, 573, 857, 936
Hopkins, David, 782, 1074
Hopkins, Edwards, 306
Hopkins, Esek (Commander of the Continental Fleet): frontispiece*; appointed commander-in-chief, 207, 209; signals listed for fleet, 1287–89; **to:** Nicholas Biddle, 1290*, 1291; Continental Naval Committee, 1017; Elisha Hinman, 1206; **from:** Nathaniel Falconer, 1051–52; Christopher Gadsden, 720–21, 805, 806*, 807; Timothy Matlack, 671–72; Naval Committee, 636–37, 637–38, 847; Benjamin Thompson, 641; William Wall, 773; mentioned: 47, 77, 117n., 162n., 210, 213, 215, 264, 510, 657, 693, 753n. 820, 1088, 1097, 1145, 1185, 1187 1188 1236, 1258, 1259, 1263. *See also* Navy, Continental
Hopkins, Ezek, Jr., (Midshipman, Cont. Navy), 264
Hopkins, James (Lt.), 974
Hopkins, John Burroughs (Capt., Cont. Navy), appointed, 207, 302; mentioned: 262, 658n., 672, 891, 1088, 1219, 1236n., 1306, 1322 (*Cabot*)
Hopkins, Rufus, 1081, 1230
Hopkins, Samuel, 138
Hopkins, Stephen: appointed to Marine Committee, 101; **to** Nicholas and John Brown, 24, 59; **from** Nicholas Brown, 238, 574; mentioned: 172, 185, 218, 264, 607, 609, 611, 612, 613, 634n., 637, 638, 658, 720, 774, 803, 818, 847, 859, 916, 1115, 1133
Hopkins, William, 174

Horn, John (Capt.), deposition, 642–43; mentioned: 309, 642, 671, 1370 (*Snow Bird*)

Hornet: Cont. Sloop, fitting out in Maryland, 607; ordered to Chesapeake Bay, 640; convoys vessels from Baltimore, 692, 693; powder and arms, 1001; joins fleet, 1219, 1263; signals for, 1288, 1291n.; mentioned: 163, 173n., 186n., 218, 639*, 672, 718*, 719, 720, 721, 722n., 738n., 773, 774n., 848n., 961, 1020, 1054, 1127n., 1264, 1288, 1307n., 1309 (Stone)

Horry, Daniel (Capt.), 721

Horry, Elias (Col.), 595, 705, 1310

Horry, Peter (Capt.), 721

Horsley, Thomas, 1363

Hortalez, Roderique & Co., 527, 528, 529

Hough, —— (Constable), 1319

House, —— (Capt.), 1170

House of Commons, debate on Navy estimates, 335–38

Houston, John, appointed to Marine Committee, 101

Houston, Thomas (Capt., Pa. Navy), 1321 (*Experiment*)

Hovey, Ivory, 573

Howard, Nicholas (Master), 1369 (*Delight*)

Howe, Lord Richard (Vice Adm., R.N.), appointed commander of fleet, 539; mentioned: 387, 425, 1335, 1337

Howe, Robert (Col.): joins Woodford, 103; takes command at Norfolk, 118; refuses to supply provisions to British Navy, 244, 307; **to:** Henry Bellew, 228, 310; Edmund Pendleton, 244; Virginia Convention, 93, 492, 579–80; **from** Henry Bellew, 228, 310; mentioned: 25, 41, 78, 139, 295, 296, 297, 579, 661, 850, 1151n., 1187

Howe, Tyringham (Capt., R.N.), 20, 767, 794 (*Glasgow*)

Howe, William (Maj. Gen.): George Washington to ask for exchange of Ethan Allen, 94; "I could wish a Distinction to be made between Prisoners taken on Shore and on Sea, which last Mode of War will hurt us more effectually than any thing they can do by Land during our Stay at this Place," 112n.; orders rice convoy to Savannah, 166; on treatment of Ethan Allen, 193; dispatches ship to West Indies, 224; instructions to supply convoy, 234; dispatches for, 362; differences with Graves, 516, 518; **to:** Lord Dartmouth, 166, 254, 814–15; Samuel Graves, 585; Benjamin Charnock Payne, 234; Molyneux Shuldham, 1318; George Washington, 193; James Young, 224; **from:** Samuel Graves, 82, 632; George Washington, 146; James Young, 1209; mentioned: 123, 253, 275, 301, 346, 399, 409, 461, 466, 485, 490, 584, 626, 649, 671, 715, 757, 793, 813, 848, 857, 886, 920, 943, 992, 1047, 1056, 1102, 1103, 1136, 1180, 1191, 1211, 1231, 1269, 1274, 1312

Howell, John, 849

Howell, Samuel, **from** Daniel Joy, 821–24; mentioned: 286, 1154

Howel, 317*

Hower, Ethereel, 458

Howes, Daniel (Capt.), 1079

Howland, Consider (Master), 542

Howland, John (Capt.), **from** Jason Swan, 968; mentioned, 1280 (*James*)

Hoxie, Gideon (Lt. Col.), **from** William West, 1083, 1101; mentioned: 1251

Hoyt, Thomas, 1202

Hubbard, ——— (Major), 1076

Hubbard, Jonas (Capt.), 249, 782

Hubbard, Russell, **from** David Greene, 413

Hubble, Josiah, 88

Huddle, William (Lt., Cont. Marines), 849 (*Wasp*)

Hudson, Benjamin, 248

Hudson, Charles (Capt., R.N.), **to** Molyneux Shuldham, 1057; mentioned: 793, 1058n., 1192 (*Orpheus*)

Hudson, Jonathan, 5, 157n., 260

Hudson River, 100, 149, 587, 635–36, 693, 717, 1047, 1048, 1122, 1304

Hudson & Worthington, 391

Huger, Benjamin (Capt.), 1120, 1141, 1310

Huger, Francis (Capt.), 721

Huger, Isaac (Col.), 229, 721

Hughes, Daniel, 1338

Hughes, Edward (Commodore, R.N.), 1393

Hughes, William, 1291

Hughs, Christopher, 945

Hulings, Joseph, 611

Hull, Mrs., 57

Hull, William (Capt.), **to** Andrew Adams, 146

Hulscamp, Garret (Pilot), 117

Hume, George (Lt., R.N.), 1408

Hume, Robert (Lt. Pa. Navy), 1322

Hume, Robert (Capt.), 563

Humphreys, John (Lt.), 782

Humphreys, Joshua, 609, 610, 611, 612, 1039

Humphreys, Joshua (Master), 130 (*Hero*)

Humphreys, William (Lt.), 961

Hunn, John (Capt.), 266

Hunt, ——, 856, 876

Hunt, Anthony (Capt., R.N.), 429, 533 (*Sphynx*)

Hunt, Elias, 583

Hunt, Richard, 975

Hunt, Zebedee, 583

Hunter, —— (Dr.), 240

Hunter, John, 769

Hunter, Robert (Capt.), 69, 93, 991 (*Nancy*)

Hunter, Robert, 903

Hunter, William (Lt., R.N.), **to** Samuel Graves, 128; mentioned: 994, 1025 (*Gaspee*)

Hunter: brigantine, 985n. (Butler)

Hunter: HM Sloop, silences American battery at Quebec 144; fires on American troops, 315, 1298; Journal: 30–31, 144, 315, 625, 1221, 1298; mentioned: 1007, 1008, 1400 (MacKenzie)
Hunting, ——, 1302 (*Maccaroni*)
Huntington, Benjamin, 691
Huntington, Jabez (Col.), **to** Nathaniel Shaw, Jr., 557; **from** Jedediah Huntington, 715, 1024–25; mentioned: 1034, 1134, 1319
Huntington, Jedediah (Col.), **to** Jabez Huntington, 715, 1024–25
Huntington, Samuel, 818
Hurd, John, 252
Hurley, Joshua, 1142
Husties, ——, 148n.
Hutcheson, Francis: "The Rebell Admirals OBryan, and Hopkins Reign triumphant or'e the deep," 213; **to** Frederick Haldimand, 212, 237, 238, 811–12, 969–70, 995, 1097
Hutchins, Joseph (Master), 1369 (*William*)
Hutchinson, ——, 600, 782
Hutchinson, —— (Capt., R.N.), 1350 (*Unicorn*)
Hutchinson, Israel (Col.), 990
Hutchinson, Thomas (formerly Gov. of Mass.), diary, 433; mentioned: 57, 125n.
Hutt, John (Lt., R.N.), 1398
Hyde, Jonathan (Master), 1368 (*Hope*)
Hyde, Thomas, 892
Hyman, Nicholas (Master), 826 (*Fanny*)
Hyrne, Edmund (Capt.), 721

Iggulden, Edward (Lt., R.N.), 1397
Ilsley, Daniel (Maj.), Orderly Book, 1193
Impressment, 7, 151, 237, 256, 274, 349, 381, 489, 598, 963, 1198
Indentured servants, 13, 803
Indians, 16, 87, 129, 231, 284, 327, 853, 899, 1120, 1328, 1332, 1343
Indigo, 1056, 1069, 1093, 1336
Industry: brig, 645n., 662n., 685, 686 (Sampson); schooner, 13n. (Green); 796n. (Butler); 1368 (Woolsey); sloop, 1334n. (Coggeshell)
Ingalls, James, 632
Ingersoll, Samuel (Capt.), 17, 108
Inglefield, John (Lt., R.N.), 1406
Inglis, J., 1389
Inglis, Samuel, **to** Robert Morris, 662–63
Inglish, —— (Capt.), 167
Innes, —— (Maj.), 435
Innes, Alexander, 664, 665
Intelligence reports, American: 122, 123, 652, 715, 847, 904, 1119–20, 1149–51; British: 64, 77, 155, 157; 231, 257, 383, 392, 409, 473, 475, 477, 487, 558–60, 614–17, 790–91, 857, 870, 901, 907–08, 941–42, 1020, 1161, 1236, 1258, 1295, 1322; French: 279–85, 333, 340, 359, 370, 387, 426, 443, 451
Intrepid: HMS, model 198*
Inverny: ship, 674 (McKenzie)
Iredale [Iredell], James, 1262
Irish, George, 836, 938, 955, 1250, 1251
Isaac, Benjamin, 942
Isaac, Sarah, 942
Isis: HMS, John Douglas to command, 356; mentioned: 341, 359, 371, 470, 491, 541, 1409 (Douglas)
Isle of Wight County (Va.), Committee, 163, 645
Isles of Shoals (N.H.), 630
Isleton, Samuel, 977, 1113, 1124
Islington: schooner, 164
Izabella: ship, 1369 (Thomas)
Izard, Ralph, 865

Jackson, Daniel (Capt.), 950 (*Enterprise*)
Jackson, Edward, 5, 764
Jackson, George, **to:** John Amherst, 469; Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the East India Company, 531; Commissioners for Sick and Hurt, 514; Digby Dent, 534, 536; James Douglas, 423, 453–54, 513, 532; James Douglas and John Amherst, 421; William Eden, 491; Clark Gayton, 409; Mitchell Graham, 534; George Mackenzie, 421; Peter Mitchell, 519–21; Navy Board, 519; Peter Parker, copies of signals given, 431; John Pownall, 409, 410, 422, 430, 490, 510, 516, 519, 541; Molyneux Shuldham, 477, 478–79, 485–86, 487, 490, 491, 510; James Young, 409–10; **from:** Peter Parker, 522–23, 524, 533, 543; Richard Pearson, 449; mentioned: 481, 497, 521
Jackson, Jonathan, **to:** President of the Massachusetts Council, 810; George Washington, 810–11; **from** Robert Hanson Harrison, 874; mentioned: 764.
Jackson, Nathaniel, 609, 611, 612
Jackson, Samuel (Capt.), 214, 602
Jacob: HM Transport, 341
Jamaica: situation in, 1209; mentioned: 360, 502, 1022, 1245
James, ——, 14
James, Bartholomew (R. Adm., R.N.), Journal, 1057n., 1192–93
James, Francis, 1113–15, 1123
James, Nicholas, 1123
James, Richard, 181
James, William (Lt., R.N.), 1406
James: brig, 1368 (Smith); schooner [converted to tender], 943n., 968, 1003n., 1125n., 1137 (Howland)
James and William: transport, 276
James Island (S.C.), Committee of, 1238
James Richard: sloop, 1085 (Pooler)
Jamestown (R.I.), 66
Jane: brig, 1368 (Tempeltown); schooner, 1239n. (Mills)
Janny & Polly: ship, 1368 (Lawrence)
Jardine, William (Capt.), 347 (*Nautilus*)
Jarrat, John (Master's Mate, R.N.), 353

Jarrold, Thomas (Master), 1367, 1369 (*Dulany*)
Jarvis, John (Capt., R.N.), 1408 (*Foudroyant*)
Jarvis, John (Lt., R.N.), 1393
Jarvis, Leonard, 836, 837
Jauncey, James, 1282
Jauncey, James, Jr., 1216
Jauncey, Joseph (Capt.), 403 (*Minerva*)
Javet, Henry, 174
Jay, John, to Alexander McDougall, 186; **from** Alexander McDougall, 225, 1257; mentioned: 60, 74, 116, 158, 284, 680, 1113
Jefferson, Thomas, **to:** Thomas Nelson, Jr., 1126–27; John Page, 39, 60; mentioned: 1048
Jeffry, Hunlock (Master), 1369 (*Betsy*)
Jenckes, Charles (Capt.), 1158
Jenckes, John, and Nicholas Cooke, to Nathaniel Packard, 1109; mentioned: 676, 677, 766, 915
Jenckes, Sylvanus (Capt.), 880 **from** Nicholas Brown, 859–61 (*Sally*)
Jenifer, Daniel of St. Thomas, **from:** Samuel Chase, 1152; Robert Hooe, 702–03, 1162, 1162n.; mentioned: 864n., 927, 1139
Jenifer & Hooe: account, 269; mentioned: 1052, 1264, 1265
Jenkes, Rufus (Midshipman, Cont. Navy), 264
Jenkins, —— (Capt.), 1041 (*Mary*)
Jenkins, John, 602
Jenkins, William, 248
Jenkins, William (Capt.), 617
Jennings, Richard Downing, **from** Nicholas Brown, 321; mentioned: 774
Jennings, W., 962
Jenny: schooner, 1370 (Harding)
Jenny: ship, captured by Manley, 17n., 36n., 45, 48n., 56n., 62n.; cargo, 181; mentioned: 94, 145n., 186n., 233n., 497n., 602, 631, 710, 835n., 1185n. (Forster)
Jenny: ship, captured by Mascoll, 952n., 966n., 991, 991n., 1075n., 1247n. (Wood)
Jenny: snow, 1368 (McNeely)
Jersey: HM Hospital Ship, to fit out for service, 385; mentioned: 426, 470, 1409 (Halstead)
Jewett, Dummer, 833, 914
John [*St. John*]: brigantine, 280 (Forest)
John: brig, 1368 (Mauger); schooner, 926, 1370 (Marchant); ship, cargo manfest, 1264, 1265*; mentioned: 1323 (Speake); ship, 1369 (Poaug); sloop, 1138, 1370 (Chase)
Johnson, —— 1041 (*Molly*)
Johnson, —— (Capt.), 659
Johnson, James, 975
Johnson, John (Capt.), 115, 129
Johnson, Joshua, 448
Johnson, Purnell (Master), 1368, 1369, 1370 (*Fanny*)
Johnson, Robert (Master), 1191 (*Layton*)
Johnson, Samuel, 174, 975
Johnson, Thomas, Jr., **from** Archibald Buchanan, 578, 684; mentioned: 74n., 284, 297
Johnson, William, 1054
Johnson, William (Capt.), 183, 1138 (*Britannia*)
Johnston, —— (Capt.), 117
Johnston, —— (Lt., R.N.), boards *Betsey,* 430
Johnston, Guy (Col.), 294
Johnston, James, 975
Johnston, Sir John, 294
Johnston, Samuel, **to** Joseph Hewes, 201, 210; **from:** Joseph Hewes, 658–59, 1153, 1218–19, 1260, 1261; William Hooper, 1151; mentioned: 199, 207, 1204
Johnston, William (Lt., R.N.), 1408
Johnstone, George, 1337
Johonnot, Andrew, 974
Joiner, John (Capt.), 222, 312, 729, 1310
Jollie, Martin, to Patrick Tonyn, 1270; mentioned: 1328, 1343
Jones, ——, 591
Jones, —— (Capt.), 653
Jones, —— (Master), 619 (*Kingsfisher's* tender)
Jones, Benjamin (Master), 1369 (*Resolution*)
Jones, Edward, 1202
Jones, Gibbs (Capt., Lt.), 1186
Jones, John (Dr.), 651
Jones, John, to Willing, Morris & Co., 999–1000
Jones, John Paul (Lt., Cont. Navy): appointed, 207, 302; silhouette, 303*; mentioned: 1, 891n., 1088, 1219 (*Alfred*)
Jones, Noble Wimbleton (Dr.), 852, 853, 933
Jones, Thomas, 199
Jones, Thomas, to Benjamin Greenleaf, 4
Jones, Thomas P., 1149
Jones, Valentine, 970
Jones, Walter, 14, 825
Jones, Wiley, 1262
Jones, William (Master), 1368, 1369 (*Nancy*)
Jones, William (Lt., R.N.), 1410
Jordan, Jacob, 624, 1214
Jordan, Samuel, 857, 875
Jordan, Stephen, 975
Joseph: schooner, 1341n. (Hill)
Josiah, James (Lt., Cont. Navy), enters Continental Service, 60; mentioned: 302, 615n., 863, 1219 (*Andrew Doria*)
Joy, Daniel (Capt.), to Samuel Howell, 821–24; mentioned: 926, 1087
Judd, William (Capt., R.N.), 545, 907, 1143 (*Antelope, Squirrel*)
Judge, William, 1018
Judson, Francis, 611
Jugé, ——, 818, 1016, 1091
Julian: brig, 1369 (Burke)

Julius Caesar: ship, 238, 969
Juno: HMS, ordered to North America, 401; mentioned: 340, 342, 370, 388, 426, 514, 542, 1409 (Dalrymple)
Jurgans, Charles, 13

Kane, William, 11
Katenkamp, H., **to** Lord Weymouth, 533–34
Katherine: ship, 1368 (McNeile)
Katy: Rhode Island Armed Sloop, 131n.
Keeler, Robert (Capt., R.N.), **to** James Young, 1311; mentioned: 403, 404, 1121, 1210 (*Experiment, Lynx*)
Keel, diagram of, 1256*
Keith, ——, 1041 (*Speedwell*)
Keith, Sir Basil, **from** Lord Germain, 532; mentioned, 232
Kell, John, 769
Kell, Thomas (Capt.), 578, 864, 1369 (*Dolphin*)
Kelley, Matthew (Capt.), commissioned, 165 (*General Ward*)
Kelly, —— (Capt.), 407 (*King George*)
Kelly, George, 863, 1292
Kelly, Henry, 802
Kelly, John, **from** William McDermott, 1161
Kelly, Timothy (Lt., R.N.), 1410
Kelly, Lott & Co., 207
Kelton, ——, 96
Kelton, John, 676, 677
Kemble, Stephen (Lt., Col.), Journal: 1078, 1145; mentioned: 969, 995n.
Kempe, Arthur (Capt., R.N.), 1404 (*Wolf*)
Kempe, John Tabor, 1216, 1282
Kemp's Landing (Va.), 1187
Kempthorne, James (Lt., R.N.), 1408
Kendel, James, 991n.
Kennedy, —— (Capt.), 651, 1198
Kennedy, Alexander (Master), 1368 (*Baltimore Packet*)
Kenney, Samuel, 174
Kennidy, John, deposition, 1192; petition to Edward Webley, 1242
Kenward, Jonathan, 688
Keppel, Augustus (Adm., R.N.), 335
Kepple, Henry, 1017, 1102, 1103
Kerr and Company, 686
Kerr, Thomas, 962
Kiffam, Daniel, 68
Killam, Amasa, 1166
Killen, John, 849
Killigrove, ——, 1115
Killingsly, ——, 558
Killingsworth [*Killingworth*]: victualer, 1191 (Powditch)
Kimball, Benjamin (Capt.), 990
Kineer, James (Lt., R.N.), 1408
King, ——, 96
King George: transport, 407, 422 (Kelly)
King Solomon: schooner, 1273, 1345n. (Turner)
Kingbird: sloop, 1333 (Hathaway)
Kingsfisher: HM Sloop, captures *Polly,* 263; change of command, 375, 1188; bombards Norfolk, 565, 580, 661, 808; bombards rebels, 1187; signals and signal flags, 1188; Journal: 40, 189, 580, 826, 1091, 1187, 1340; mentioned: 27, 162, 197, 198, 228, 244 256, 296, 307, 309, 324, 472, 618 621, 737, 738n., 794, 839, 1207, 1293, 1324, 1350, 1400 (Montagu, Graeme); tender, captures *Molly,* 1340; mentioned: 619 (Jones)
Kingston Packet: brig, restored to owner, 6, 19
Kinnon, John, **to** George Phipps, 764
Kinsly and Lushington, 1069
Kirby, Charles (Capt.), 39n., 1272 (*Peggy*)
Kirkland, Moses (Col.): captured, 145n., 147, 148n., jailed in Philadelphia, 848; mentioned: 232, 301, 318, 1120, 1268
Kissick, William (Lt.), 1077
Kite, James, 175
Kitty: ship, 1369 (Mallett); sloop 1368 (Thompson); transport, under convoy, 764, 795, 993; arrives at New York, 1217, 1231, 1302; arrives at Hampton Roads, 1340; mentioned: 650, 715, 748, 1198, 1232; unspecified, 23, 1176 (Lott)
Knatchbull, Charles (Lt., R.N.), 923*, 1406
Knight, John (Lt., R.N.): appeals to George Washington for release, 713; **from** Horatio Gates, 952; mentioned: 854, 1317
Knight, William, **to** New Hampshire Committee of Safety, 121; mentioned: 966, 1130
Knights, George, 1313
Knowles, Amos, 1132
Knowles, John (Lt., R.N.), 484, 543
Knowlton, Abraham (Master), 1107
Knowlton, Thomas (Maj.), 733
Knox, Andrew, 207
Knox, Henry (Col.): list of cannon at Ticonderoga, 21; account for transporting cannon, 115; **to** George Washington, 138; mentioned: 11, 129
Knox, William, **to** Anthony Todd, 413; **from:** Jonathan Boucher, 392–96; Grey Cooper, 470
Kuner, Mel., 1369

La Breton: ship, 507 (Viguhard)
Ladd, Eliphalet (Capt.), 252, 598
Lady Catherine: sloop, 818
Lady Keith: HM Schooner, 1296 (L'Montais)
Lady William: schooner, 1129, 1189
Lake Champlain (N.Y.): importance of control, 149; sloops for, 490; mentioned, 921
Lake George (N.Y.), 21, 129
La Marche, Jean, 458
Lamb, John (Maj.), 313, 314, 782, 838, 961
Lamb, Thomas, 974
Lambert, John (Master), recommendation for commission, 990; mentioned: 570n., 817 (*America*)
Lamboll, ——, 727

Lamsurier, Nicholas (Capt.), 23
Lanaudiere [Lenaudere], ——, 624
Lane, Michael (Master, R.N.), 1411 (*Lyon*)
Langdon, John: portrait, 1114*; **to:** New Hampshire Committee of Safety, 1332; **from:** Josiah Bartlett, 683–84, 770, 1115, 1262; Thomas Cushing, 1172; mentioned: 130n., 197n., 270, 273, 743, 879
Laraquebel, Don Joachim de, 763n., 866 (*San Miguel*)
Lark: HMS, 521, 923*
Larkum, Hennery, 1023
Larkum, Jonathan, 1023
La Roche, Pierre, 458
Lash, Joseph (Lt., R.N.), 1406
Lasher, John (Col.), 1215
Lathrop [Lothrup], John (Master), 60 (*Peggy*)
Latimer, ——, 218
Laurence, Charles, 608
Laurens, John, **from** Henry Laurens, 827–28
Laurens, Henry, **to:** Edward Blake, 1094; Joseph Brown, 1326; Stephen Bull, 221; Archibald Bullock, 1268; Continental Treasurers, 327; Georgetown (S.C.) Committee, 223; Georgia Provincial Congress, 1325; Alexander Gillon, 222; John Laurens, 827–28; William Maine, 246; Charles Cotesworth Pinckney, 30; Richard Richardson, 286; Thomas Smith, 1342; Simon Tufts, 1140; Joseph Vesey, 211; **from:** Thomas Corbett, 964–65; Charles Cotesworth Pinckney, 740, 760; mentioned: 30, 61, 623, 665, 666, 705, 739, 740, 905, 945, 946, 1119. *See also* South Carolina Council of Safety
Laurie, James (Capt.), 506
Lawrence, Austin (Capt.), 801
Lawrence, Daniel (Master), 1368 (*Janny & Polly*)
Lawrence, William, 1166
Lawrie, Thomas (Lt., R.N.), 1400
Laws, John, 248
Layton: victual ship, 112, 113n., 1191, 1311, 1312, 1343 (Johnson)
Leary, William, 902
Lechmere, Richard, and Alexander Brymer, **to** Molyneux Shuldham, 1318–19
Lechmere, William (Lt., R.N.), 1401
Leckie, James, 329
Le Cras, Edward (Capt., R.N.), **from** Samuel Graves, 36; mentioned: 63, 64, 375, 742, 1005, 1300 (*Somerset*)
Ledlie, Hugh (Capt.), 1112, 1113
Ledyard, Benjamin (Capt.), 924
Lee, —— (Capt.), 371 (*Harriot*)
Lee, Abel, 608, 610, 611
Lee, Adam, 1202
Lee, Arthur, 74
Lee, Charles (Maj. Gen.): to study fortifying Newport, 149; inspects Newport, 239, 240, 257; Newport mission, 262, 278, 575, 318; ordered to New York, 712; restricts contact between British Navy and New York City, 1282; closes New York harbor, 1319, 1346, 1347; ordered to command Army in Canada, 1336; **to:** John Hancock, 1184, 1217, 1335; New York Committee of Safety, 940–41; George Washington, 1280–81; **from:** Robert Morris, 719; mentioned: 26, 233, 280, 324, 434, 628, 733, 802, 815, 861, 902, 920, 924n., 995, 998, 999, 1045, 1047, 1102, 1112, 1124, 1125, 1126, 1135, 1137, 1149, 1152, 1198, 1199, 1223, 1232, 1233, 1250, 1255, 1259, 1261, 1267, 1281, 1304, 1335, 1336
Lee, Francis Lightfoot, **to:** Landon Carter, 74–75; 1233–35; a friend in England, 75–76; Richard Henry Lee, 681, 683; mentioned: 293, 294, 398, 1161n.
Lee, John (Col.), 1353
Lee, Richard, 398
Lee, Richard Henry: appointed to Marine Committee, 101; **to** Archibald Cary, 227; **from:** Francis Lightfoot Lee, 681, 683; Thomas Ludwell Lee, 26–27, 219; John Page, 25–26; mentioned: 28, 59, 61, 91, 116, 209, 217, 218, 253, 398, 1127, 1161n.
Lee, Sall, 1202
Lee, Stephen, 975
Lee, Thomas Ludwell, **to** Richard Henry Lee, 26–27, 219; mentioned: 825, 1202
Lee, William, **to** overseer, 397; mentioned, 74
Lee: Washington's Armed Schooner, prizes taken, 17, 45, 46, 59, 65n., 67 69, 74, 75, 92, 147, 301, 497n., 506n., 561n., 599, 602, 713, 835, 848, 968n., 1111, 1119n., 1134; crew, 573n.; —benefit from prizes, 193n.; guns, 631, 675; officers, 1077; mentioned: 553n., 1077, 1120, 1122n., 1234 (Waters). *See also* Manley, John
Leech, Joseph, 199
Leech, Nathan, 45
Leech, William, 1108
Leechmore [Lechmore], Nicholas, 240, 257, 262, 954
Leechmore's [Letchmore's] Point (Mass.), fortification, 146, 148; mentioned, 572
Leeds, Jonathan (Capt.), 86, 89, 115 (*Polly*)
Leeds, William (Capt.), 87, 817 (*Pompey*)
Leeke, H. S. (Lt., R.N.), 1398
Lees Sons & Co., 54
Le Fargue, Pierre, 1161, 1161n., 1175
Leffingwell, Christopher, 69
Legare, Benjamin, 42, 79
Legare, Samuel, 42, 79
Legge, Francis (Gov. of Nova Scotia): requests more protection by British Navy, 109; on loyalty of Nova Scotia, 203; dispatches for, 362; **to:** Commanding Officers of the Militia in Various Counties, 742; Lord Dartmouth, 179, 203, 288, 742–43, 1298–99; Samuel Graves, 109; Lord Suffolk, 211; **from:** Samuel Graves, 84; citizens of Yarmouth, 3; mentioned: 4n., 64, 274, 970

Lemmon, —— (Capt.), 2n. (*Two Friends*)
Leo, Edward, 175
Le Poole, Peter, 705
Leslie, —— (Lt.), 29, 141
Leslie, —— (Ensign), 242
Leslie, Samuel (Capt.), 28, 39, 132, 141, 220, 242, 308, 812
Leslye, Patrick (Lt., R.N.), 1402
Lester, Jonathan (Capt.), 1034, 1065, 1319
Levant: HMS, 1396 (Murray)
Levant: victualler, 484, 533
LeVien, Peter, 1069, 1093
Levitt, Jonathan (Master), 430 (*Sea Nymph*)
Lewis, ——, 1013
Lewis, Andrew (Col.), 645
Lewis, David (Master), 1368 (*Patuxent*)
Lewis, Fielding (Col.), 1338
Lewis, Francis: appointed to Marine Committee, 101; on gunpowder purchasing committee, 680, 802, 837; **from** William Floyd, 1038; mentioned: 116, 845, 977, 1103, 1152, 1153, 1262–63, 1285–86
Lewis, George, 974, 1050
Lewis, John Joseph (Lt., R.N.), 1411
Lewis, Samuel, 458
Ley, Thomas Arthur (Lt., R.N.), 1406
Liberty: brig, 152, 1107 (Cole); ship 463, 477 (Thompson); schooner 129n.; sloop 776 (Lippitt)
Liberty Island (Pa.), 862
Lightbourne, James (Master), 1368 (*Friendship*)
Lightbourne, William (Capt.), 1368 (*Elizabeth & Mary*)
Lightenstone, —— (Capt.), 933
Lighthouse, Sandy Hook, 958*
Lilly Ann: brigantine, purchased and renamed *Defence,* 114n., 605. *See also Defence:* Connecticut armed brigantine
Lincoln, Benjamin (Col.), 631, 855, 877, 968, 992, 1157, 1182, 1301
Lindsay, Theophilus, 946, 988n.
Linen, 374, 382. *See also* Cloth and Clothing
Linwell, Thomas, 610
Linzee, John (Capt., R.N.), **from** Samuel Graves, 748–9, 764, 795; mentioned: 9, 705, 748, 749–50, 794, 963, 993–94, 996, 1267, 1340n. (*Falcon*)
Linzee, Robert (Capt., R.N.), **from** Admiralty, 424, 433 (*Surprize*)
Lion [*Lyon*]: ship, 490n., 534 (Wilson)
Lippitt, Christopher (Master), 766 (*Liberty*)
Lispenard, Leonard, 1281
Little, Moses, 5, 52
Little Hannah: brig, cargo, 93, 181; mentioned: 7, 45, 48n., 56n., 145n., 186n., 233n., 835n., 497n. (Adams)
Little Thomas: schooner, 896, 897, 1071 (Blake)
Live Point: sloop, 584
Lively: HMS, arrives in Boston, 79–80; captures brig, 113; Journal, 113; mentioned: 65, 99, 275, 586, 793, 993, 1007, 1008, 1076n., 1133n., 1401 (Bishop)
Lively: schooner, 2n., 288n., 299n., 1167–68 (Higgins); sloop, 1369 (Woodham)
Livernois, François, 458
Liverpool: HM Frigate, detected on way to Va., 93; believed near Norfolk, 176; arrival at Norfolk, 189; anchored at Norfolk, 199; flag of truce, 324; bombards Norfolk, 563, 580, 592, 661, 905, 1163; tender, 756; prizes of, 1119, 1187; landings, 1092; illustration, 1339*; Journal: 324, 563, 580, 839, 1001, 1092, 1105, 1139, 1209, 1293, 1341; mentioned: 210, 219, 228, 244, 256, 295, 307, 309, 445, 617–18, 621, 703, 738n., 756, 794, 808, 927, 1008, 1019, 1188, 1324, 1338, 1340, 1350, 1398 (Bellew)
Livingston, Browst, 1202
Livingston, James, 845, 846
Livingston, James (Col.), 570, 624, 768, 960, 1221
Livingston, Peter Van Brugh, 921, 941, 1066, 1086
Livingston, Philip, 680, 802, 837, 977, 1113
Livingston, Robert R., 1028
Livingston, William, 770, 1303
Livingston, William, Jr., 1202
Lizard: HMS, crew augments Quebec garrison, 144n.; mentioned: 36, 112, 401, 404, 453, 454, 1007, 1008, 1058n., 1398 (Hamilton)
Lizard: Massachusetts Private Armed Vessel, to be fitted out as privateer, 748; mentioned: 1172–73; sloop, 716, 939, 1206n. (Hempstead)
Lloyd, Howell (Lt., R.N.), 1402
Lloyd, Hugh (Lt., R.N.), 1407
Lloyd, Thomas (Lt., R.N.), 1394
Lloyd's Evening Post and British Chronicle, **1776:** *March 4–6,* 103n., 704n.
L'Montais, Francis (Lt., R.N.), **from** Clark Gayton, 1295–96 (*Antelope*)
Lobb, ——, 158
Lock, Richard (Lt., R.N.), 1402 (*Egmont*)
Lock, William, 175
Lockwood, James (Maj.), 780, 1028
Logan, Walter, 137
London, view of, 418*
London Chronicle, **1775:** *Nov. 2–4,* 343; *Nov. 11–14,* 356n.; *Nov. 21–23,* 386; *Nov. 30–Dec. 2,* 406; *Dec. 5–7,* 405; *Dec. 7–9,* 414; *Dec. 12–14,* 422n., *Dec. 14–16,* 422n.; *Dec. 16–19,* 427n.; *Dec. 26,* 460; *Dec. 28–30,* 455n., 461n.; *Dec. 30–Jan. 2,* 426n., 455n., 463, 469; **1776:** *Jan. 2–4,* 442n., 470n., 472, 477; *Jan. 4–6,* 470n., 473n., 477, 479; *Jan. 6–9,* 479n., 480, 484n., 489; *Jan. 9–11,* 480n., 497, 503; *Jan. 11–13,* 489n., 491, 491n., 498n.; *Jan. 13–16,* 506n., 510, 511; *Jan. 16–19,* 485n., 514n.; *Jan. 16–18,* 506n.; *Jan.*

18–20, 516; *Jan. 20–23,* 506; *Jan. 23–25,* 514n., 521n., 533, 535; *Jan. 25–27,* 522n., 524n.; *Jan. 27–30,* 535n., 542; *Feb. 1–3* 541n., 543n.; *Feb. 6–8,* 507n., 524n.; *Apr. 20–23,* 1350n.
London Gazette, 1775: *Nov. 25–28,* 388; *Dec. 19–23,* 440
Long, Pierce (Capt.), 212, 598
Long, Walter (Capt., R.N.), 1404 (*Lurcher*)
Long Island (Boston Harbor), 85
Long Island (N.Y.), map, 604*; mentioned: 558, 601, 712
Long Island Sound, 604*, 923*
Longworth, E., 1092
Lopez [Lopas] Aaron, 167, 423
Lord, James, 1132
Lord Howe: HM Tender, 1324, 1340
Lord Howe: transport ship, 509, 516, 519 (Pringle)
Lord Hyde: packet, arrives Boston, 320; mentioned: 300
Lord Sandwich: packet, 666
Lorient (France): source for military stores, 361; mentioned: 360
Loring, J., to John Blackburn, 1030
Lorthrop, —— (Lt.), 66
Lott, —— (Capt.), 23, 1176 (*Kitty, Hetty*)
Lott, Abraham P., to New York Committee of Safety, 1147; from John Herring, 1136; mentioned: 753, 884, 978, 1085, 1149, 1215, 1320
Louis XVI, King of France, portrait, 526*; from Caron de Beaumarchais, 525–30; mentioned: 333, 475n.
Louisa: 1041 (Payne)
Louisiana, 391
Louren, David (Master), 1370 (*Snow Bird*)
Lovell, James, 1180
Lovell, Shubael, confined at Plymouth 150; mentioned: 65, 66, 96
Lovell, Solomon (Col.), 254, 855, 1301
Lovely Betsey: schooner, 1055
Lovet, John (Master), 1368 (*Swallow*)
Lovitt, Benjamin Balch, 1357, 1365
Low, Isaac, 632
Low, Nicholas, 717, 1065, 1231
Lowell, John, 748
Lowndes, —— (Capt.), 1302
Lowndes, Rawlins, 720, 1325
Lowrey, Thomas (Col.), to John Hancock, 979
Lowrie, James (Capt.), 6n., 45, 48n., 65n., 110, 506, 533, 832, 991 (*Concord*)
Lowther, William (Capt.), to Joseph Hewes, 207; mentioned: 211, 449, 587, 1115
Loxley, ——, 1041 (*Britannia*)
Loxley, Benjamin (Capt.), 304
Loyalists: Maryland, 12; Newport (R.I.), 99, 239, 257, 292, 575, 954, 1049, 1249–51; Connecticut, 100;—supply British Navy, 257; Virginia, 118, 132, 219, 227, 261;—to be confined if taken, 103;—Norfolk 660; South Carolina, 229, 671, 759, 824, 1141; North Carolina, 563, 724, 757, 758, 1267; New York, 884–86, 1235;—Queens County, 157, 258, 589;—Long Island, 979; Georgia, 1270–71; Massachusetts, 1312–13;—Barnstable, 65;—Boston, 214; otherwise mentioned: 125, 298, 372, 392–96, 779, 848, 887, 1017, 1040–41, 1043, 1052, 1083, 1112–13, 1175, 1232, 1260
Loyd, —— (Col.), 59
Lucas, George, 975
Lucas, John, 975
Luce, Elijah (Capt.), from Maryland Council of Safety, 774; mentioned: 684 (*Hannah*)
Lucina, James, 1070
Ludlow, Gabriel, 68
Lunhley, Joseph, 991n.
Lurcher: HM Cutter, 1404 (Long)
Lusby, —— (Master), 484 (*Harriot*)
Luther, Constant, 1110
Luther, Oliver, 1110
Luton, John, 849
Luttrell, James (Capt.), 335
Lutwidge, Skeffington (Capt., R.N.), from Philip Stephens, 363; mentioned: 357 (*Triton*)
Lux, William, to the Maryland Council of Safety, 1264; mentioned: 260, 684, 1038, 1054, 1118, 1138, 1259, 1309, 1371
Lux & Bowly, 1089, 1138, 1369
Lux & Van Bebber, 1370
Lydia: 1041 (Dean)
Lyford, William (Capt.), 688
Lynch, Thomas, 102, 262, 301, 578, 770, 837, 846, 998, 1038, 1127, 1353
Lynch, Thomas, Jr. (Capt.), 721
Lynch: Washington's Armed Schooner, officers, 1077; cost of outfitting, 1353–65; mentioned, 873 (Ayres)
Lyne, Thomas, 849
Lynx: HM Sloop, takes brig *America,* 570; Keeler exchanges with Scott, 1311; mentioned: 708, 779, 791, 1068, 1395 (Scott, Keeler)
Lyon, James, to James Otis, 854–55; mentioned: 841, 1301
Lyon, Samuel, 638
Lyon: HM Transport, 1411 (Lane)
Lys, James (Lt., R.N.), 1409
Lyttelton, Lord, 414, 468, 747
Lyttelton, Thomas, to Lord Germain, 536–39

M'Allister, Hector, 644, 645
Macaroni: schooner, 714; sloop, 41, 1111, 1169 (Packwood)
Macartney, John (Capt., R.N.), to Philip Stephens, 454; mentioned: 375, 469, 541 (*Ambuscade*)
McCallester & Brown, 227
Macarty, ——, 1202
McCarty, ——, 1155, 1255
McCarty, Gilbort, 1227
Macaualy, Thomas, 175

Maccaroni: sloop, 1302 (Hunting)
Mace, 107*
McClean, Allan (Col.), 138, 760, 812, 970
McCleave, John, 262
M'Cobb, Thomas, 1370
M'Cormick, ——, 1041 (*Betty and Helen*)
McCormick, William, 261
McCreary, William, 774, 864
McCullough, ——, 976
McDavid, James, 975
McDermott, William, **to** John Kelly, 1161
McDonald, —— (Ensign), 242
McDonald, Adam (Capt.), 721
McDonald, James (Capt.), 294
McDonald, James (Capt., 2nd S.C. Rgt.), 721
McDonnald, ——, 769
McDonough, —— (Capt.), 1003 (*Comet*)
McDougall, Alexander (Col.): seapower, comments, 225; "Superior Force or address only must determine the Victory . . .," 226; "ruff Diagram" of a keel, 1256*; **to** John Jay, 225–26, 1256*, 1257; **from:** John Graham, 943; John Jay, 186; mentioned: 138, 184, 587, 920, 921, 942, 977, 1014, 1113, 1124, 1282
McDougall [M'Dougal], John (Lt., Cont. Navy), 208, 302, 1219 (*Andrew Doria*)
McEvoy, Robert (Lt., R.N.), 1409
McFadjen, —— (Surgeon), 714
McFarren, Thomas, 605
McFunn, Lydia, **from** Nicholas Biddle, 1305
McGuire, James, 863n., 1291
Machias (Me.) Committee of Safety, **from** Massachusetts Council, 1317; mentioned: 1131, 1301
Machias Liberty: sloop, 1095, 1156, 1226 (O'Brien)
McIntosh, Alexander (Maj.), 721
McIntosh, Lachlan (Col.), **to** George Washington, 1327; mentioned, 730
M'Intosh, Robert (Master), 1302 (*Sally*)
McIver, John, 832
McKain [McKane], George, 863n., 1291
Mack, Ebenezer, 458
MacKay, —— (Capt.), 407
MacKay, James, 1269
McKean, Thomas, 91, 879, 1017, 1153, 1258n., 1263, 1285, 1286
MacKenzie, —— (Capt.), 234
McKenzie, —— (Capt.), 674, 829 (*Inverny*)
Mackenzie, George (Commodore, R.N.), **from** George Jackson, 421; mentioned: 374, 1408 (*Ramilles*)
Mackenzie, Thomas (Capt., R.N.), 625 (*Hunter*)
McKerr, James, 291
McKesson, John, **to** Richard Sharp, 978
Mackie, —— (Dr.), 229
McKim, Robert & Alexander, 926, 1138
McKinnon, James, 1203
McKirdy, ——, 448
Macknight, Thomas, **to** Rev. Dr. Macknight, 260; mentioned: 850
Maclain, ——, 1152
Maclaine, Archibald, 827
McLane, Donald, 957
Maclean, ——, 644
Maclean, Alexander (Capt.), 826
McLeod, Norman, 608, 610, 611
McLeod, William, 741
McMaine, John, 991n.
McMichael, Daniel, 117
McMonagle, John (Master), 92, 712n., 783 (*Rainbow*)
M'Munagal, Henry, 1202
McNeal, John, 862, 926
McNeely, William (Master), 1368 (*Jenny*)
McNeil, John, 174
McNeil, —— (Capt.), 1002 (*Amphitrite*)
McNeil, William (Capt.), 926
McNeile, James (Master), 1368 (*Katherine*)
McNeill, Hector (Capt.), **from** Benedict Arnold, 840–41
McNeill, William (Master), 1370 (*Ranger*)
McNeal, John, 1087
McNutt, Walter, 319
Macpherson, John (Capt.), death, 312, 315, 782, 838, 847, 874, 961
M'Pherson, John, Jr., 926
M'Tegart, Peter, 700
Magdalen: HM Schooner, 236n., 1400 (Nunn)
Maginniss, Felix, 248 (*Prosper*)
Magrady, James, 175
Mahan, Philip, 975
Mahaney, Jeremiah, 1292
Mahoney, Will, 611
Maidstone: HMS, prizes taken, 232, 831n., 906, 1106, 1143; shorthanded, 1121; Journal: 1027, 1106; mentioned: 43, 1022, 1394 (Gardner)
Mail interception: by Americans, 93, 105, 118, 135, 147, 253, 301, 560, 711, 810, 820, 846, 874, 903, 1043, 1046, 1119–20, 1185, 1268, 1273; by British, 28, 207, 211, 369, 392, 397, 455, 703, 924, 925, 1266
Maine, William, **from** Henry Laurens, 246
Maingy, Nicholas (Capt.), 22
Maitland, David (Lt., R.N.), 1406
Majabigwaduce (Me.) Committee of Safety, 1074
Major, Christopher (Capt., R.N.), 1404 (*Esther*)
Makem, R., 659
Malbone, Francis, 954
Malbone, John, 954, 1063
Mallet, Joseph (Master), 1369 (*Kitty*)
Mallory, —— (Capt.), 220
Malony, Daniel, 602
Maltbie, Jonathan (Lt., Cont. Navy), 939, 1206n. (*Alfred*)
Maltby, —— (Capt.), 1300
Man, Robert (V. Adm., R.N.), **from** Philip Stephens, 344; mentioned: 1396

Man, Robert (Lt., R.N.), 1396
Manchester, Joseph (Capt.), 1009, 1010
Mange, ——, 624
Manigault, ——, 926
Manley, J. (Lt., R.N.), 1407
Manley, John (Capt.): woodcut and song, 47*; to be advised of looting, 111; personal effects, 552; date of commission, 553n.; cordage delivered to, 648; appointed commodore, 873, 1024, 1045–46; takes *Happy Return* and *Norfolk,* 995, 996n., 1031–33, 1060, 1075, 1076, 1109, 1111, 1132, 1134; flight with *Hope,* 1169–70, 1227; **from:** George Washington, 1023–24; mentioned: 17, 45, 59, 64, 65, 67, 69, 74, 75, 81, 92, 96, 145, 186, 193n., 209, 301, 469n., 497n., 506n., 554, 561n., 572, 602n., 713, 820, 835n., 848, 900, 914, 968n., 979, 1077, 1108, 1119n., 1120, 1185n., 1193, 1234 (*Hancock*)
Manly, John, 859
Mann, Sall, 1202
Manning, Edward (Master), 1027n. (*Dolphin*)
Manny, Margaret, 1380
Mansfield, Lord, 468, 683, 920
Manson, Levi, 458
Manvide [Marwide], John (Surgeon), 542 (*Washington*)
Maps and charts: British colonies in North America, 8*; New England, 98*; St. Eustatius, 169*; Chesapeake Bay, 243*, 1208*; Halifax, 289*; Halifax Harbor, 289*; British Isles, 332*; South Carolina, 343; Carte de la Manche [English Channel], 428*; Thames River, 447*; coast of North America, 487; The Downes, 493*; coast of Flanders and Normandy, 508*; Bermuda, 538*; Hudson River, 558; Norfolk and Portsmouth (Va.), 564*; Long Island, 604*; Narragansett Bay, 668*; Caribbean Islands, 707*; Portsmouth (N.H.) and Piscataqua Harbor, 744*; North Carolina coast, 758*; North America, 854; Long Island Sound, 923*; Providence (R.I.), 971*; Barbados, 989*; Plymouth Bay (Mass.), 1032*; Patapsco River, 1042; Baltimore, 1053*; Maryland, 1090; Massachusetts, 1317; Florida coast, 1344*
Marble, John, 598
Marblehead (Mass.): landing attempt, 95; attack on, 912–14; mentioned: 80, 318
Marchant, Benjamin L., 15
Marchant, Daniel (Master), 1370 (*John*)
Marchent, William, 53
Marden, Moses, 884
Margaretta: schooner, 1132
Marguand, Joseph, 4
Maria: brig, arrives at Norfolk, 176n., 737; mentioned: 341, 617, 738
Marine Committee *see* Continental Congress
Marines, British: clothing, 353; officers, 387; reinforcements for America, 422, 972; proposed increase in strength, 501; mentioned: 49, 57, 443, 1092, 1293, 1300
Marines, Continental: George Washington uncertain about ability to raise, 94; George Washington to recruit officers, 148; Isaac Craig's Company, 174–75; with Esek Hopkins' fleet, 302; ship assignment, 613–15; Virginia riflemen suggested as, 640; mentioned: 11, 19, 50, 266
Marines, colonial, *see* under name of colony, e.g. Maryland Marines
Markham, John (Capt.), 905
Marlborough: HMS, 484n., 1406 (Hood)
Marlow, Benjamin (Capt., R.N.), 1393 (*Coventry*)
Marquis of Rockingham: transport, 407, 422, 484 (Boyman)
Marriner, William, 1123
Marrion, Francis (Capt.), 721
Mars: HMS, 392, 1408 (Falconar)
Marsh ——, 810
Marsh, Ephraim, 1202
Marsh, John, **to** Lord Weymouth, 512
Marshall, Charles (Lt., R.N.), 1400
Marshall, Christopher, Diary, 681, 698, 1115
Marshall, George Henry Monk, 106
Marshall, Robert, 1180
Martha: schooner, 985n. (Eve)
Martin, ——, 750
Martin, —— (Dr.), 68
Martin, Alexander, 759
Martin, Francis, 611
Martin, John [member, Ga. Council of Safety], 229
Martin, John (Capt.), 808, 1054 (*Friendship*)
Martin, John (Capt.): wounded at Conanicut, Island 55, 57, 67, 88; death of, 215; mentioned: 167
Martin, Josiah (Gov. of N.C.): leaves North Carolina waters, 210; dispatches for, 343, 348, 358, 723; informed of Southern Expedition, 445; arrives at Rebellion Road, 568; boards *Syren,* 622; Proclamation of, 724; prepares to aid Clinton, 1267; **to:** Henry Clinton, 1267; Lord Dartmouth, 757–60; **from:** Henry Clinton, 735; Lord Dartmouth, 346; Lord Germain, 445–46; mentioned: 14, 15, 189, 260, 350, 703, 725, 748, 815, 847, 994, 1021–22, 1150, 1151, 1260
Martin, Nathaniel (Col.), 882
Martin: HM Sloop, 443, 522, 1402 (Parker)
Martindale, Sion (Capt.): taken prisoner, 94–95; sent to England, 112, 193, 318; exchange requested, 214; mentioned: 9n., 53, 64, 81, 96, 137, 522n., 542, 572, 660, 798 (*Washington*)
Martinique: French Army expected, 241; source for military and naval stores, 268, 269, 583, 675, 1297; source of gunpowder,

277n.; sailors riot, 292; trade with, 1003; mentioned: 178*, 654, 944, 1085, 1111, 1157, 1175, 1176, 1180, 1264

Mary: brig, 623, 1369 (Wallace); schooner, ordered into Marblehead, 165; mentioned: 540n., 985n. (Butts), 1368 (Walley); transport, arrives in Boston, 97 (Perry); unspecified, 1041 (Jenkins)

Mary: HM Yacht, 1412 (Edwards)

Mary Carroll: brig, 1367 (Symons)

Maryland: account with Jenifer & Hooe, 269; revolutionary sentiment, 394; clearances suspended, 643; controls trade, 659; attitude toward rebellion, 980–81; sea defenses, 1090; map from James Campbell, 1090; need of cloth and clothing, 1091; need of military stores, 1091; Maryland Delegates in the Continental Congress: **to** Maryland Council of Safety, 1105, 1259; **from** Maryland Council of Safety, 891–92, 1091, 1179; mentioned: 981n.

Maryland Convention: license regulations, 78; resolves to prevent Negroes joining Dunmore, 102; declaration, 981n.; Journal: 78, 102, 786–87; mentioned: 754, 864n.

Maryland Council of Safety: imports military stores, 269; sailing permits, 1054, 1207, 1323; trade permit, 1186; cargo manifest, 1265*, 1266; salt import agreement, 1292; Journal: 864, 927, 1054, 1089, 1186, 1207, 1309, 1323; Minutes: 1042, 1118, 1292; **to:** Robert Forsythe, 864–65; Richard Harrison, 865; Elijah Luce, 774; Maryland Delegates in the Continental Congress, 891–92, 1091, 1179; William Spear, 1220; Stephen Steward, 926; Isaac Van Bebber, 684–85; John Veazey, 1309; Virginia Committee of Safety, 1179; **from:** Robert Alexander, 1321; James Campbell, 1090; Edward Davis, 58–59; William Lux, 1264; Maryland Delegates in the Continental Congress, 1105, 1259; George Mason and John Galton, 1068; James Murray, 892–94; Edmund Pendleton, 1207; Samuel Purviance, Jr., 1337–38; Virginia Committee of Safety, 1019; Stephen West, 1054–55, 1127; C. F. Weisenthal, 1206; mentioned: 102, 719, 864, 894n., 1042, 1089, 1116, 1162n., 1237, 1348, 1349

Maryland Gazette [Dunlap's], **1775:** *Dec. 19,* 173

Maryland Marines, rations, 1089; mentioned: 786–87

Maryland Navy: 754, 1068. *See also Defence:* Maryland ship; Nicholson, James

Maryland Planter: ship, 1368 (Nicholson)

Mascoll, Stephen (Capt.), 966, 991n. (*Boston Revenge*)

Mason, Charles, 962

Mason, Christopher (Lt., R.N.), appointed to command *Nautilus,* 586; mentioned: 633, 914, (*Nautilus*)

Mason, David, 825

Mason, George, and John Galton, **to** Maryland Council of Safety, 1068; mentioned: 1207

Mason, Joseph, 601, 631

Mason, Thomas (Capt.), Journal: 462, 1103; mentioned: 681, 803, 1126, 1346

Mason, William (Capt.), 721

Massachusetts: Delegates to Continental Congress, 19, 60; privateers, sample commission, 52;—captain's bond, 602–03; Admiralty courts jurisdiction over prize libels, 185; to construct frigates, 209; export permits granted, 968; defense arrangements, 1248

Massachusetts Assembly, **from** Elias Hunt and Zebedee Hunt, 583

Massachusetts Committee for fitting out Armed Vessels, Report, 734, 747, 933, 1018, 1061. *See also* Massachusetts Navy

Massachusetts Council: authorizes importation of military stores, 124; appoints Admiralty judges, 274; appoints state navy committee, 291; Order in favor of Isaac Smith, 877; Executive Records: 62, 150; Journal: 124, 291, 876, 934–35, 1006, 1156, 1301, 1316–17; **to:** Robert Cochran, 1333; Gloucester Committee of Safety, 991; Keeper of Worcester Jail, 631; Machias Committee of Safety, 1317; Newburyport Committee of Safety, 876; Northampton Committee of Correspondence, 1317; **from:** Sturgis Gorham and others, 748; Robert Hanson Harrison, 1247; Jonathan Jackson, 810; James Otis, 1079–80, 1302; Ebenezer Parsons, 165; Timothy Pickering, 62; South Carolina Council of Safety, 328; mentioned: 856n., 952n.

Massachusetts Gazette and the Boston Weekly Newsletter, **1775:** *Dec. 14,* 96

Massachusetts General Court: pays for survey of Cape Cod, 151; seeks ordnance, 232; petition of Jeremiah O'Brien, 1095; Journal, 183; **from:** Jacob Boardman, 111; Falmouth, 53–54; Samuel Norton, 126; mentioned: 45, 50n., 66, 842, 950, 1248

Massachusetts House of Representatives: form to determine number of seamen and vessels available for service, 50, 51*; members appointed to joint committee on importing military stores, 124; Committee to fit out Vessels, 254 [*See also* Massachusetts Committee for fitting out Armed Vessels]; appropriations for importing military stores, 649; Committee to settle accounts of supply ships, 714; fees for Admiralty courts set, 967; state naval force approval, 1144; Speaker, **from** Horatio Gates, 601–02; Journal: 19, 50, 96, 125, 150, 183, 193, 254, 262, 291, 632, 649, 675, 689, 714, 747, 833, 844, 857, 875, 914, 933, 953, 967–68, 992, 1028–29, 1078, 1095, 1131–1132, 1144, 1156, 1170, 1182, 1226–27, 1276, 1300–01, 1315–16, 1332–33

Massachusetts Navy: resolution authorizing, 291; number and type of vessels, 734; cruisers, 1029, 1095, 1156; pay, 1157; prize shares, 1157; armed sloops, 1144, 1315, 1332; munitions, 1182; billeting expenses, 1226; pay, 1300; mentioned: 1170, 1276

Massey, Charles, 963

Massey, Eyre (Brig. Gen.), arrives at Halifax, 213; mentioned: 251, 1298, 1299

Massey, Samuel, 963

Mathews, David, 1012, 1037

Mathews, George, 1338

Mathews, Thomas (Capt.), 145n., 318

Mathews, William, 1018

Matilda: ship, 24

Matlack, Timothy, to Esek Hopkins, 671–72; mentioned: 613, 615, 658n., 944, 944n.

Matthews, George, 1370

Matthews, Thomas (Capt.), 848, 1119

Maude, John (Lt., R.N.), 1396

Maudsly, ——, 240, 803

Mauger, John (Master), 1368 (*John*)

Maurepas, Jean Frédéric, Count de, 499

Maxwall, William, 1166

Maxwell, William (Col.), 683, 1102

May, Moses, 1359

Mayflower: sloop, 1370 (Padduck)

Maynard, ——, 1041 (*Molly*)

Mayotte, Augustin, 458

Mays, Elisha, 997

Mays, Jonathan, 458

Mayson, James (Maj.), 1310

Mead, —— (Dr.), 257

Meade, George & Co., granted permit to take cargo to Virginia, 116

Mease, James, 117, 304, 1154

Mease, Matthew, 117

Mease & Caldwell, 562

Mecklenburgh County (N.C.), 1151

Medicines, 651, 1206

Mediterranean Station, 1396

Medows, Edward (Capt., R.N.), conveys news of capture of *Washington,* 112; mentioned: 125, 482 (*Tartar*)

Medway: HMS, 1396 (Affleck)

Meeds, Stephen (Capt.), 747

Meeker, Gabriel, 1202

Meeker, Joseph, Jr., 1202

Meeker, William, 1202

Mehelm, John, 1102

Meigs [Meggs], Return Jonathan (Maj.), 251n., 313, 570

Melcher [Melchoer], ——, 120

Menard, la Combe & Theare, 1176

Menard, ——, 458

Mercenaries, 505, 515

Mercer, James, 61, 579, 774, 825

Merchant, Daniel (Master), 926 (*John*)

Merchants, British: money shipped, 373, 375; effect of trade restrictions on, 448; request protection, 503; mentioned: 414, 747

Merchants, French, 389–91

Merchants, North American: debts, 301; importers of military stores, 321–23; effects of rebellion, 591; mentioned: 254, 659, 1000, 1129, 1237, 1336. *See also* Nonexportation, Nonimportation, Trade

Mercier, John (Capt.), 705, 731, 1002, 1056, 1294 (*William*)

Mercier, William (Capt.), 959, 1281, 1347

Meredith: HM Cutter, 383, 1405 (Brady)

Mercury: HMS, prize shares, 277; Montagu approved for command, 375; former commander Macartney returns to England, 454; ordered to take Henry Clinton on board, 649; transports ordnance stores, 715; ordered to proceed south, 749; ordered to take *Kitty* under convoy, 795; arrives New York, 1125, 1135, 1302; demands provisions, 1136, 1137, 1147, 1149, 1160; departs New York, 1215, 1216, 1217, 1218; arrives Hampton Roads, 1324, 1340n., 1341; Journal: 277, 900, 1137, 1232, 1324, 1340; mentioned: 65, 273, 276, 632, 794, 811, 813, 815, 845, 993, 1031, 1122, 1123, 1124, 1151, 1152, 1161, 1231, 1232, 1259, 1305, 1335, 1350, 1398 (Graeme, Montagu)

Merlin: HM Sloop, 125–26, 276, 1006n., 1399 (Burnaby)

Mermaid: sloop, 1082

Meston, William (Capt.), from Bayard, Jackson & Company, 770–72; mentioned: 1322, 1323n. (*Dickinson*)

Mexom, Adonizah, 458

Michell, Cary, 118, 140

Middeldith, William, 602

Middleton, Arthur, 135, 286, 664, 839

Middleton, Charles (Capt., R.N.), 1408 (*Ardent*)

Middleton, Henry, 560, 578

Middleton, Joseph, 927

Mifflin, Samuel, 1334

Mifflin, Thomas (Col.), from William Bartlett, 192; mentioned: 122, 233, 552, 805, 875

Milbank, Mark (Capt., R.N.), 403 (*Barfleur*)

Miles, Samuel, 172

Miles, William, 974

Milford: HMS, Marines, 422; to proceed to Spithead, 430; ordered to Boston with dispatches, 478; to carry *Triton*'s dispatches, 487; mentioned: 406, 426, 479, 485, 491, 506, 514, 523, 524, 535, 542, 1410 (Burr)

Military stores: Africa, as source, 364, 544; arrival in American ports, 722, 1111, 1115, 1126, 1152, 1185, 1235, 1260, 1302n., 1332; Britain: prohibits exportation, 386, 388–89, 853–54; belonging to: 341–42, 433, 438, 489, 521, 949; Continental Congress: imports, 588–89, 1103, 1153, 1175, 1257, 1285–87; purchases, 878, 879; Connecticut, 1135; Delaware, 999–1000; European embargo, 652; France: trade, 360, 693; embargo, 414, 415, 417, 419; Georgia: considers supply of, 270; importation to, 582–83; Hispaniola, source of: 254, 502, 654; importation to North America: permitted by Continental Congress, 185, 683; returns of imported military stores to be made to Congress, 259; plan for obtaining from Europe, 558 (*See also* Beaumarchais, Caron de; Bonvouloir, Archard de; Penet & Pliarne); Maryland: importation to, 268, 269, 684, 865, 1042; failure to obtain, 1179; purchased, 1321; Massachusetts: importation to, 111, 124, 125, 262, 583, 934; payment for cargos, 714; New Hampshire: importation to, 212, 598; Netherlands: as source, 477, 491; embargo, 858, 1112; New York: importation to, 168, 605, 651, 753, 1065–66, 1085; failure to obtain, 1103; North Carolina: importation to, 76, 472, 658; Pennsylvania: importation to, 770–72, 838, 1154; Rhode Island: importation to, 254, 322, 675, 735, 859, 880, 956, 1062, 1081n., 1100, 1109, 1230, 1279; purchased, 779; St. Croix, as source, 412; South Carolina: purchased, 211; importation to, 594, 897, 964, 1094; Spain: as source, 512; mentioned: 56, 59, 69, 152, 242, 409, 714, 727, 1084, 1155, 1159, 1263; *See also* Cloth and clothing, Continental Congress, Gunpowder, *Nancy* (Ordnance brig), Naval stores, Ordnance stores

Militia, *see* Army, Continental

Miller, —— (Lt.), 613

Miller, James, 609, 612

Miller, John, 1203

Miller, John, II, 1203

Miller, Peter, 863

Miller, Richard, 1203

Milligan, ——, 809

Milligan, Jacob (Lt., S.C. Navy), 136

Milligan, Jacob (Master), 14 (*Hetty*)

Mills, Alexander (Capt.), 136, 164

Mills, William (Master), 1239n., (*Jane*)

Minerva: brig, 1041, (Winning)

Minerva: Connecticut Armed Brigantine, decommissioned, 114, 115; muster roll and payroll, 974; mentioned: 88n., 156n. (Hall)

Minerva: ship, 403 (Jauncey)

Minerva: brig, 374

Mississippi River, 1336

Mitchell, George, 601, 631

Mitchell [Michell], John, (Lt., Pa. Navy), 1322

Mitchell, Peter, from George Jackson, 518–21

Mitchell, Sarah, 191

Mitchell, Thomas, 175

Mix, Zebediah, 975

Moale, John, 1118, 1138

Moffat, Thomas (Dr.), Diary: 125, 483, 535, 539

Moggridge, John, 135

Moize [Moies], John, 1292

Molds, Olliver, 849

Molesworth, James, 962

Molesworth, Richard, 424, 432

Molloy, A. I. P. (Lt., R.N.), 1409

Molloy, John, 609, 611

Molly: brig, 1340n. (Waters), 1368 (Campbell); sloop, 269, 1298 (Conway), 309, 644 (Servent), 1081n. (Wanton); unspecified, 163 (Conyard); 1041 (Johnson); 1041 (Maynard)

Moncreiffe, Thomas (Maj.), 158

Moncrieffe, —— (Lt.), 803

Money, transported, 373, 375. *See also* Continental money

Monmouth County (N.J.) Committee of Observation, Minutes, 577

Montagu, George (Capt., R.N.), 237, 482n., 913, 1006, 1107 (*Fowey*)

Montagu, James (Capt., R.N.), transfer to *Mercury* approved, 375; **from** Andrew Snape Hamond, 1266, 1293; mentioned: 162, 309, 621, 662, 794, 1091, 1188 (*Kingsfisher, Mercury*)

Montagu, John (Adm., R.N.), 492

Montanje, William (Master), 1231 (*Polly*)

Montaudouin, ——, 772

Montfort, Joseph, 199

Montgomery, Charles (Lt., R.N.), 1394

Montgomery, Hugh (Lt., Pa. Navy), 266 (*Warren*); 1321 (*Effingham*)

Montgomery, James (Capt., Pa. Navy), 77, 1322 (*Ranger*)

Montgomery, Richard (Brig. Gen.): summons Quebec to surrender, 119; requests reinforcement, 146; anonymous letter to, 202; death, 312, 315, 731; burial, 570; **to:** Guy Carleton, 119; Philip Schuyler, 146, 249; David Wooster, 120; mentioned: 12, 58, 100, 128, 129, 137, 139, 162, 318, 504, 551, 654, 657, 670, 681, 683, 693, 716, 768, 779, 782, 837, 838, 840, 841, 874, 900, 901, 926, 953, 961, 970, 976, 1004, 1027–28, 1035, 1047, 1072, 1096, 1214, 1221, 1244, 1345

Montgomery: Continental Frigate, 90n.

Montgomery: Pennsylvania Armed Ship, 721, 722n.

Montreal, 11, 58, 162, 202, 242, 477n.

Montresor, John (Capt.), 342, 521

Moor, John, 68

Moor, John, Jr., 68

Moore, Allen (Capt., Pa. Navy), 77, 563, 1322, 1381 (*Effingham*)

Moore, James (Col.), 646, 1140

Moore, Matthew (Capt., R.N.), 1407 (*Exeter*)

Moore, Nathaniel, 68

Moore, Samuel, 1291

Moore, Thomas (Capt.), 77, 1162n., 1207 (*Fortune*)

Moore, Thomas (Capt., Pa. Navy), 684, 1322 (*Hancock*)

Moran, —— (Capt.), 840

Morden, James, **from** Samuel Graves, 97

Morehouse, Sall, 1202

Morelli, Francisco, 839, 850, 851, 852, 866

Morgan, Charles (Capt.), 1055, 1155, 1238, (*Swift*)

Morgan, John, 602

Morgridge, John, 201

Morning Chronicle and London Advertiser, **1776:** *Mar. 5,* 592

Morning Post and Daily Advertiser, **1776:** *Jan. 8,* 488

Morrel, Thomas (Lt.), 1202

Morris, Charles, 1167, 1168, 1222

Morris, John, 201

Morris, John, 886

Morris, John (Master), 1369 (*Beith*)

Morris, John (Master), 1249n. (*Diamond*)

Morris, John (Capt., R.N.), 338, 339, 380, 429, 432 (*Bristol*)

Morris, Lewis (Col.), 818, 1257

Morris, Robert: appointed to Marine Committee, 59, 101; Secret Committee, 90; Committee to consider trade regulations and restriction, 837; Committee of Secret Correspondence, 1051; drafts plan of organization for frigate construction in Philadelphia, 562n.; permitted to load *Dolphin,* 838; granted Pennsylvania export permit, 999; arrival of cargo, 1152; **to** Charles Lee, 719; **from:** Samuel Inglis; John Paul Jones, 891n.; mentioned: 11, 116, 590, 696, 879, 1038, 1048, 1087, 1153, 1263, 1285, 1286, 1338. *See also* Willing, Morris & Co.

Morris, Samuel, 926, 1087

Morris Island (S.C.), 298

Morrison, George, 601, 631

Morrison, James, 1273

Morton, Dimond (Capt.), 1033

Morton, Perez, **to** George Washington, 992

Moseley, Hillary (Capt.), 1312n. (*Bumper*)

Mosely [Moselie], ——, 219, 227

Mosely, Emperor (Capt.), **from** Joseph Hewes, 76

Moses, Myer, 1106

Mosquito Coast, 391, 545

Mott, ——, 1080

Mott, Jacob (Capt.), 68

Mott, Samuel, to Jonathan Trumbull, 815–17; mentioned: 1173–74

Motte, Charles (Capt.), 721

Motte, Isaac (Lt., Col.), 721

Motte, Jacob, 1310

Moulder, William, 1382, 1387

Moulton, Josiah (Capt.), 912

Moultrie, Alexander (Capt.), 929

Moultrie, John, 1120

Moultrie, William (Col.), ordered to fit out cruisers off Rebellion Road, 105; from S.C. Council of Safety, 143; mentioned: 36, 42, 135, 623, 721, 728, 740, 761, 809, 1120, 1141

Mount & Page, 435

Mowat, Henry (Capt., R.N.), to Samuel Graves, 20; mentioned: 121n., 433, 471, 630, 845, 1097n., 1193, 1312 (*Canceaux*)

Mowbray, —— (Capt.), 1271

Mowbray, George (Lt., R.N.), 1406

Moylan, Stephen, **to:** William Bartlett, 35–36, 110, 233, 675, 713, 991, 1226; John Glover, 6; John Pickering, Jr., 6; Joseph Reed, 572; Winthrop Sargent, 1121–22; James Warren, 1060; William Watson, 81, 669–70, 966, 1024, 1076, 1077; Joshua Wentworth, 95; **from:** William Bartlett, 631, 1108; Robert Hanson Harrison, 873–74; Joshua Wentworth, 711; mentioned: 72, 783, 991

Much, Jerea, 608, 611

Muckelgrew, Neil, 962

Mugrige, Peter, 1074

Muhlenburg, Peter (Rev.), 14

Mulcaster, Frederick George, 301, 1120

Mullen, Barnabas, 641

Mullikin, ——, 810

Mullinger, William, 978

Mulryne, John, 853, 867, 868

Mumford, Gideon, 677

Mumford, Nathaniel, 677, 766

Mumford, Thomas, **to** Silas Deane, 153, 195; mentioned: 679

Mumford, William, 752, 973

Munalay, John, 849

Mungomery, Robert, 248

Munitions: New Jersey importation, 170; New York importations, 206; exportation of produce, 606; freighting by Secret Committee, 617; South Carolina importations, 623; arrival, 1161; mentioned: 132, 408, 461, 529, 723, 829, 1176–77, 1182, 1237. *See also* Gunpowder, Military stores, Ordnance stores, Saltpeter

Munkhouse, Thomas, 319

Munroe, —— (Capt., R.M.), 793

Mure, Son & Atkinson, 793, 814

Murphy, Sam, 1018

Murray, James, to Maryland Council of Safety, 892–94; mentioned: 1090n.

Murray, James (Gen.), 225

Murray, Richard (Lt., R.N.), 1404 (*Ferret*)

Murray, Robert, 1281

Murray, Sansom & Co., 1161, 1175n., 1185, 1281, 1283n.

Murray, William, 608, 609, 611

Muskets, 265*

Musquetto: 307

Mutiny, 689, 1305, 1307n.

Namur: HMS, 426

Nancy: ordnance brig, "Invoice of Stores on board," 69–72, 70*; captured by Manley in *Lee,* 145n., 469; significance, 461n; mentioned: 6n., 17n., 39n., 46n., 48, 59, 64n., 67, 68, 75, 82, 92n., 299n., 463n., 470n., 559, 713n., 727n., 835n., 1365n. (Hunter)

Nancy: ordnance transport, 407, 435, 439, 503 (Tyrrel); schooner, seized at St. Eustatius 105, 1220n.; 1237 (Heyfiger); 1121 (Clarke), 1368, 1369 (Jones), 1369 (Thacher), 1370 (Herbert); ship, 1368 (Burrow); sloop, owner's bond, 1194 (Paine); 943 (Graham); victual transport, 430, 484, 503 (Pearson); unspecified, 1041 (Corrie)

Nansemond County (Va.), Committee of Safety, 164

Nantasket Road, 585–86, 1099

Nappier [Napier], ——, (Lt.), 29, 141

Narragansett Bay, chart, 668*; mentioned: 669

Nash, Abner, 199

Nashon, James (Lt., R.N.), 1394

Nasmith, J. L. (Lt., R.N.), 1406

Nathey, Joseph (Capt.), 965 (*Charlotte*)

Nautilus: 347 (Jardine)

Nautilus: HM Sloop, ordered to cruise off Cape Ann, 65; chases near Thatcher's Island, 212; Mason appointed to command 586; ordered to cruise against rebel shipping in Boston Bay, 633; tender, 690; Master's Log: 99, 212, 856, 1095; mentioned: 79, 99, 300, 845, 914, 914–15, 953, 1007, 1008, 1009, 1133n., 1399 (Collins; John Graves; Mason)

Naval Committee *see* Continental Congress

Naval stores: Continental Congress imports, 90, 879, 1115, 1153, 1258; Maryland imports, 671, 1309; Commissioners, from Pennsylvania Commissioners for Building Philadelphia Frigates, 693–96; mentioned: 826, 835, 858, 875, 1017, 1096, 1152, 1233, 1268, 1297. *See also* Cloth and clothing; Gunpowder; Military stores; Navy, British; Navy, Continental

Navasar, Richard (Lt., R.N.), 1408

Navigational obstructions, 1118, 1346–47. *See also* Harbor defenses; Chevaux-de-frise

Navy, British: actions against North American vessels: seizure orders; 43, 348, 363, 380, 401, 409, 429, 486, 520, 633, 685, 906–7, 910, 1266; destruction orders, 344–45, 357, 363; seizure of Falkland Islands whaling fleet, 374, 403, 412, 423; [for specific seizures and actions, see under name of respective British man-of-war], alleged atrocities, 33, 58; blockade, 703; condition for duty, 336–37; criticism, 85, 438, 995; estimates, 335–38; French concern regarding, 468; home port activities and sailing preparations: 340–41, 359, 370, 387–88, 404–5, 406, 421–22, 426, 443, 451, 470, 473, 479, 480, 484, 489, 491, 498, 506, 514, 524, 533, 535, 541, 542, 1409–12; manpower: impressment, 343, 345–46, 349, 381; prisoners, 482, 516, 533; shortage, 404, 414; total in service, 359, 1413–14. *See also* Desertion; officers, lists of 1007–08, 1393–1414; operational elements and duty stations: Africa, 363–66, 1403; Barbadoes and Leeward Islands, 708–9, 1395; Bermuda, 492, 510, 573; Boston, 811, 1030, 1099; Cape Fear, 1309; Caribbean, 177, 908; Charleston (S.C.), 1326; East Florida, 789; East Indies, 1393; Georgia, 1239, 1326, 1327; Great Britain and Ireland, 1404–05; Jamaica, 524, 1022, 1394; Marblehead, 912–14; Mediterranean, 1396; New York, 857, 920–21, 1126–27, 1215–16, 1280, 1334, 1335; Newfoundland, 1402; Newport, 241, 1134; Norfolk, 228, 309; North America, 235, 334–35, 339, 340, 343, 349, 356, 357, 359, 366, 368, 370, 384, 401, 404, 421, 422, 426, 431, 443, 461, 470, 478, 479, 489, 510, 521, 522, 533, 539, 541, 993–95, 1007–8, 1397–1401; Nova Scotia, 743; Pensacola, 502–3; Quebec, 30–31, 144, 315, 476, 1221, 1298; Rhode Island, 851, 1194, 1334; St. Eustatius, 1138; St. John's, 1144; Savannah, 840, 852, 866, 896, 906, 930–33, 987, 1001–2, 1105; South Carolina, 568–69, 760, 762, 763, 777–78, 787, 827, 829–30, 1140; Virginia, 297, 720, 1139, 1188, 1207, 1324, 1338–40, 1350; West Indies, 1209–11; pilots for, 343; private usage of, 365, 373, 375, 386; prize shares, 440;—agents, 1310; Prohibitory Act distributed, 453–54; provisions: cost, 472; lack of at Boston, 878; lists, 741; shared with British Army, 814–15; supplied by colonists, 648, 687, 751, 809, 835, 852, 861, 954–56, 978, 1002, 1136, 1137, 1140, 1147, 1148, 1159, 1269, 1281, 1338, 1347–48, 1350; withheld by colonists, 135, 295, 307, 551, 593, 635. *See also* Boston, seige; Loyalists; New York City; Newport; Norfolk; Wallace, James. Punishments, 540, 689, 777, 867, 1142, 1294, 1323; rice supplies, 166–67; rum shortage, 555, 557; seamen, 63, 339–40, 477, 497, 498; seizure of French vessels, 179, 292, 1027, 1184, 1334;—neutral vessels, 505; Southern Expedition: American prisoners on board ships, 533; appointment of officers, 427; British troops carried, 409, 445, 446, 536; Gen. Clinton to command, 735; Congress warns of, 561; Cork rendezvous, 423, 484, 498, 503, 523, 524, 533, 543; courtsmartial during, 427; delay in departure, 488, 500–2; destination, 346–47, 369, 445, 1349–50; detachment from North American squadron for, 600, 748, 749, 764, 1340–41; intelligence, 451, 652; list of vessels, 368, 430; number of ships and men, 334; Sir Peter Parker hoists pennant over, 334, 432; précis of events leading to, 398–400, 465–67; Prohibitory Act distributed, 452; Royal Governors informed, 445; seizure orders, 429; Adm. Shuldham informed of, 485; signals given, 431; transports under sail, 423; victual ships for, 429–30; mentioned: 360, 443, 473, 712, 1149, 1153, 1337, 1340. *See also* Combined operations; Cornwallis, Charles, Parker, Sir Peter. Stores, 790, 1005. *See also* Naval stores. Ordnance transports: crews for, 485, letter from a Captain of a transport, 834–35; 490–91; lists of, 341–342, 407; mentioned: 385, 422, 501, 504, 1122, 1211, 1233. Vessels: complements, 540–41; conversion of merchantmen to armed vessels, 426, 519; guard ships, 351, 370, 1406–8; illustrations of, 198*, 517*, 982–83*, 1171*, 1240–41*, 1339*; lack of, 1144, lists of, 341–42, 404–5, 443, 451, 521, 708–9, 794, 1007–8, 1022, 1393–1414. *See also* Admiralty; Amphibious warfare; Graves, Samuel; Halifax (N.S.); Impressment; Marines; Shuldham, Molyneux; Stephens; Philip

Navy, Continental: arms and ammunition, 562, 637, 821, 888, 944n.; chandlery account, 848; supplied, 1377–91; comments on by Samuel Adams, 209; commission form, 695*, 696; Esek Hopkins' fleet: Cape Henlopen rendezvous, 1307; clothing for, 1051; crews ordered on board ships, 613; cruising orders, 637–38, 1290*, 1291; destination, 233, 253; flag, 721; ice bound in Delaware River, 254, 266; joined by *Hornet* and *Wasp,* 1219; orders, 657; proportion of New Englanders, 264; puts to sea, 1189, 1259, 1349; ship commanders, character sketches of, 1306; signals, 1287–89; stores, 1051–52; strength, 616; vessels of, 173, 1236, 1322; mentioned: 77, 158, 205, 215, 472, 599–600, 719, 783, 790–91, 838–39, 1020, 1088, 1097, 1115. Frigate construction program: carpenter shortage, 1284; Connecticut, 195, 1150, 1173–75; ship dimensions, 130, 1172; feasibility report, 90; Maryland, 1038; Massachusetts, 875, 1248; New Hampshire, 196, 1262; New York, 845–46, 917, 1038; Pennsylvania, 101, 561, 607, 693–94, 696–97, 1039–40, 1051. *See also* Pennsylvania Commissioners for Building the Continental Frigates in Philadelphia. Rhode Island, 677–78, 881*, 902, 972. *See also* Rhode Island Committee Appointed to build two Continental Frigates mentioned, 1259; increase proposed by Adam Babcock, 128; Military stores: to be imported by Congress, 588–89; supplied by Pennsylvania Committee of Safety, 171, 186, 216, 264, 304, 590; officers: appointed, 207, 208n.; lieutenants assigned, 208n.; lists of, 302, 1219; pay, 208; orders for management of fleet, 636–37. Pay and subsistence: 961–62; continuance of during capture, 612–13; offered to seamen and landsmen, 90, 91, rates, 22; prisoners pay, 637, 638. Prizes: prize articles, 88–91; prize shares, 655, 1307; mentioned: 636, 638. Recruiting and enlistment: articles of enlistment, 888–91; enlistment of apprentices, 1050; cost of, 1051; of debtors, 1306, 1307n., of indentured servants, 803; discharge, 1051; recruiting efforts described, 1263, 1307, 1308*; recruits, 939, 1206; Connecticut refuses to transport recruits, 634; Rhode Island recruits, 24, 574–75, 798, 820. Seamen: from Pennsylvania Armed Boats, 186; lack of enlistment terms, 100; quality, 226; recruited in Rhode Island, 24; search for deserters permitted, 216. Stores: 641. *See also* Military stores; Naval stores; Ordnance stores; mentioned: 75, 186, 551, 572, 654, 756, 798. *See also* Continental Congress: Marine Committee; Naval Committee; Marines, Continental

Navy, French, squadron to Santo Domingo, 473; mentioned: 498–99, 1121, 1184, 1209

Navy, provincial. *See* Connecticut Navy; Maryland Navy; Massachusetts Navy; Pennsylvania Armed Boats; South Carolina Navy; Virginia Navy

Neary: transport, 407 (Wilson)

Negle, Sampson, 595

Negroes: to be prevented boarding *Betsey,* 93; joining Dunmore, 102; South Carolina, 133; runaway, 164, 191; Virginia, 210; in public service, 929; mentioned: 13, 25, 26, 42, 57, 365, 398, 593, 621, 760, 844, 848, 850, 851, 866, 1260, 1319. *See also* Slaves

Neil, William, **to** Charles Carroll, 1237; **from** J. Hair, 287; mentioned: 659, 1162, 1220, 1369

Neilson, ——,14

Neilson, Archibald, 175

Nellis, —— (Capt.), 1122 (*Henry and Esther*)

Nelson, Abraham, 609, 611

Nelson, John, 887

Nelson, Thomas, 116, 1161, 1258n.

Nelson, Thomas, Jr., **from** Thomas Jefferson, 1126–27

Neptune: ship, 60, 617, 1368 (Collins [Collings])

Neptune: sloop, 88 (Brooks)

Nesbit, William (Col.), 238

Nesbitt, John Maxwell, 1067, 1186, 1206

Netherlands, source of gunpowder, 321; embargo, 1112; mentioned: 479

New Bern (N.C.), Committee of Safety, Minutes of, 826, 850, 1309

New England, map of, 98*

New England Chronicle, **1775:** *Dec. 7–14,* 95; *Dec. 14–21,* 195; *Dec. 21–28,* 274; **1776:** *Jan. 11–18,* 844; *Jan. 18–25,* 966; *Jan. 25–Feb. 1,* 1075–76; *Feb. 1–8,* 1169

New Hampshire: *Raleigh* to be built, 196; naval defenses, 912; defenses, 1169

New Hampshire Committee of Safety: Minutes, 62, 79; **from:** Josiah Bartlett, 196; Pierre Begozzat, 1297–98; William Knight, 121; John Langdon, 1332; Portsmouth Committee of Safety, 110

New Hampshire General Court, **to** the Continental Congress, 1169

New Hampshire House of Representatives, Admiralty Court judges, 950; Journal: 809, 912, 950

New Hampshire Navy, 809

New Hampshire Provincial Congress, export clearance, 252; Journal: 212, 252, 598, 630–31

New Jersey: shipping unprotected, 170; defensibility of coast, 1087–88

New Jersey Committee of Safety, 885, 886

New Jersey Convention, 1185

New Jersey Council of Safety, Journal, 753

New Jersey Provincial Congress, Journal: 1102, 1303

New London (Conn.), 816

New London County Committee of Correspondence and Safety, 1064n.

New Providence (Bahamas), source of gunpowder 818; mentioned: 493, 510, 573

New York: trade restricted with other colonies, 89; supplies rum to *Phoenix,* 587; delegates in the Continental Congress, **to** John Hancock, 802; **from** New York Committee of Safety, 883; naval defenses, 921–22; extract of letter from, 1160; defense, 1137, 1303; mentioned: 1048, 1233, 1235, 1263

New York [City]: letter from, 129; supplies continuing to British Navy, 159; protection of assured by British Navy, 159, 160*; General Committee, 161; strength of, 392–93; vulnerability, 559; defenses, 733, 998, 999, 1126, 1184, 1216–17, 1231, 1233–34, 1280, 1346–47; view, 860*; to be burned, 1112; Tory activities, 1112–13; Lee mission, 1135; public records, 1214; port closed by Lee, 1319; mentioned: 857, 940, 1122–25, 1160, 1199, 1255. *See also* Lee, Charles (Brig. Gen.)

New York: brigantine, 1065, 1231 (Walker)

New York Assembly, 258; dissolved, 576*

New York Committee of Safety: sailing permits granted, 977, 998, 1037, 1065, 1231: permits vessels to load in accord with Continental Congress resolutions, 959; **to:** James Livingston, 846; New York delegates in the Continental Congress, 883; Lord Stirling, 904; **from:** John Hodge, 652–53; Charles Lee, 940–41; Abraham Lott, 1147; Robert Ogden, 943; Lord Stirling, 1026; Journal, 1149; Minutes: 587, 605, 651, 679–80, 691–92, 717–19, 753, 769–70, 801–02, 845–46, 862, 884–87, 902, 920, 942, 957, 959, 977–78, 998, 1037, 1065, 1085, 1113–15, 1122–25, 1160, 1198, 1214, 1231; mentioned: 605–06, 712, 733, 957, 1015, 1038, 1101, 1113, 1125, 1126–27, 1135, 1152, 1153, 1184

New York Gazette, **1775:** *Dec. 25,* 241; **1776:** *Jan. 15,* 802–03; *Jan. 29,* 1036; *Feb. 12,* 1231

New York Journal, **1776:** *Jan. 25,* 978; *Feb. 1,* 672n., 1086; *Feb. 15,* 1302

New York Packet: ship, 448, 1041 (Fryer)

New York Packet, **1776:** *April 25,* 489

New York Provincial Congress: broadside, 68*; bonds for importing military stores approved, 168; patrol vessel ordered, 184; assumes risk of West Indies voyage, 206; considers Admiralty Courts, 1102; trade permits, 1347; restricts provisioning of British vessels, 1347–48; restricts communications with Gov. Tryon, 1348; Journal: 22, 67, 168, 184, 206, 1281–82, 1319–20, 1335, 1346–48; mentioned: 68, 255

New York Vice Admiralty Court, silver oar mace, 107*

Newbury: brig, 20

Newburyport (Mass.), Committee of Safety, **from** Massachusetts Council, 876; mentioned: 183, 184, 810n., 843, 874, 1156

Newcomb, Simon, deposition of, 996; mentioned, 1166

Newell, Thomas (Master), 1368 (*Friendship*)

Newfoundland, 534

Newman, Joseph (Master), 1369 (*Conclusion*)

Newport (R.I.): fired upon by *Glasgow,* 20; provisioning Wallace, 86, 99, 751, 935–36, 861, 901, 902, 916, 917, 937–39; Charles Lee mission, 149, 239, 240, 257; Tory contacts with Wallace, 167; British Navy strength, 241; British ships withdraw, 278; Congress petitioned by tories, 292; defenselessness, 836; town meeting, 184, 917; ferry boat permits, 1083; **from** James Wallace, 861, 902; mentioned: 67, 138, 153, 181, 262, 324, 657, 954–56, 974, 1049, 1063, 1145, 1158. *See also* Lee, Charles (Brig. Gen.); Stiles, Ezra; Wallace, James (Capt., R.N.)

Newport Mercury, **1775:** *Dec. 11,* 57; *Dec. 25,* 240; **1776:** *Jan. 1,* 557; *Jan. 15,* 800; *Jan. 22,* 917; *Feb. 5,* 1134

Newport Town Council, **from** William West, 916, 937–38, 938–39, 955–56, 1063

Newton, Henry, 1167–68, 1222

Newton, Thomas (Lt., R.N.), 1399

Newton, Thomas, Jr., 825

Nexen, Elias (New York Port Master), 1348

Nicholas, —— (Col.), 596

Nicholas, R. B. (Lt., R.N.), 1395

Nicholas, Robert Carter, 28, 619, 663, 703

Nicholas, Samuel (Capt., Cont. Marines), 264, 302, 562, 563n., 590, 613, 641–42, 700, 961, 962 (*Alfred*)

Nicholas: ship, 1005, 1096, 1318 (White)

Nichols, Micah, 748

Nichols, Samuel (Master), 1105n., 1119n., 1170 (*Polly*)

Nicholson, James (Capt., Md. Navy), commission, 754; mentioned: 59, 305, 736, 945, 1018, 1054, 1292 (*Defence*)

Nicholson, Thomas (Master), 1368 (*Maryland Planter*)

Nickerson, Ebenezer, 856, 877 (*Sally*)

Nickolas, John, 975

Nicoll, John, 240

Nicoll, John, Jr., 240

Nichols, Jonathan, 1202

Niger: HMS, salutes Shuldham, 300; captures brig, 1227; Journal: 300, 586, 1227–28, 1276; mentioned: 214, 253n., 274n., 318, 319, 1007, 1008, 1009, 1061, 1066n., 1398 (Talbot)

Nightingale, Joseph (Col.), 677, 690–91, 715, 751, 836, 859, 916, 954n., 1034, 1081n., 1082, 1133, 1194

Niles, Robert (Capt.), account, 205; mentioned: 88, 634 (*Spy*)

Niles, Silas, 1145, 1195, 1196, 1253, 1254

Nisbett, J. M., 696

Nixon, John, to Henry Fisher, 1041; mentioned: 11, 131, 696, 1186, 1287, 1304

Noble, Peter, 458

Noble Bounty: ordnance ship, 435, 439, 498

Noddle's Island (Mass.), 85

Nolton, S., 52

Nonexportation [from North America]: exemptions, 25, 185, 190, 719, 824; livestock restricted, 91; violations: Virginia, 164; Georgia, 104–05, 177, 231, 565–67, 1069, 1002, 1092; South Carolina, 223, 246, 247, 594, 595, 664, 686, 705, 945; Massachusetts, 750, 765; Maryland, 808; New Jersey, 1102; British countermeasures, 344–45; effects of, 384, 425, 1319; restrictions: Philadelphia, 578; North Carolina, 580, 663, 826, 850; Baltimore, 684; Georgia, 688; South Carolina, enforcement, 729, 1294; suspension of considered, 818; Georgia compliance, 1325; mentioned: 293, 726, 934, 981–85, 1185. *See also* Trade

Nonimportation [to North America]: salt permitted, 293; Virginia violations, 643–44, 645–56; gunpowder exempted, 672; South Carolina exemptions, 730; oath, 1367; mentioned: 775–76, 1005

Nonsuch: HMS, 340, 451, 1408 (Thomas Graves)

Norcomb, John, 199

Nore [Noure], 447*

Norfolk (Va.): inhabitants petition Virginia for protection, 103; threatened with bombardment, 103, 118, 119, 244; Squire threatens, 139–40; abandoned by British, 132; occupied by Virginia troops, 140, 142, 220; letter from, 176, 1341, 1350; British Navy at, 228, 309; withdrawal of British troops, 261; bombardment, 295, 306, 307, 492, 563, 564, 579–80, 617–18, 621–22, 642; map, 564*; burned, 660, 1000, 1139; mentioned: 26, 117, 219, 297, 310, 620*, 646, 661, 662–63, 671, 673, 681, 704, 737, 756, 808, 1019, 1187, 1345. *See also* Dunmore, Lord; *Liverpool; Otter*

Norfolk County (Va.), 14

Norfolk: ship, taken by Manley in *Hancock*, 995n., 996n., 1024, 1029n., 1033, 1060, 1061n., 1076–77, 1077n., 1111n., 1133n., 1134n., 1185n., (Grendal)

Norman, James (Lt., R.N.), 1406

Normandy Coast, map 508*

Norris, John (Lt., R.N.), 1406

Nortan, John, 174

North, Lord [Frederick North, 2nd Earl of Guilford]: submits Prohibitory Bill, 378–79; to George III, 539; mentioned: 337, 425, 434, 535, 658, 1305, 1335

North, Patt (Master), 1369 (*Duke of Leinster*)

North Carolina: trade, 200, 324, 1258; coast, 266; map, 758*; revolutionary sentiment, 395; British intentions against, 346–47; strategic importance to British, 350–52, 1349; requested by Continental Congress to consider St. Augustine expedition, 560; proclaimed in rebellion, 724; loyalist sentiment, 757–60, 1150; defense measures, 1150, 1204–05, 1218, 1260; want of arms, 1150

North Carolina Council of Safety, from North Carolina Delegates in the Continental Congress, 1204–05, 1259

North Carolina Navy, proposed, 199; mentioned: 201, 980n.

North Carolina Provincial Congress (Johnston County Court House): forbids communication with British Navy, 189; Journal: 189, 199

North Carolina Provincial Council (Wilmington): port commissioners appointed by, 199; from South Carolina Council of Safety, 592–93; mentioned: 568, 1151

Northampton (Mass.) Committee of Correspondence, from Massachusetts Council, 1317; Committee of Safety to George Washington, 833–34

Norton, Jerediah, 975

Norton, John Hatley, from John Hatley Norton, Jr., 25; mentioned: 703

Norton, Nathaniel, 58

Norton, Samuel (Lt.), to Massachusetts General Court, 126

Norton, William (Capt., R.N.), 1412 (*William & Mary*)

Norwich (Conn.) Committee of Correspondence, to Watertown Committee of Correspondence, 1280; mentioned: 1283

Norwood, John (Master), 1368 (*Hercules*)

Nottingham, —— (Capt.), 286, 298 (*Sandwich Packet*)

Nova Scotia: impressment, 7, 152; petition to George Washington, 1165–66; raids by privateers, 106, 108, 109, 179–80; defenses, 203, 211, 274, 288, 742, 870; rebel sympathies, 1274, 1275, 1298–99. *See also* Halifax; Legge, Francis; Yarmouth

Nova Scotia Executive Council, rejects Yarmouth petition of neutrality, 109; Minutes: 2, 106, 1167–68, 1222

Nova Scotia Gazette: and the Weekly Chronicle, 1775: *Aug. 22,* 2n.

Nova Scotia Provincial Court of Vice Admiralty, 106

Nova Scotia Royal Council, 1107n.

Nowell, Nathaniel (Capt.), 1245

Noyes, —— (Capt.), 630

Nozières, Count de, 179, 415

Nutt, John, 1070

Nye, Joseph, 66, 1276

Nye, Lot, 750

Nye, Solomon, 750

Nye, Stephen, 750, 765

Oakman, Joseph (Capt.), 659, 1118, 1369, 1370 (*Two Sisters*)

Ober, Joseph, 1023

O'Brien, —— (Lt.), 1257

O'Brien [O'Brian] Jeremiah (Capt.), petition **to** Massachusetts General Court, 1095; mentioned: 108, 213, 990, 1029, 1046, 1047n., 1156, 1182, 1226, 1276, 1300, 1301. *See also Diligent; Machias Liberty;* Massachusetts Navy

O'Brien Lucius (Lt., R.N.), 1409

O'Bryan, William, 674

Ocean: HMS, 451, 1407 (Ourry)

Ogden, Aaron, 1202

Ogden, Barney, 1202

Ogden, Lewis, 1102

Odgen, Matthias (Maj.), 313, 782, 949, 950, 1028, 1159

Ogden, Robert, **to:** New York Committee of Safety, 943–44; John Hancock, 1200–03

Ogden, Sall, 1202

Ogelby, Nicholas (Lt.), 1077

Ogg, James, 962

Ogle, Sir Charles (Capt., R.N.), 1406 (*Resolution*)

O'Hara, James (Capt., R.N.), 349, 479 (*Pearl*)

O'Hara, W.H.K. (Lt., R.N.), 1396

O'Harrow, Timothy, 1292

Oiseau: French frigate, 177 (Bausset)

Olds, Robert (Master), 1194n. (*Defiance*)

Oliphant, David (Dr.), 135, 143, 176, 664, 740, 839

Oliver, Nathanael, 990

Oliver, Mrs. Peter, 969

Oliver, Thomas, 362

Olney, George, 1034

Olney, Joseph (Lt., Cont. Navy), 208, 302, 1219 (*Columbus*)

Orde, John (Lt., R.N.), 1398

Ordnance: Halifax, 7; Ticonderoga, 21, 115, 717; "The Congress" mortar, 48; local manufacture of, 1285; mentioned: 774, 803, 1025, 1112, 1148*, 1214, 1320, 1346

Orillat [Oreillat, Orilliard], John, 100, 803

Ormsby, Gilbert, 448

Orne, Azor (Col.), 124, 184, 291, 573, 992, 1095, 1170, 1316

Orne, Joshua, 966, 1130

Orpheus: HMS, 340, 359, 747, 792, 1057, 1057n., 1060n., 1193, 1299, 1300, 1398 (Hudson)

Orrok, James (Capt., R.N.), 1404 (*Hazard*)

Osborn, William (Lt., R.N.), 1399

Ossy, Francis, 601, 631

Ostrich: 522n.

Oswald, Eleazer (Capt.), 313, 733

Otis, James, **to** the Massachusetts Council, 1079–80; **from:** Enoch Hallet, 1276–77; James Lyon, 854–55; Joseph Otis, 1079; mentioned: 1277, 1302

Otis, Joseph (Col.), **to:** Massachusetts Council, 877; James Otis, 1079; George Washington, 66; mentioned: 65, 96, 254, 291, 833, 1080

Otta, —— (Capt.), 1057, 1209

Otter: HM Sloop, letter from midshipman on, 29; desertions reported, 93; threatens reprisal on Norfolk if fired upon, 103, 119; fired upon, 197, 221; flag of truce, 199; broadside brought to bear on Norfolk, 199; guard boat fired upon, 325; bombards Norfolk, 565, 621, 622; burning of Norfolk, 592; landing party from, 1092, 1163; tender of, 1188 (Wright); Journal: 27, 197, 220, 325, 565, 622, 663, 686, 757, 963, 1092, 1163; mentioned: 118, 142, 176, 228, 244, 256, 296, 307, 309, 618, 661, 704, 737, 738n., 794, 808, 905, 1019, 1188, 1324, 1340, 1350, 1400 (Squire)

Ourry, ——, 383

Ourry, George (Capt., R.N.), 1407 (*Ocean*)

Owens, Richard, 175

Paca, William, 59, 773, 1179

Packard, Nathaniel (Capt.), **from** Nicholas Cooke and John Jenckes, 1109; mentioned: 766 (*Sally*)

Packwood, Joseph (Capt.), 1134, 1157, 1169 (*Macaroni*)

Padduck [Paddock] Seth (Capt.), 926, 1138, 1370 (*Mayflower*)

Page, Ambrose, 677, 1100

Page, Benjamin (Capt.), 676, 751

Page, John, "I wish to God we had a few armed Vessels . . .," **to** Richard Henry Lee, 25–26; **from** Thomas Jefferson, 39

Page, Mann, 14

Paine, —— (Master), 421 (*Betsey*)

Paine, Joshua (Master), 1367 (*Welcome*)

Paine, Phillip (Master), 1194 (*Nancy*)

Paine, Robert Treat, **from:** Thomas Cushing, 952, 1248; Joseph Palmer, 1061; mentioned: 770, 803, 818, 1017, 1152

Pakenham, John (Lt., R.N.), 1398

Pallas: HMS, ordered to African Coast, 363–66; sails for Guinea Coast, 359, 374, 388; to Jamaica, 520; Journal: 540; mentioned: 340, 370, 544, 906, 1115, 1403 (Cornwallis)

Palliser, Sir Hugh, **to:** John Pownall, 497; Lord Sandwich, 481–82; mentioned: 460, 490, 492, 499, 501

Palliser: HM Transport, arrives Cape Fear, 242; mentioned: 202

Palmer, ——, 884

Palmer, Ethanah, 1033, 1063

Palmer, G., 631

Palmer, Joseph, on Massachusetts Navy Committee, 291; **to:** John Brown, 1132; Robert Treat Paine, 1061; **from** Nicholas Brown, 1099–1100; mentioned: 51, 52, 54, 856, 876, 965, 1144

Palmer, Thomas, 558, 560n., 588, 606, 607, 636, 636n.

Palmer, Thomas (Capt.), 747

Panton, J. A. (Lt., R.N.), 1393

Panton, William, **to** Patrick Tonyn, 853–54; mentioned: 987, 1328

Parell, Price, 1202

Paris, 474*

Parke, Matthew (Lt., Cont. Marines), 302, 613, 962 (*Alfred*)

Parker, —— (Lt.), 261

Parker, —— (Capt., R.I. Minute Men), 1195

Parker, Hyde, Jr. (Capt., R.N.), questions Graves' orders on provision vessels, 154; re-**to:** Samuel Graves, 154; Lord Sandwich, 653–54; William Tryon, 159, 160*; **from:** William Tryon, 861; George Vandeput, 157; mentioned: 167n., 207, 560n., 615, 794, 857, 883, 920, 1015, 1030–31, 1123, 1160, 1216, 1280 (*Phoenix*)

Parker, James, 167

Parker, Job, 54

Parker, John, 1310

Parker, Jonas, 990

Parker, Jonathan (Master), 1369 (*Aston Hall*)

Parker, Josiah, 14, 825, 850

Parker, Sir Peter (Commodore, R.N.), squadron for North America, 334–35; ordered to serve under Molyneux Shuldham, 338; commands Southern Expedition, 361; empowered to commission officers, 427; to take American prisoners on board squadron, 457; **to:** George Jackson, 522–23, 524, 533, 543; Philip Stephens, 397, 408, 432, 435, 437, 439, 443, 444, 451, 459, 461, 462, 484, 498, 503, 511, 543; **from:** Admiralty, 338, 424, 427, 433, 452; George Jackson, 431; mentioned: 348, 356, 360, 399, 409, 423, 439, 445, 485, 486, 489, 502, 622n.

Parker, Richard, 645

Parker, Robert (Capt.), 1003, 1297

Parker, Stephen (Lt., R.N.), 1406

Parker, Timothy (Capt.), 675

Parker, William, 29

Parker, William (Capt., R.N.), 1402 (*Martin*)

Parkeson, Thomas, 540

Parr, Bulkely & Co., 652

Parry, Anthony (Lt., R.N.), 509, 555, 994, (*Bute*)

Parry, Francis (Capt., R.N.), provision request refused, 1021–22; **from** Andrew Snape Hamond, 1209; mentioned: 723, 794, 932, (*Cruizer*)

Parsons, Ebenezer, 165

Parsons, James (Col.), 898, 1325

Parsons, Jonathan, 655

Partridge, George (Capt.), 1276

Patapsco River, 1042

Paterson, Emanuel, 1203

Patriot: snow, seized by *Speedwell,* 355, 455

Patten, John, 1292

Patterson, John [ship rigger], 305

Patterson, John, 1254

Patterson, Walter (Gov. of St. John), 2, 108, 625, 626, 709, 1223

Patton, —— (Capt.), 803

Patton, —— (Maj.), 683

Patton, Mark, 1166

Patuxent: ship, 1368 (Lewis)

Paul, Stephen, 197n.

Paxton, Benjamin, 990

Payne, ——, 1041 (*Louisa*)

Payne, Benjamin Charnock (Capt.), **to** James Young, 1056–57; **from** William Howe, 234; mentioned: 224, 235n., 1210, 1211n.

Payne, R., 741

Peace and Plenty: sloop, seized by *Kingsfisher's* tender 826n. (Lightboy)

Peach & Pierce, 300

Pearce, Job (Capt.), 882

Pearce, John, 319

Pearl: HMS, ordered to North America, 349, 479; mentioned: 340, 388, 404, 405, 1409 (O'Hara)

Pearne, William, 121

Pearson, John (Master), 430, 484 (*Nancy*)

Pearson, Richard (Capt., R.N.), **to** George Jackson, 449; **from** Philip Stephens, 358, 396; mentioned: 355, 392, 453 (*Speedwell*)

Peckham, J., **to** Nicholas Cooke, 1254

Peggy: schooner, permit to load granted, 60; captured by *Tryal,* 1276 (Lathrop [Lothrop]); 309 (Haynes); 1370 (Barker); ship, captured by *Viper,* 38–39, 623n., 990n., 1272n., 1305, 1334n. (Kirby); 1185n., 1368 (Barron); snow, 1163

Pelliseir [Pallasier], ——, 733, 780

Pelton, George, 975

Pelton, Moses, 975

Pemble, Mrs., 569

Pendennis Castle [English Prison], 480, 489

Pender, Francis (Lt., R.N.), 16

Pendexter, Samuel, 16

Pendleton, Edmund, **to:** Patrick Henry, 218; Maryland Council of Safety, 1207; **from:** Benjamin Harrison, 1263; Robert Howe, 244; William Woodford, 28, 39, 40, 78–79, 118, 139; mentioned: 904

Penet & Pliarne: arrival at Providence, 55, 56n.; recommended to Congress by Washington, 94, 95; possible usefulness at French Court, 137; speculation on, 146; return to Providence, 194; referred to Secret Committee of Congress, 301, 324; offer to Congress, 693; **to:** Nicholas Brown, 1176; mentioned: 152, 285, 557, 561n., 563n., 578n., 654n., 722n.

Penhallow, Samuel, 950

Penman, Charles, 106

Penn, John (Deputy Gov. of Pa.), dispatches for, 362; mentioned: 56, 757

Penn, John [N.C. delegate in Cont. Cong.], **from** William Hooper, 1149; mentioned: 1150, 1151, 1258n., 1262

Pennington, Joseph (Lt., R.N.), 931–32, 1105, 1399

Pennington, Josh, 867

Pennock, William (Master), 1236 (*George*)

Pennsylvania: linen importation, 374, 382; revolutionary sentiment, 393; supplies stores for Continental Navy, 590

Pennsylvania Commissioners for Building the Philadelphia Frigates, **to:** Commissioners of Naval Stores, 693–96; Wharton and Humphreys, 696–97

Pennsylvania Committee of Safety: determines pilots' wages, 162; ordered to serve Continental Navy, 562; to supply military stores to Continental Navy, 185, 216; permits Continental Navy search for seamen, 216; export permits granted, 700, 999; insures vessels in powder trade, 821, 1176; prize regulations, 1116; Minutes: 11, 24, 60, 91, 102, 117, 130, 162, 172, 185, 216, 264, 286, 562, 590, 607, 641, 700, 772, 807, 821, 838, 848, 862–63, 888, 980, 999, 1017, 1040, 1052, 1067, 1087, 1116, 1138, 1154, 1175, 1186, 1206, 1287, 1304, 1321; **to:** Andrew Caldwell, 773; County Committees, 304; **from:** Continental Naval Committee, 185; crew of Pennsylvania Armed Boat *Ranger,* 1177, 1178; Henry Dougherty, 77; William Green, 172; John Hackett, 1067; Francis Wade, 698; mentioned: 803, 1233

Pennsylvania Evening Post, **1775:** *Dec. 12,* 69–71; *Dec. 21,* 46; **1776:** *Jan. 16,* 824; *Jan. 18,* 848; *Jan. 30,* 371; *Feb. 1,* 1088; *Feb. 13,* 380n.; *Feb. 15,* 384, 1305; *Feb. 17,* 1337; *Feb. 20,* 406, 410n.; *Mar. 21,* 1164; *Apr. 18,* 223; mentioned: 1127

Pennsylvania Farmer: 1115

Pennsylvania Gazette, **1776:** *Jan. 10,* 607; *Jan. 17,* 646n.; *Jan. 24,* 963; *Jan. 31,* 1068; *Feb. 7,* 1051n.; *Jul. 24,* 1312n.

Pennsylvania Journal, **1775:** *Dec. 13,* 92; *Dec. 27,* 266

Pennsylvania Ledger, 1127n.

Pennsylvania Marines, 1322

Pennsylvania Navy: captains petition to Andrew Caldwell, 1066; personnel of, commanders, 77, 772, 773; barracks, 91–92, 131; crews for armed boats, 607; recruitment, 863, 1186; returns, 102, 807, 925; punishments, 1067–68, 1178; pay of officers, 1116; arrangement of officers, 1321–22; mutiny, 1305; powder for armed boats, 91; stationed at Liberty Island, 91; provisions, 102, 162, 698, 1186, 1287; regulations, 117; hospital facilities, 259; row-galleys, 1235, 1322; building of, 1304; fire rafts, 286

Pennsylvania Packet, **1775:** *Dec. 18,* 161; *Dec. 25,* 241; **1776:** *Jan. 1,* 563; *Jan. 8,* 145n.; *Jan. 15,* 807–08; *Jan. 22,* 926; *Jan. 29,* 1041; *Feb. 5,* 1024, 1138; *Feb. 12,* 1236; *Mar. 11,* 1297n.; *Mar. 18,* 1272n.

Penrose, James, 130n.

Penrose, Samuel, 697, 1040

Pensacola (W. Fla.), 502

Pensacola Pacquet: 43, 906, 1027, 1163

Percy, Lord Hugh (Maj. Gen.), dispatches for, 362; mentioned: 122, 810, 876

Perkins, Joseph, 1074

Perkins, Samuel (Master), deposition of, 262 (*Polly*)

Perkins, Samuel (Master), 1301 (*Rainbow*)

Perkins, Simeon, Diary: 3, 31, 262, 1107, 1345

Perry, —— (Capt.), describes conditions in Boston during siege, 97 (*Mary*)

Perry, Daniel, 833, 914, 1183

Perry, John (Lt., R.N.), 1410

Persons, Jonathan, 657

Perth, Duke of, 920

Pery, John, 1359

Pery, Robert, 1359

Peter (a Negro), 191, 975

Peter: brigantine, retaken, 214, 274n.

Peters, ——, 1080

Peverly, Thomas (Capt.), instructions for powder voyage, 270, 273; mentioned: 746n., 1297 (*Success*)

Peyton, John (Lt., R.N.), 1410

Peyton, Joseph (Lt., R.N.), 1399

Phelps, Jacob, 704

Phila: brig, 1369 (Curtis)

Philadelphia: defenses, 172, 791, 1051; harbor defenses, 266, 286, 1051; letter from, 266; intelligence from, 558; Committee of the City and Liberties of Philadelphia restricts shipping, 578; view of, 771*; ship arrivals, 1041; Associators, 1184, 1233, 1284, 1303; political sentiment in, 1284

Philadelphia: snow, 963 (Power)

Phillips, James (Master), 1368 (*Rodgers*)

Phillips, John, 63, 275

Phillips, Stephen, 966, 1130

Phillips, Thompson (Lt.), 974
Phipp, David, 939–40
Phipps, George, **from** John Kinnon, 764
Phittiplace, Ed. (Lt.), 1077
Phoenix: HMS, arrives Sandy Hook, 115; arrives East River, 154; tender arrives New York, 154; stops Lowther, 207; lying in East River 241, 242; visits by Loyalists, 1123; prizes taken, 1160n.; leaves mooring 1334, 1335; Journal: 139, 196, 1125, 1217; mentioned: 112, 139, 161n., 195, 214, 225, 587, 653, 671, 794, 802, 847, 919, 920, 1008, 1037, 1112, 1152, 1216, 1232, 1398 (Parker)
Phoenix: 973 (Cole)
Phripp, Matthew 219, 227
Physicians, *see* Surgeons
Pickering, John, Jr., **from** Stephen Moylan, 6
Pickering, Timothy, **to** Massachusetts Council, 62; mentioned: 274
Picket, Joseph, 1363, 1365
Pickin, Robert, 294
Pico, Joshua, 123
Pierce, Benoni, 1158
Pierce, Stephen (Capt.), 309, 591, 659 (*Industry*)
Pierce & Brown, 300
Pierced Island (Gulf of St. Lawrence), 597*
Piersons, Ellihue, 1202
Piersons, Jonathan, 1202
Pigot: hospital ship, 433, 484, 533
Pigott, James (Capt., R.N.), 1393 (*Swallow*)
Pike, Edward (Lt., R.N.), 1410
Pilot boats, 163, 260, 568, 623, 762, 763, 927, 978, 1003, 1040–41, 1054, 1105, 1113, 1138, 1190n., 1198, 1264, 1268, 1342
Pilots: Bermuda, 539; Boston, 585; British impressment of, 381; British requirements for, 381, 749, 994, 1209, 1350; British service, 159, 762, 796n., 1122–23, 1142, 1151, 1198, 1232, 1238; Cape Fear pilotage rates, 352–53; Delaware Bay, 1017; Georgia, suspicion of, 688; New York, 801, 977, 1013, 1113; North Carolina restricts activities of, 20, 704; South Carolina, 738, 829, 1002, 1154, 1295
Pinckney, Charles Cotesworth (Col.), **to** Henry Laurens, 740, 760; mentioned: 30, 664, 720, 721, 839, 929, 930
Pinckney, Thomas (Major), 30, 721, 760, 761, 762
Pindar, William (Capt.), 945, 1022, 1042, 1070, 1071 (*Three Brothers*)
Pinkham, Seth, 1276, 1277, 1302
Pintard, Lewis, 587
Piscataqua Harbor, map, 744*
Pistols, 265*
Pitcher, Jonathan (Lt., Cont. Navy), appointed, 207, 208n. (*Alfred*); mentioned: 1219 (*Providence*)
Pitman, ——, 80
Pitt, John (Capt.), 927
Pitt County (N.C.), 200; Committee of Safety, importation of munitions by, 132
Plantation bonds, 247
Platt, Ebenezer Smith, 246, 247
Platt, Joseph, 89
Plenderleith, John, 802
Pliarne, ——, *see* Penet and Pliarne
Plowman, Jonathan, 1369
Pluse, Alexis, 458
Pluymort, William, 974
Plymouth (Mass.), survey expenses, 150; mentioned: 320, 433, 584
Plymouth Bay (Mass.), map, 1032*
Poaug, Christopher (Master), 1369 (*John*)
Point Judith (R.I.), supplies from, 1158; landing, 1183; attack on, 1252–54; mentioned: 1195
Polhemus, Johannes, 68
Polk, Thomas, 759
Polkinghome, John (Lt., R.N.), 1397
Pollard, William, 697, 1040
Pollock, Cullen, 207, 563
Pollock, Oliver, **from** Willing, Morris & Co., 1336–67
Polly: schooner, belonging to *Tamar* 666, 667, 763, 830, 932, 1027, 1163
Polly: schooner, 918, 1085 (Van Alstyne); 985n. (Henry); 1105n., 1119n. (Nichols); 1231 (Montanje); 1367, 1368 (Watson); sloop, 86 (Leeds); taken by *Lee,* 92n., permitted to carry flour, 161, mentioned: 278, 1062, 1080, 1081n. (Comstock); account of capture by *Kingsfisher,* 262 (Perkins); taken by *Harrison,* 796n.; 972 (Carr); 981 (Cartwright); 1071, 1094 (Conyers); 1081 (Tillinghast); 1175n., 1368 (Stone)
Polly and Ann: sloop, 672n., 884, 885, 886, 887 (Hains)
Polly and Betsey: sloop, 779
Polly and Nancy: sloop, 943
Pomeroy, Seth, 834
Pomona: 343 (Green)
Pomona: HM sloop, arrives at St. Pierre, 177; change of command, 179n.; captures made, 1068, 1272, 1312; Journal: 778–79, 1272, 1312; mentioned: 623, 709, 791, 1395 (Young)
Pompey: schooner, 87 (Leeds)
Ponpon (S.C.) Committee, 595
Pooler, ——, 1056, 1069, 1092
Pooler, —— (Master), 1085 (*James Richard*)
Pooplopens Kill (N.Y.), 558, 636, 1304
Poor, Hezy, 584
Pope, Elisha, 750
Porrett, John, 174
Port-au-Prince (Haiti), 1102
Port-Henderson: ship, 1268 (Aitkin)
Port Roanoke (N.C.), 199
Port Royal (Jamaica), plan, 947*
Porter, Elisha (Col.), 714, 1157
Porter, John, 1023

Porter, Oliver, 145n.

Porter, William, 1018

Portland: HMS, 708, 779, 791, 1395 (Dumaresq); unspecified, 724 (Wilson); 1041 (Watson)

Portsmouth (England), view of, 354*; mentioned, 437

Portsmouth (N.H.), fortified, 629; map of, 744*; view of, 745*; mentioned: 121n., 1169

Portsmouth (N.H.) Committee of Safety, **to** New Hampshire Committee of Safety, 110; mentioned, 712

Portsmouth (Va.), map, 564*

Portugal, 356

Postal service, Continental, 75; British, 263, 788, 981

Potomac River, 1019, 1068, 1179

Porter, John, 1023

Potter, Israel R., 483n.

Potter, Phinehas (Capt.), 915 (*Unity*)

Potter, Thomas (Capt.), 1145

Potter, Thomas Hazard, 1254

Potts, ——, 830n.

Potty, Thomas (Lt., R.N.), 1398

Powder horns, 971*

Powditch, Thomas (Master), 1191 (*Killingsworth*)

Powell, George Gabriel (Capt. S.C. Navy; *also* Col.), 191, 568, 623, 647, 663–64, 720, 1056, 1119, 1310 (*Comet*)

Powell, Jeremiah, **from** Jedediah Preble, 630

Powell, John, 849

Powell, William, permitted to import gunpowder, 193, 262

Power, Michael (Master), 963 (*Philadelphia*)

Power, Nicholas (Capt.), 54, 238, 574, 634, 678, 799, 916, 972, 973

Powers, Gregory, 974

Pownall, —— (Capt., R.N.), appointed to *Blonde,* 427

Pownall, John (British Dep. Sec. of State), **to:** John Boddington, 367; Philip Stephens, 403; **from:** John Boddington, 438, 521; George Jackson, 410, 422, 423, 430, 439, 490, 510, 516, 541; Hugh Palliser, 497; Philip Stephens, 358, 401, 407; mentioned, 400, 981

Poyas, James, **from** Josiah Smith, 724–27

Preble, Jedediah (Brig. Gen.), **to** Jeremiah Powell, 630

Prentice, Caleb, 990

Prescott, —— (Col.), 58

Prescott, James, 51, 52, 631

Prescott, Richard (Brig. Gen.), to suffer in retaliation for treatment of Ethan Allen, 147, 148; prisoner, 213; taken into custody, 578; treatment of prisoners, 1088; mentioned: 162, 232, 242, 812

Pre Simond & Hankey & Co., 391

Preston: HMS, requires ordnance stores, 97; tender arrives New York, 154; returns to England with Graves, 1078, 1096; Marines, 972; Journal: 9, 33, 953, 1097; mentioned: 159, 574, 586, 649, 690, 715, 764, 845, 857, 970n., 994, 1397 (Robinson)

Prevost, James Mark (Lt. Col.), 969

Price, —— (Capt.), 241

Price, Ezekiel, Diary, 96

Price, Farrington, 1202

Price, George, 19

Price, James, 251n., 732, 780, 781, 950, 1212, 1244

Price, William, 15

Prince, John, 298

Prince George: ship, disposal of flour, 96; mentioned: 110, 712 (Emms); 1369 (Bartholomew)

Prince of Piedmont: transport, 430 (Harman)

Prince William: schooner, ordered into Marblehead, 165

Prince William Parish (S.C.) committee, 246, 247

Princess Anne County (Va.), 14

Princess Augusta: victualling sloop, 382, 383

Princess Augusta: HMS, 1412 (Bickerton)

Prindles, Charles, 635

Pringle, John, **to** Nicholas Biddle, 785; **from** George Woolsey, 218; mentioned, 25

Pringle, Thomas (Lt., R.N.), 460, 509, 1398 (*Lord Howe*)

Prioleau, ——, 905

Prior, John, 849

Prisoner exchange effort, 92, 95, 147, 214, 253 [*See also* entries immediately following]

Prisoners, American: transported to England, 96–97, 112, 123n., 318, 416; escape of, 193; return to Boston of, 456–58; lists of, 458; distribution of in British Navy, 482, 516, 533; disposal of, 483; treatment of, 147, 545–47, 1272; parole of, 625; release requests, 830–32, 868–70, 946–48, 988, 1242–43, 1329–31; release of, 907, 1143; mentioned: 145, 294, 463, 477, 480, 489, 494, 497, 503, 507, 509, 514, 516, 521, 535, 569, 691–92, 883, 1192. *See also* Allen, Ethan

Prisoners, British: treatment, 35, 147, 995; naval officers, 86; taken in Canada, 100; personal property, 181; conveyed to Trenton, 577; removal from Canada, 596; medical treatment, 599; provisions, 606, 1274; Callbeck's account, 627–28; confinement, 631, 876; paroles, 753, 833, 952, 1075, 1247; enlistment, 832; exchange, 951; permitted to return, 991; removal, 992; mentioned: 11, 128, 129, 131, 139, 203, 218, 297, 584, 601, 713, 839, 854, 884, 942, 976, 1006, 1019, 1079, 1086, 1181–82, 1197

Pritchard, Paul, 898

Privateering: bonds, 4–5, 62–63, 602–03, 966n., 1172; successes, 34, 149; captures, 46, 966, 991, 995, 1010, 1024–25, 1132, 1133, 1170; commissioning of *Gamecock,* 52, 63n.; *Washington,* 63n.; *General*

Ward, 165; *Lizard,* 748; *Enterprise,* 950; inability of British Navy to cope with, 82, 1006; Samuel Graves on successes of, 276; raid on St. John's, 626; fitting out of privateers, 941; petitions, 1178; mentioned: 53, 55, 251, 559, 572, 654, 784, 811, 994, 1023, 1130
Prize agents, *see* Continental Agents
Prize Courts, *see* Admiralty Courts
Prize shares, 440, 722, 871, 1138
Prizes: claims for loss, 88, 263, 290, 685, 825, 965, 967, 997, 1009, 1017, 1066, 1074, 1103, 1104, 1130–31, 1225; disposal of, 94, 95, 101, 110, 253, 274, 552, 689, 783, 844, 1060, 1076, 1116, 1121, 1143, 1276, 1301, 1307; taken off Nova Scotia, 108; looting of cargos by captors, 110–11; taken by Virginia, 117–18, 643–44, 825; libeling, 185, 599; retaken, 220; legal opinion re. *Dove,* 908–12; mentioned: 6, 35, 44, 48, 49, 470, 497, 555, 632, 648, 992, 1068, 1074. *See also* Admiralty Courts; Navy, British: prize shares; Continenal Agents
"Proceedings of the Committee of Foreign Correspondence sending S. De[ane] to France," 944
Proctor, Francis (Lt.), 11
Proctor, Thomas (Capt.), 11, 700, 980, 999, 1067
Prohibitory Act: distribution to British Navy, 452, 453–54, 486; France, apprehensive of, 468;—reassured about, 515; mentioned: 378–79, 385, 400, 410–11, 419–20, 436, 437, 448, 450, 460n., 469, 1272, 1331, 1335
Prole, John (Capt.), 838 (*Dolphin*)
Property: schooner, 3 (Cobb)
Prosper: South Carolina Armed Ship, change of command, 119, 133; lieutenancies filled, 136; crew, bounties for, 177;—wages for, 761, 1002;—recruiting, 1106; ordnance stores, 221, 248; enlistment articles, 248; cutlasses, 686; to receive seamen enlisted in Georgia, 851; to be stationed off Ft. Johnson, 928; mentioned: 62, 93, 738, 761, 777, 788, 930, 945, 988, 1022, 1119, 1268, 1310 (Tufts; Drayton)
Providence (R.I.), map, 971*
Providence [formerly *Katy*]: Continental Sloop officers, 302, 1219; Marines, 304, 615; cost of outfitting, 612; description, 616, 1236; joins Esek Hopkins' fleet, 672n., 722n., 820n., 839; John Hazard commissioned as commander, 695*, 696; chandlery, 848, 1383–85, 1390; mentioned: 173n., 672, 678n., 891, 961, 1088, 1219, 1264, 1287–88, 1307, 1322 (Hazard)
Providence: Continental Frigate, 90n., 902
Providence Gazette, **1775:** *Dec. 9,* 20; *Dec. 16,* 126; *Dec. 23,* 215; **1776:** *Jan. 6,* 650; *Jan. 13,* 767; *Jan. 20,* 751n., 881*, 882–83; *Jan. 27,* 1009–10; *Feb. 3,* 1111; *Feb. 10,* 1194; *Feb. 17,* 1334
Provisions: South Carolina provides for British Navy, 15; British need for at Quebec, 949; British cargo of, seized, 952; victualing transports ordered to Boston, 1191; New York provides for British Navy, 1347–48; for Continental forces, 1122; mentioned: 1336. *See also* Navy, British; Navy, Continental; Trade
Prudence Island (R.I.), raided by British landing party, 767, 784, 800–01, 882–83, 917; mentioned: 954
Pryce, David (Capt., R.N.), 375 (*Viper*)
Pubidy, J., 962
Public Advertier (London), **1776:** *Jan. 2,* 470; *Jan. 3,* 472; *Jan. 4,* 477; *Jan. 5,* 479; *Jan. 6,* 481; *Jan. 10,* 497; *Jan. 15,* 510; *Jan. 18,* 514; *Jan. 26,* 489; *Mar. 1,* 779n.; *Apr. 9,* 1340n.
Puddicombe, Stephen (Lt., R.N.), 1406
Pultney, G. A. (Lt., R.N.), 1400
Punton, Robert, 10
Purcell, Wentworth & Clap, 1225
Purviance, Robert, 1369
Purviance, Samuel, Jr., **to:** John Hancock, 642; Maryland Council of Safety, 1337–38; Naval Committee, 773–74; **from** Joseph Hewes, 1038; mentioned: 260, 1042, 1105, 1118, 1138, 1259, 1348, 1369
Purviance and Lux, 1001
Putnam, Enoch (Capt.), 990
Putnam, Israel (Maj. Gen.), 148, 821n., 842, 1045, 1314
Putnam, Rufus (Lt. Col.), 257, 670
Pyles, William, 1104

Quadrant, gunners', 1148*
Quarme, William (Lt., R.N.), takes command of *Halifax,* 151n.
Quebec [city]: seige of, summoned to surrender, 119; Montgomery's plan of attack, 120; effects of naval gunfire, 144; American troops, lack of pay, 145, 250; dissention among, 249; New Year's Eve assault, 312–16, 570, 960–61; British relief squadron, 476, 497, 502, 509, 523; British reinforcements, 600–01; death of Montgomery, 731–33, 926; American reinforcements, 768; lack of heavy ordnance, 1028; American defeat at, 1096, 1097, 1345; view of, 1073*; mentioned: 1, 12, 31, 36, 128, 137, 138, 162, 343, 435, 453, 454, 455, 460, 504, 551, 624–25, 683, 716, 741, 780–82, 812, 837, 838, 840, 841–44, 846, 847, 900, 901, 937, 944, 949–50, 953, 960, 970, 1004, 1028, 1047, 1048, 1049, 1061, 1072, 1126, 1220–21, 1234, 1244, 1245, 1255, 1336
Queens County (N.Y.), 225, 589
Quigley, Thomas, 1202
Quigly, Aron, 849
Quince, Richard, 199, 200

Racehorse: HM Mortar Galiot, becomes *Thunder,* 359; mentioned: 341
Rachel: brig, accounts for loading, 754–55; mentioned: 448, 578, 684, 755, 1368, 1370 (Tibbett)
Rainbow: HMS, ordered to fit out, 459; fitting out for North America, 533 (Collier)
Rainbow: schooner, captured by Adams in *Warren,* 92n.; disposal of cargo, 95; mentioned: 712, 783 (McMonagle); 1107n.; sloop, taken by *Fowey,* 1109n.; Shuldham's passport for, 1301 (Perkins)
Rainer, Peter (Lt., R.N.), 1394
Rains, Stephen (Lt., R.N.), 1407
Raleigh: Continental Frigate, construction of, 197n.; mentioned: 90n.
Ramillies: HMS, 1408 (Mackenzie)
Ramsay, David (Lt., R.N.), 1398
Ramsay, William, **to** George Washington, 5
Ramsden, William, 1202
Ramsey, Michael, 777
Ramsy, Thomas, 106
Randall, ——, 945
Randolph, Richard, 163
Randolph: Continental Frigate, construction contract, 697n.; mentioned: 90n.
Ranger: HMS, 405, 443, 1404 (Henshaw)
Ranger: Pennsylvania Armed Boat, crew of, **to** Pennsylvania Committee of Safety, 1178; mentioned: 1067, 1322 (Montgomery); sloop, 1370 (McNeill); unspecified, 404 (Remon)
Rankin, George (Master), 985n. (*Betsey*)
Rapale, ——, 968
Rapalye, Jeromus, 68
Rathbun, John (Lt., Cont. Navy), 302, 1219
Ratlief, James, 849
Rattlesnake device, 266–68
Raven: HM Sloop, takes *Rittenhouse,* 270; at Savannah, 852, 933, 1239, 1326, 1327; takes *St. John,* 1142n.; sheer draft, 1240–41*; Journal: 270, 840, 932, 1142, 1239, 1240–41*; mentioned: 256, 763, 778, 794, 830, 866, 867, 931, 1001, 1164, 1399 (Stanhope)
Rawdon, Lord Francis, 750, 813
Rawlins, Ichabod, 598
Raworth, John, 609, 611
Ray, John, 919
Ray, Robert, 1347
Raymond, George, 88
Raynor, John (Capt., R.N.), 675, 1007 (*Chatham*)
Rea, Joseph, 45
Read, George: appointed to Marine Committee, 101; **to** Mrs. Read, 117; mentioned: 59, 60, 1161
Read, James, Continental Naval Commitee in account with, 961–62
Reading (Mass.) Committee of Correspondence and Selectmen, 990
Reamer, 317*
Rebecca: brigantine, 963; unspecified, 1041 (Caton)
Rebecca and Frances: transport, 286n., 606n., 803
Rebellion Road (S.C.), 663
Reconciliation, British efforts, 371–73, 386, 410, 413, 425–26, 444; British commissioners, 397, 1335, 1337; Lord Drummond's activities, 568, 919–20; mentioned: 1187, 1274
Recruiting form, 50, 51*
Reddall, A. (Lt., R.N.), 1398
Redden, John, 584
Redman, —— (Sgt.), 762
Redman, Arthur, 294
Redmon, William (Lt., R.N.), 1398
Reed and King, 555, 994
Reed, Andrew, Jr., 1301
Reed, John, 966, 1130
Reed, Joseph (Col.), **to** Samuel Blachley Webb, 820–21; **from:** Stephen Moylan, 572; George Washington, 233, 783, 1060, 1193; mentioned: 172, 304, 607, 698
Reedy Island (Delaware River), 863n., 1305
Reeve, Samuel (Lt., R.N.), 1409
Reeves, Richard, **from** Henry Clinton, 1136; mentioned: 750, 811
Regulators, 1150, 1260. *See also* Loyalists; North Carolina
Reid, —— (Master), 311 (*Beaufort*)
Reid, James (Capt., R.N.), **from** Admiralty, 423; mentioned: 420, 429, 435
Reily, Charles (Master), 1368 (*Charles*)
Remington, Benjamin, 57
Remon, James (Capt.), 404 (*Ranger*)
Renown: HMS, grounded, 213; seizure of Falkland Is. whaling fleet, 370; 406n., 413, 423, 478; sails from Boston, 586; Graves' orders to, 633, 972n.; searches for deserters, 1227; mentioned: 252, 273, 275, 300, 397, 404, 996n., 1009, 1096, 1397 (Banks)
Repulse: HMS, to prepare for North American assignment, 432; Davis appointed to command, 503; fitting out, 535; mentioned: 405, 426, 451, 470 (Davis)
Resolution: HMS, 359, 426, 484n., 522, 1406 (Ogle)
Resolution: schooner, 1138 (Waud); 1369 (Jones); victual ship, 112, 113n.
Restraining Acts, 246, 248n., 598, 1096
Revere, Paul, 32
Reynolds, James, 607
Reynolds, John, 11
Reynolds, John (Lt., R.N.), 1406
Reynolds, Nathaniel, 1166
Rhea, David, 887
Rhinelander, Frederick, 1161, 1283n.
Rhode Island: resolve, 1; delegates in Continental Congress, **from** Nicholas Cooke, 66–67, 137, 1049–50; Custom House held by patriots, 157; enlistment of seamen in, 238; tory influence, 575; attack on, 650; row

galleys, 676; frigates, 677; defenses, 797–99; ship owners' bonds, 752, 836–37, 972–73, 1081, 1082, 1100, 1110, 1146, 1194, 1228, 1248, 1279, 1333, 1334n.
Rhode Island Assembly: Newport permitted to provision Wallace, 751; **to:** Continental Congress, 797–99; Journal, 751
Rhode Island Colony Committee, **to** Samuel Soule, 675–76
Rhode Island Committee, to build two Continental Frigates; Journal: 690, 751, 836, 858–59, 1063, 1158; mentioned: 715, 766, 799–800, 916, 953–54, 1033, 1133, 1183, 1228
Rhode Island General Assembly, Journal: 676–77, 835–36
Rhode Island General Committee, **from** Benjamin Tallman, 972
Rhodes, William (Capt.), 55, 56, 1110 (*Victory*)
Rice, 166, 299, 726, 738, 739. *See also* Boston, Siege of garrison; Provisions
Rice, James, 635
Rice, John (Capt. Pa., Navy), 77, 1067, 1322 (*Dickinson*)
Rice, Joseph, 829
Rice, Thomas (Master), 401, 405 (*Commerce*)
Rich, Sir Thomas (Capt., R.N.), 24, 1396 (*Enterprise*)
Richards, John, 355
Richards, Morgan (Lt., R.N.), 1398
Richards, Peter (Midshipman, Cont. Navy), 940n.
Richards, Thomas, 801
Richardson, ——, 1234
Richardson, James, 601, 631
Richardson, Joseph (Master), 1369 (*Cambden*)
Richardson, Richard (Col.), **from** Henry Laurens, 286; mentioned: 191, 987
Richmond, William (Col.), 882, 1083n.
Richmond: victualer, 521, 994
Rickman, John (Lt., R.N.), 543
Riddell, John, 904
Ridley, James, 306
Riggen, John (Master), 985n. (*Sally*)
Riley, Thomas, 602
Rilliet, ——, 827, 851
Ringgold, Thomas, **from** Michael Earle, 701–02; mentioned, 369
Ritchie, ——, 895
Ritchie, William, 664
Rittenhouse, David, 862, 926, 1087
Rittenhouse: ship, taken by *Raven,* 270n.; mentioned: 763n., 830n., 840, 931n. (Bartlett)
Ritzema, Rudolphus (Col.), 225, 1027–28, 1147, 1159
Rivers, Isaac, 945
Rivington, James, 157, 559, 803, 1113
Robbins, Robert, 967
Robec, M. de, 377
Robenson, Rowland, 1145
Roberdeau, Daniel (Col.), **from** John Bayard, 1103; mentioned: 117
Robert and Elizabeth: transport, 410
Roberts, ——, 750
Roberts, Benjamin, 849
Roberts, Kenneth, 965n.
Roberts, Owen (Col.), 687, 705, 721, 760, 777
Roberts, Peter (Capt.), commission to command *Gamecock,* 52; mentioned: 4, 62 (*Gamecock*)
Roberts, Philiman, 975
Robertson, George (Lt., R.N.), 63, 1398
Robertson, James (Brig. Gen.), **from** James Drummond, 1135–36, 1273; mentioned: 161, 969, 970
Robertson, Lewis (Lt., R.N.), 1397
Robinson, ——, 192
Robinson, —— (Midshipman, R.N.), 86
Robinson, Benedict, 57
Robinson, Benjamin, 1364, 1365
Robinson, George, 803
Robinson, Hugh (Lt.), 653
Robinson, Isaiah (Capt.), 1054, 1055 (*Hornet*)
Robinson, John [Secretary of British Treasury], **from** Philip Stephens, 382, 403; mentioned: 409
Robinson, John (Capt., R.N.), 9, 1097 (*Preston*)
Robinson, Risdon, 849
Robinson, Sylvester, 1195
Robinson, William, 145n., 294, 318, 426n., 848, 1119
Robinson, William (Lt., R.N.), 1393
Robinson: transport, 137
Robson, John (Lt., R.N.), 1407
Roch and Lopez, 932n.
Roche [Roach], John (Lt.), 1077, 1353, 1364, 1365
Roches, Louis, 458
Rochford, Lord [William Henry Zuylestein, 4th Earl of Rochford], **from** Baron Grantham, 356; mentioned: 369, 377, 413, 512
Rockingham, Lord [Charles Watson-Wentworth, 2nd Marquis of Rockingham], 372, 416
Rockingham: brigantine, 714
Rodgers, John (Dr.), 1113
Rodgers: brig, 1368 (Phillips)
Rodney, Caesar, **to** Thomas Rodney, 1125–26; **from** Thomas Rodney, 1116, 1186
Rodney, George Brydges (R. Adm., R.N.) **to** Lord George Germain, 366; mentioned: 906
Rodney, Thomas, **to** Caesar Rodney, 1116; **from** Caesar Rodney, 1125–26, 1186
Roebuck: HMS, added to Graves' command, 84; arrives at Sandy Hook, 115; ordered by Graves to Delaware River, 235; readied for sea duty, 625; arrives off Virginia, 1207n.,

1266; court martial to be held on board, 1350; Journal: 1238, 1324, 1340–41; mentioned: 3, 112, 276, 743, 792, 794, 919, 1006, 1008, 1025, 1187, 1323, 1398 (Hamond)

Rogers, ——, 802

Rogers, —— (Maj.), 968

Rogers, America, 946, 988n.

Rogers, John, 803

Rogers, William (Capt.), **from** Lord Stirling, 1016; mentioned: 904, 1014, 1026, 1101, 1200

Roland, Thomas (Master), 1367 (*Betsey*)

Romans, Bernard (Capt.), commissioned Captain, Company of Matrosses, 1175–76; mentioned: 156, 587, 606, 770, 837, 1258

Rome, George, 125n.

Romney: HMS, fitting out, 489; mentioned: 370, 388, 443, 1411 (Elphinston)

Rooke, Nicholas (Lt., R.N.), 1407

Rootes, ——, 164

Roper & Boyd, 686

Rosamond: ship, 1347

Rose, Alexander, 164

Rose, Thomas, 739

Rose: HMS, condition of, 857; loyalists on board, 1145; attacks Point Judith, 1252; Journal: 37, 678; mentioned: 241, 767, 794, 800, 1008, 1134, 1400 (Wallace); tender of takes prizes, 88, 690, 1010n.; attacks Brenton's Point, 127; mentioned: 153, 753

Rose: ship, lost in English Channel, 1305

Rose: ship, 1369 (Curry)

Ross, David (Sgt.), 1202

Ross, David (Master), 1367 (*Union*)

Ross, Elizabeth, 1313

Ross, John, 102, 807, 925

Rotch & Smith, 403, 423

Rotch, Joseph (Master), 837 (*Delight*)

Rotche, Isaac (Lt., Pa. Navy), 1321

Roughman, Fred, 175

Roundey, John, 584

Roundy, Robert, 1365

Row-galleys, 5, 12, 114, 557, 616, 634, 654, 676, 791, 809, 912, 941, 1019, 1034, 1065, 1068, 1179, 1180, 1183, 1235, 1305, 1319, 1322. *See also* Bateaux; Boats; Floating batteries

Roy, St. Alban (Lt., R.N.), 1408

Royal Charlotte: HMS, 1412 (Campbell)

Royal George: sloop, 154

Royal Oak: HMS, 522n., 543, 1406 (Deane)

Ruddork, Abiel, 990

Ruggles, Timothy (Gen.), 886

Rum, 555, 557. *See also* Provisions

Rum cask, 317*

Rumsey, Benjamin, **from:** John D. Thompson, 1089; Isaac Van Bebber, 1349; mentioned: 864n.

Rumsey, J., 1052

Rumsey, Nathaniel, 1040–41, 1089, 1103, 1309

Runyon, John, 1203

Rush, Benjamin (Dr.), **to** Owen Biddle, 259; mentioned: 1175

Russel, John, 1119

Russell, ——, 218

Russell, John, 974

Russell, Joseph, 677, 751, 1100, 1158, 1228, 1230, 1278

Russell, Joseph Dolbear Jr., 859, 878, 879, 916

Russell, Nathaniel, 1268, 1341

Russell, Thomas, petitions Massachusetts Council, 934, 936

Russell, Thomas (Capt.), 1054

Russell, William [of Baltimore], 1367

Russell, William (Col.), 678, 751, 799, 859, 1100, 1228, 1230, 1278

Russell, William Jr., 1100

Russia Merchant: ordnance storeship, 341, 438–39, 519, 521

Rutgers, Anthony (Capt.), 184, 942

Rutherford, L. (Lt., R.N.), 1406

Rutherford, Robert, 14

Rutledge, Edward, 102, 578, 999, 1184–85, 1320

Rutledge, John, 104, 201, 286, 326, 560, 565, 578, 623, 664, 687, 705, 839, 905 1271

Rutter John, 769

Sabin, Hezekiah, 635, 1228

Safford, Samuel (Maj.), 977

St. Augustine (Fla.), weakness, 147; proposed attack, 578; mentioned: 560, 561, 1120, 1328, 1334

St. Barbe, Wyatt (Capt.), 1245

St. Croix, 412, 1132, 1237, 1258

St. Eustatius [St. Eustatia]: American vessels captured, 105–106; map of, 169*; seizures at, 287; as source of gunpowder, 472, 877; as source of military stores, 481, 1109; view, 1128*; trade with, 1176; mentioned: 684, 804, 1062, 1068, 1081n., 1085, 1109, 1138, 1157, 1162, 1176, 1237

St. George's (Me.), Committee of Correspondence, 844

St. Helena [Island of], 519, 520

St. Helena (S.C.), Committee for, at Beaufort, 1070; letter to, 1093; mentioned: 311, 326, 729

St. Helena: brig, taken by *Asia*, 129n; mentioned: 154, 158 (Herriot)

St. James, Santee (S.C.) Committee, 594, 646

St. John, Henry (Capt., R.N.), 1407 (*Torbay*)

St. John, Hooker, 942

St. John: HM Schooner, 794 (Grant); HM Armed Sloop 540, 544 (Agnew); sloop 1142n., 1155, 1326n. (Harrison)

St. John's (Antigua), 1272

St. John's Island (Quebec): raid on, 288, 450, 625–30, 709–11, 1167–68, 1222–24;—confirmed by Graves, 125;—news reaches England, 446; prisoners from, 128;—release of, 130; mentioned: 434, 779, 780, 1144

St. Laurent, Francis, 458

St. Lawrence River, control of, 149; mentioned: 1047, 1243

St. Lawrence: brig, carried into Plymouth, 555n. (Coffin)

St. Lawrence: HM Schooner, proceeding to St. Augustine, 15; arrives St. Augustine, 43n.; Gov. Tonyn explains delay of, 788; sails from St. Augustine to Charleston, 1003n.; Journal: 43, 1003; mentioned: 16, 256, 794, 993, 1008, 1105, 1343, 1401 (John Graves)

St. Lucia (Windward Is.): source of gunpowder, 270

St. Peter's (S.C.) Committee, 729

St. Pierre (Martinique), 177, 178*

Salem (Mass.) Committee of Safety, **from:** William Bartlett, 17; Phillip Callbeck, 80; Richard Derby, Jr., 17–19

Salisbury: HMS, 1393 (Walters)

Sally: [*Salley*] brig, manifest of military stores brought in, 859; John Brown's bond for, 880–82 (Jenckes); 1225 (Stacy) [*see also Cabot*]; schooner 856, 877 (Nickerson; 1302 (M'Intosh); 1367 (Gray); ship, wrecked on Montauck Point, 161n. (Charles Smith); 1123, 1160, 1125n. (Bagley) [*see also Columbus*]; sloop, retaken by *Warren,* 253, 318, 979n., 1066n.; taken by *Mercury,* 277; outfitted for Rhode Island, 766, 1109 (Packard); purchased by Col. McDougall for New York, 921, 942 (Wosan); 985n. (Riggen); 998, 1037, 1085 (Dodge); 1370 (Shephardson), 655

Salmon, George, **from** George Woolsey, 12, 13, 591, 1000, 1001

Salt, Virginia importation of, 263; price in North Carolina, 324; importation of, 1125n.; mentioned: 129, 140, 293, 294, 591, 1292

Salter, Elliot (Capt., R.N.), **from** Admiralty, 459n. (*Cygnet*)

Salter, Francis (Lt.), 1077

Salter, John, 796

Salter, Robert (Col.), 133, 200

Salter, Titus (Capt.), 630

Saltonstall, Dudley (Capt., Cont. Navy): appointment in Continental Navy, 87, 207, 302; recruiting, 100, 153; to Philadelphia, 215; mentioned: 117, 128, 263, 658n., 672, 716, 720, 891, 940n., 1088, 1174, 1219 (*Alfred*)

Saltonstall, Gilbert, 215

Saltonstall, Gurdon, **to:** Connecticut Committee of the Pay Table, 215; Silas Deane, 100, 939–40, 1173–74; **from** Henry Babcock, 87

Saltpeter, 49, 149, 185, 477, 500, 560, 573, 683, 952, 1050, 1061, 1062, 1179, 1234, 1258, 1260. *See also* Gunpowder

Saltter, Thomas, 175

Salvador, Francis, 1268

Sam: brig, account for loading, 754–55; mentioned: 864, 865, 1370 (Forsythe)

Samber, James (Lt., R.N.), 1409

Sampson, James (Master), 645n., 685 (*Industry*)

Sampson: ship, 802 (Coupar)

Samuel: tender, to HM Sloop *Otter,* 757

Samways, ——, 595

San Miguel [*St. Michael*]: snow, 647, 763n., 1190 (Laraquebel)

Sanders, —— (Capt.), 1129

Sandford, ——, 884

Sandford, John, 1207

Sands, Comfort, 22, 168, 170, 206, 753, 862, 884, 998, 1037, 1065, 1085

Sands, Robert (Master), 830, 831, 868, 869, 908 (*Cornelia*)

Sandwich, —— (Capt.), 652

Sandwich, Earl of [John Montagu, 4th Earl of Sandwich]: assesses situation in America, 463; consents to William Howe as reconciliation commissioner, 539; **to:** George III, 492, 500–2; Lord Germain, 460; **from:** George III, 499–500, 504; Hyde Parker, Jr., 653–54; Molyneux Shuldham, 764; mentioned: 426, 468, 475n., 504, 515, 652, 878, 1234

Sandwich (Mass.) Committees of Correspondence and Inspection, Minutes, 750–51

Sandwich: HM Packet, arrives at Rebellion Road, 286, 298; mentioned: 249, 582, 593, 623, 664, 665, 666, 667, 675n., 727n., 763, 830, 840, 866, 931–32, 1105 (Nottingham)

Sandwich: HM Tender 708

Sandwich [renamed *Samuel*]: schooner, 757

Sandy Hook, lighthouse, 958*; mentioned: 587, 1281

Sandys, Charles (Lt., R.N.), 1401

Santo Domingo: as trade center, 390. *See also* Hispaniola

Sargent, Winthrop, instructions to, 553; **to** George Washington, 290; **from** Stephen Moylan, 1121–22; mentioned: 1108

Sartine, Gabriel de [French Naval Minister]: **to** Count de Vergennes, 344, 417, 465; **from:** M. d'Anglemont, 507; Capt. de Bausett, 177; Count de Vergennes, 360, 415, 461; mentioned: 478, 498

Saunders, Charles (Adm., R.N.), 426

Saunders, Roger (Capt.), 721

Sautel, George (Lt., R.N.), 1398

Savage, Ebenezer, 975

Savage, Henry (Lt., R.N.), 1408

Savage, Thomas (Capt.), 29, 897, 1325

Savage: HM Sloop, 63, 792, 997, 1007, 1008, 1167, 1401 (Bromedge)

Savannah (Ga.), defense of, 706, 829; Sons of Liberty in, 1164; British troops reported near, 1295; Council, **from** James Wright, 1269; Council of Safety, 729, 1069; Parochial Committee, 1002; mentioned: 466, 852, 933, 986, 1002, 1269
Saverson, John, 892
Sawyer, ——, 291
Sawyer, —— (Capt.), 266
Sawyer, Ebenezer (Col.), 936
Sawyer, Elisha, 898
Sayer, Nathaniel (Lt., R.N.), 1407
Sayre, Stephen, 1234
Saywood, Samuel, 291
Scadlock, James (Capt.), 850 (*Belville*)
Scarborough: HMS, fires on Leechmore's Point, 148n., 149; fires at works on Phips' farm, 212; ordered to convoy rice expedition, 254; convoy of, 166, 234, 238, 600, 601, 633, 992, 993;—leaves Boston, 320; captures by, 1142, 1155, 1326; arrives at Savannah, 1165; tender of, 1129, 1190n.; Journal: 148n., 319, 633, 1141, 1239; mentioned: 275, 584, 794, 807, 811n., 1008, 1242n., 1327, 1398 (Barkley)
Schalk, —— (Lt.), 976
Schaw, Alexander, **to** Lord Dartmouth, 350
Schomberg, Alexander (Capt., R.N.), 1412 (*Dorset*)
Schuyler, Philip (Maj. Gen.): shipwrights sent to, 680; bateaux construction, 1137; **to:** John Hancock, 10, 11, 100, 195, 258, 323, 716–17, 768, 785, 917, 957, 976–77, 998, 1034–36, 1122, 1147, 1159, 1197, 1255; Seth Warner, 1230–31; George Washington, 768; Cornelius D. Wynkoop, 577, 670; **from:** Edward Antill, 1155; Richard Montgomery, 146, 249; George Washington, 841–44; David Wooster, 145, 779, 1027–28, 1213, 1243; mentioned: 129, 216, 551, 578, 650, 657, 681, 692, 693, 837, 838, 846, 862, 887, 926, 979, 1004, 1137, 1185, 1336
Schweighauser, Jean Daniel, 280
Scorpers, 317*
Scorpion: HM Sloop, arrives at Charleston (S.C.), arrives at Brunswick (N.C.), 161; sails from Rebellion Road, 202; pilot of, 539, 646; arrives at Cape Fear, 244; runs aground, 245, 246; orders from Gov. Martin, 568; Gov. Martin on board, 723, 725; bombards Ft. Johnston, 1022; Journal: 244–46, 1022; mentioned: 33, 35n., 221, 593, 622, 759, 794, 847, 1008, 1021, 1400 (Tollemache)
Scott, Alexander (Capt., R.N.), 1311 (*Lynx, Experiment*)
Scott, Andrew, 174
Scott, Charles (Col.), **to** Capt. Southall, 140; mentioned: 34, 41
Scott, Eleazer, 88
Scott, George, 799
Scott, James (Master), 1367 (*Dolphin*)
Scott, John, 594, 596, 666n., 739
Scott, John (Capt.), instructions for, 268, 269 (*Batchelor*)
Scott, John Morin, 1014
Scott, William (Capt.), 721
Scudder, Isaac, 942
Scudder, N. (Dr.), 885
Scurrey, David, 1182
Scurvy, 930
Sea Flower: brig, 1010n.; schooner, 1369 (Hatfield)
Sea Nymph: brig, 1104, 1105n. *See also Hope:* HM Brig
Sea Nymph: transport, 480 (Levitt)
Seabury, Benjamin (Lt., Cont. Navy), 208, 302, 1219 (*Alfred*)
Seaford: HMS, ordered to North America, 356; fitting out, 461; mentioned: 340, 359, 388, 405, 443, 535, 1023, 1411 (Colpoys)
Seahorse: HMS, 1393 (Farmer)
Sealey, Sall, 1202
Seapower, 26, 34, 49, 225, 559, 756, 764–65, 1127
Searle, Joel, 53
Sears, George, 938, 1063
Sears [Seers], Isaac (Capt.), to examine vessel for Connecticut defense, 114; mentioned: 157, 215, 559, 600, 603, 976, 1084, 1113
Sebastian, Robert, 1227
Sellick, Simon (Capt.), 293, 294, 301, 302, 559, 560
Selman, John (Capt.), 3n., 6, 34, 109n., 165, 214n., 288n., 479n., 572, 874n., 1168 (*Franklin*)
Semple, —— (Capt.), 318
Senegal: HM Sloop, ordered to Nova Scotia to stop contraband, 152; arrives Liverpool (N.S.), 261, 262; detains *Liberty,* 1107; Journal: 4, 122, 180, 261, 1107n.; mentioned: 125, 275, 1006, 1007, 1008, 1345, 1399 (Duddingston)
"The Sentinel," 1011*
Servant [Servent], Samuel (Capt.), 309, 644 (*Molly*)
Sever, William, **to:** George Washington, 876; mentioned: 51, 52, 124, 877, 991, 1285
Seville: transport, 407 (Brown)
Sewall [Sewell], Dummer (Maj.), 675, 953
Sewall, Jonathan, **to** Edward Winslow, 495–97
Sewall, Samuel, 125n.
Sewell, Daniel, 61
Sewell, William (Master), 1368 (*Calvert*)
Seymour, ——, 1112, 1113
Seymour, Stephen (Lt., S.C. Navy), 136
Shackford, Josiah (Capt.), 747
Shadden & Co., 309
Shannon, James Noble, 1131
Shark: pilot boat, 906; unspecified, 410
Sharp, John, 159
Sharp, Richard, **from** John McKesson, 976, 978
Shaw, Nathaniel, Jr., memorandum of powder delivery, 1197; **to:** William Constant, 817–

18; Clark and Nightingale, 817; Joseph Trumbull, 241, 679, 1111–12; Isaac Wharton, 86; Samuel Solly Wintworth, 817; **from:** Jabez Huntington, 557; Peter Vandervoort, 89, 115, 195; Samuel Ward, 91; mentioned: 154, 634, 700, 1157, 1302n.

Shay, Francis, 552

Shays, Abraham, 605

Shea, —— (Capt.), 186

Sheaf, John, 975

Shedden, John, 644, 645

Sheddon, Robert, 618, 619, 644, 645, 825, 850

Sheftall, Mordecai, 1106

Shelburne, Lord, 443

Sheldon, Christopher (Capt.), 690

Sheldon, Jonathan (Master), 1334n. (*Tryal*)

Sheldon, Pardon, 690

Shephard, Richard, 609, 611, 612

Shephardson, Zebadiah (Master), 1370 (*Sally*)

Shepherd, James (Master), 1005 (*Boston Packet*)

Sherborne: HM Cutter, 1405 (Gaborian)

Sherburne, Samuel, 212, 950

Sherburne: schooner, 752n. (*Gardner*)

Sherman, Roger, 837, 846

Sherman, Thomas, **to** William Henry Drayton, 1106

Sherriff [Shireff, Sherreff], William (Maj.), 100, 813, 1145

Shillingford, James, 611

Shillingford, James, Jr., 611

Ship gun carriages, 556*

Ships under construction, 464*

Shiverick, Nathaniel, 54

Shoals, John, 68

Shoan, William, 1018

Shoemaker, Joseph (Capt., Cont. Marines), 302, 613, 961 (*Columbus*)

Shot, 1148*

Shubrick, Richard (Capt.), 202

Shubrick, Thomas (Capt.), 1239, 1309–10

Shuldham, Molyneux (Vice Adm., R.N.): arrival expected in North America, 252; Adm. Graves' reaction to replacement by, 300; arrives Boston, 300, 318, 320, 555, 599, 600, 792–94; Sir Peter Parker to join as second in command, 334, 338; informed of Southern Expedition, 360; Prohibitory Act sent to, 486; command to include St. Lawrence River and Gulf fleet, 539; dispatches for, 363, 523, 1311, 1331; discusses advantages of Americans at sea, 764; takes command of Graves' fleet, 794; relations with British Army, 811; expectations for success of, 812, 1030; transfer of orders, instructions, and letters from Adm. Graves, 845, 994, 1031, 1096; intelligence conveyed from New York to, 941–42; transmits dispatches, 1025; portrait, 1098*; grants Capt. Banks authority in Nantasket Road, 1099; informed of situation in Nova Scotia, 1299; passport to *Rainbow,* 1301; **to:** Francis Banks, 1099; Phillip Callbeck, 1144; Andrew Snape Hamond, 814, 834; Lord Sandwich, 764–65; Philip Stephens, 792–94, 857, 1025; **from:** Admiralty, 478, 540–41; Marriot Arbuthnot, 1299–1300; Hugh Bromedge, 1005; Samuel Graves, 794, 845, 1006–07; William Howe, 1318; Charles Hudson, 1057; George Jackson, 477, 478, 485–86, 486, 487, 490, 491, 510; Richard Lechmere and Alexander Brymer, 1318–19; Philip Stephens, 360, 361, 362; James Wallace, 784–85; James Young, 1211, 1312; mentioned: 356, 427, 431, 433, 435, 479, 482, 541, 572n., 573, 715, 807, 1006, 1078, 1136, 1274, 1397

Shurlock, Simon, 1304

Shyrock, Henry (Capt.), 848, 887

Sibella: storeship, 484

Sidney: ship, 1369 (Barney)

Sigell, John, 133, 143, 221, 1310

Signals and signal flags, 64, 297, 320, 324, 431, 534, 640, 772, 793, 805, 841, 873, 874, 1012, 1027, 1099, 1185, 1188, 1287–89, 1375, 1380, 1382, 1387, 1388

Silliman, Gold Selleck (Col.), **to** Joseph Fish, 128, 205

Silsbee, Nathaniel, **from** Elias Hasket Derby, 1245

Simmons, Elijah, 634

Simmons, Jeremiah (Lt.), 264, 266

Simmons, Leeson (Capt.), 808

Simons [Simmins], Anthony, 601, 631

Simonson, Simon, 1203

Simpson, Benjamin, 129, 1291, 1292

Simpson, John, 200

Simpson, William, 685

Sinclair, John, 599

Sing, Abraham, 849

Singleton, James, 608, 611

Sisson, Robert, 962

Skene, Philip, 100, 1147

Skinnell, William, 175

Skinner, Cortland, 820n., 1282

Skinner, Stephen, **from** Woolsey & Salmon, 13; mentioned: 12

Skipper Dixey: schooner, 1108

Slack, Jacob, 611

Slack, Samuel, 939

Slander, —— (Capt.), 397

Slaves, S.C. runaways, 136; harbored on Sullivan's Island (S.C.), 105; protected by British Navy, 135; effects of liberation attempts, 227; mentioned: 92, 723, 850, 981, 1164. *See also* Negroes

Slocum, ——, 954, 955

Small, Jacob (Master), 1370 (*Ranger*)

Smallpox, 509, 535

Smallwood's Maryland Battalion, 1090n.

Smiley, Andrew, 608, 611, 612

Smith, —— [of Jamaica], 869, 1310

Smith, ——, 929

Smith, —— (Lt.), commands Indians at Conanicut, 87
Smith, —— (Capt.), 727
Smith, —— (Capt.) [of Connecticut], 1004
Smith, Charles (Midshipman, R.N.), 161
Smith, David (Capt.), 1107
Smith, Eliphalet, 946, 988n.
Smith, Francis, 970
Smith, George (Lt., R.N.), 1393
Smith, Hugh (Master), 1272n. (*Dolphin*)
Smith, Isaac, Order of Massachusetts Council in favor of, 877; **to** John Adams, 856; mentioned: 877
Smith, Isaac (Lt., R.N.), 1403
Smith, James (Capt.), 942
Smith, James (Commodore), 921, 922
Smith, James (Master), 430 (*Thomas & William*)
Smith, John (Dr.), 589n., 606, 846, 848, 887, 1017
Smith, John (Master), 1368 (*James*)
Smith, John [member, Committee Appointed to Build Two Continental Frigates in Rhode Island], 677, 690, 751, 1158
Smith, John [member, Committee of Observation for Baltimore County], 1118, 1138
Smith, John [member, Georgia Council of Safety], 229, 270, 867
Smith, John [soldier], 601
Smith, John, & Sons, 1369
Smith, Jonas, 1341
Smith, Josiah, Jr., **to:** James Poysas, 724–27; Alexander Taylor, 727
Smith, Matthew (Capt.), 782
Smith, Merriweather, 14, 825
Smith, Richard, Diary: 91, 101, 116, 130, 162, 171, 209, 263, 294, 301, 561, 578, 589–90, 606, 636, 657, 681, 693, 753, 770, 803, 820, 838, 846, 980, 999, 1017, 1051, 1103, 1161, 1175, 1185, 1233, 1258, 1284, 1304, 1320, 1337; mentioned: 293
Smith, Robert [member, Pa. Committee of Safety], 862
Smith, Robert [of Edenton], **from** Joseph Hewes, 672–73, 681; mentioned: 76, 199, 207, 673n.
Smith, Sall, 1202
Smith, Stephen, 1081n.
Smith, Stephen (Capt.) [of Machias], 714
Smith, Thomas (Capt., S.C. Navy), **from** Henry Laurens, 1342; mentioned: 738, 739, 761, 762, 839, (*Hibernia*)
Smith, Thomas (Justice), 68
Smith, Thomas [Pilot, L.I. Sound], 159
Smith, William (Lt., R.N.), 1411 (*Folkstone*)
Smith, William, Memoirs: 919, 1112–13, 1125, 1199, 1216, 1282, 1334–35
Smith, Zoheth, 996
Smuggling, 20, 660, 906. *See also* Navy, British; Nonexportation; Nonimportation; Trade
Smyth, James, 305
Smyth, Thomas, 864n.
Sneyd, Edward (Lt., R.N.), 753, 753n., 1397
Snow, Isaac (Master), 1367 (*Betsey*)
Snow, Joshua, deposition of, on effects of raids by American privateers on Nova Scotia, 106–9
Snow Bird: sloop, 309, 642, 1370 (Horn)
Solebay: HMS, ordered to Cork, 388; to take prisoners of war to Boston, 456–57; sails from Plymouth, 470; arrives at Cork, 523, 524, 533; American prisoners on board, 545, 546; mentioned: 368, 400, 433, 443, 445, 451, 484, 511, 1410 (Symonds)
Solomons, Levy, 1273
Somersal, ——, 964
Somerset: HMS, departure for England postponed, 37; sails from Halifax for England, 792, 1025, 1031; mentioned: 36, 63, 65, 276, 742, 1031, 1397 (LeCras)
Somerset County (Md.), Committee of, 1090
Souder, John (Capt.), 1337
Soule, Samuel (Capt.), **from** Rhode Island Colony Committee, 675–76; mentioned: 676, 766 (*Diamond*)
South Carolina, export restrictions, 61; customs irregularities, 135; military stores, 221;— from Congress, 222; British fleet approaches, 312; difficulties to subdue rebellion in, 351; revolutionary sentiment in, 393, 396; to consider St. Augustine expedition, 560; fear of attack on, 578; violations of Continental Association, 594; armed pilot boats, 595; regiments of foot, 721. *See also* Navy, British: Southern Expedition
South Carolina and American General Gazette, **1775:** *Dec. 8,* 14; **1776:** *Jan. 5–12,* 763; *Jan. 12–19,* 866; *Jan. 19–26,* 1002; *Jan. 26–Feb. 2,* 1105; *Feb. 2–9,* 1190; *Feb. 9–16,* 1326
South Carolina Council of Safety: runaway slaves, apprehension of, 135; discontinues supplies to British Navy, 135, 164; orders fortification of Haddrel's Point, 143, 1176; permits departure of ships in ballast, 190; orders seizure of packet, 211; denies custom house clearance, 247; receives Georgia delegates, 298; protests contraband trade in Georgia, 310; measures to prevent illicit trade, 325; refuses to provision British Navy, 593; export permits required by, 687; Sullivan's Island fortification ordered, 728; authorizes firing upon enemy ships, 761; Charleston defense committee formed, 839; export permits granted, 963, 1155; sailing permits granted, 1022, 1071, 1238; insures vessels, 1071; Journal: 14–15, 29–30, 41–43, 61–62, 79, 93, 104–05, 119, 133–36, 143, 164, 176, 190–92, 201, 211, 221, 229, 247, 286, 298, 310–12, 325–29; Minutes: 565–68, 581–82, 592–96, 623, 646–48, 663–66,

686–87, 705, 728, 738–39, 760–62, 776–77, 787, 809, 818n., 828–29, 839, 850–52, 865–66, 896, 905, 928, 945, 963–64, 986–88, 1001, 1022, 1026–27, 1042, 1055, 1069, 1092–93, 1119, 1154, 1164, 1220, 1238, 1268, 1295, 1326, 1342; **to:** Edward Blake, 221; Stephen Bull, 310, 787; Beaufort (S.C.) Committee, 164; Provincial Congress or Council of Safety of Georgia, 104–05, 581; Georgetown (S.C.) Committee, 190, 201, 298, 594; Massachusetts Council, 328; William Moultrie, 143, 761; North Carolina Provincial Council (Wilmington), 592–93; Major Pinckney, 762; Ponpon Committee, 595; Prince William Parish (S.C.) Committee, 247; St. James Santee Committee, 594; Thomas Smith, 761, 839; Benjamin Stone, 202; Edward Thornborough, 164; Simon Tufts, 761, 851; **from** Georgia Council of Safety, 177

South Carolina Navy: commissions, 133; recruitment, 201, 286, 326–28, 647, 818, 820, 838, 862, 887, 896–98, 930, 1045, 1315, 1333 [*See also* Cochran, Robert]; enlistment form, 249; provisions, 565; strength of, 726; pay, 1119; report on, 29; purchase of vessels for, 1239; frigate construction program, 1310; list of vessels, 1310

South Carolina Provincial Congress: nonexportation resolves affirmed, 1294; frigate construction recommended, 1310; Journal: 1119–20, 1141, 1154, 1190, 1239, 1268, 1294–95, 1309, 1324–25, 1341

South Kingston (R.I.), Committee of Correspondence, Minutes: 1253; **to** Nicholas Cooke, 1194–95; **from** William Aplin, 1252

Southall, —— (Capt.), 140

Southcomb, John (Master), 1369 (*Harriot*)

Southerland, —— (Capt.), 813

Southern Expedition: *see* Navy, British

Sovereign: transport 430 (Flyn)

Sowle, William (Master), 1100 (*Success*)

Spain, 356, 391, 490, 511

Speak, Joseph, 269

Speake, Francis (Capt.), 1264, 1323

Spear, John, **from** William Spear, 659–60, 660–61

Spear, William, **to:** Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer, 1162, 1162n.; John Spear, 659–60, 660–61; **from** Maryland Council of Safety, 1220; mentioned: 1138, 1207, 1348, 1370

Speedfair: 1370 (Allen)

Speedwell: HMS Sloop, prizes taken by, 335; interception of *Anna Catherina,* 358; crew, 392; take *Hawks*, 449; Journal: 355, 384, 421, 449, 455, 460, 1411 (Pearson)

Speedwell: schooner [later *Hancock*], 1130n.; sloop, account of, 290 (Cory); unspecified, 1040 (Keith)

Spence, John Russell, 2

Spencer, —— (Capt.), 407 (*Emmanuel*)

Spencer, George, 975

Spencer, James, 248

Spencer, Joseph (Brig. Gen.), 1314

Spencer, Oliver (Capt.), 1202

Spencer, Robert, 1202

Spencer, Thomas (Master), 1369 (*Elizabeth*)

Sphynx: HM Sloop, fitting out, 340; reported for East Indies Station, 359; to join Peter Parker, 400, 424; sails from Portsmouth, 462, 484; mentioned: 361n., 368, 388, 426, 432, 433, 443, 445, 451, 533, 543, 1410 (Hunt)

Spinkes: sloop, 1007

Spooner, Ephraim (Capt.), 53, 321

Spooner, W., 51, 52, 631, 877, 1316

Spooner, Walter, 975

Sprigg, ——, 1055

Springer, Richard, 634

Springfield (Mass.) Committee, **from** Robert Hanson Harrison, 1182

Sprowle, Andrew, 644, 673, 756, 905

Spry, Thomas (Lt., R.N.), 841, 854–55, 1317

Spry, W., 252

Spunier, Francis, 602

Spy: Connecticut Armed Schooner, 88, 205, 634 (Niles); transport, 1064 (Evans); unspecified, taken, 213

Squillion, Jack, 1115

Squire, Matthew (Capt., R.N.): exchange of letters with Lord Dunmore, 28; requests return of salt snow, 176; **to** officer commanding at Norfolk, 119; **from** Andrew Snape Hamond, 1323–24; mentioned: 142, 228, 309, 621, 622, 663, 686, 704, 738, 794, 963, 1092, 1188 (*Otter*)

Squirrel: brig, 747, 883n. (Willis)

Squirrel: HMS, prize taken, 1143; mentioned: 43, 232, 545, 906, 908, 1022, 1106, 1209, 1394 (Douglas)

Stacey, Richard (Master), 1367 (*America*)

Stacy, Samuel (Master), 1225 (*Sally*)

Stacy, Thomas, 623

Stamp Act, 372, 797

Stanbury, —— (Master), 942

Stander, Andreas (Master), 358 (*Anna Catherina*)

Stanely, John Wright, 199

Stanhope, Henry Edwin (Lt., R.N.), **from** Brig. Gen. Horatio Gates, 951; mentioned, 86

Stanhope, John (Capt., R.N.), **to** Philip Stephens, 930; mentioned: 794, 931–32, 1326 (*Raven*)

Stansbury, Richard (Lt., Cont. Navy), appointed, 207, 208n.

Stanton, John, (Capt.), 970

Stanton, Joseph (Capt.), 1145, 1146

Starke, John (Lt.), 315

Staten Island, (N.Y.), 1215

Stebbins, John, 585

Steel, —— (Capt.), 24

Steel, Archibald, 782
Steinmetz, John, 1017, 1102, 1103
Stelle, Benjamin, 1158
Stenhouse, —— (Dr.), 1206
Stephen, Adam (Col.), **to** Richard Henry Lee, 1127; mentioned: 580, 661
Stephens, Philip: portrait, 376*; transmits dispatches to Royal Governors, 362; **to:** John Bazely, 358; Sir Grey Cooper, 374; Robert Cooper, 381; Digby Dent, 396; Sir James Douglas, 363, 370, 373, 374, 394, 403; William Eden, 406; Tobias Furneaux, 343, 344, 348; Thomas Gage, 387; Samuel Graves, 347, 375, 382, 383, 992; Skeffington Lutwidge, 363; Robert Man, 348; Richard Pearson, 358, 396; John Pownall, 358, 401, 407; John Robinson, 382, 403; Molyneux Shuldham, 360, 361, 362; **from:** Marriot Arbuthnot, 251; Christopher Atkins, 353, 355; Henry Bellew, 736–37; William Cornwallis, 544; Sir James Douglas, 511; Tobias Furneaux, 723, 931, 932; Clark Gayton, 43, 231, 906, 1143; Samuel Graves, 112, 274, 573, 992–95, 1030–31, 1078–79; John Macartney, 454; Sir Peter Parker, 397, 408, 432, 435, 437, 439, 443, 444, 451, 461, 462, 484, 498, 503, 511, 543; John Pownall, 403; Molyneux Shuldham, 792–94, 857, 1025; John Stanhope, 930; Charles Thompson, 375, 386; James Young, 706–08; mentioned: 485, 900
Stephens [Stevens], Walter, 791, 1305 (*Greyhound*)
Stephenson, —— (Lt.), 261
Stevens, —— (Capt.), 54
Stevens, Benjamin, 584
Stevens, Cornelius, 74
Stevens, Edward (Col.), 78, 188
Stevens, Robert [R.I. merchant], 1248
Stevens, Robert [St. Eustatius merchant], 74
Stevenson, Henry, 678
Stevenson, James, 174
Steward, David, 1259
Steward, Stephen, **to** Charles Wallace, 892; **from** Maryland Council of Safety, 926; mentioned: 927
Steward, William, 174
Stewart, Alexander, 605
Stewart, David, 1369
Stewart, David [Elizabeth], 1202
Stewart, George, 1013
Stewart, John, 849
Stewart, Meredith, **to** Joshua Hempstead, 716
Stewart, Micah, 53
Stewart, Robert (Capt.), 297, 309, 643
Stewart, Stephen, 1038
Stickney, John, 4
Stiles, —— [Comptroller of Customs, Spithead, England], 386
Stiles, Ezra, Diary: 20, 57, 67, 86, 99, 113, 127, 138, 153, 194, 240, 257, 262, 278, 292, 323
Stiles, Richard (Lt.), 1077
Stirk, John (Capt.), 674, 829
Stirling, Lord (Col.) [William Alexander]: capture of *Blue Mountain Valley*, 942, 943, 979, 1017, 1037; **to:** John Hancock, 170, 959, 1014–16, 1101–02, 1137; New York Committee of Safety, 1026; William Rogers, 1016; **from:** New York Committee of Safety, 904, 921; George Washington, 712, 717; mentioned: 717, 733, 920, 1066, 1125, 1151, 1160, 1200, 1216, 1217, 1231, 1232, 1255, 1335
Stoaks, Peter, 306
Stoddart, John (Lt., R.N.), 1411
Stokes, Anthony, 853
Stone, Benjamin (Capt.), 201, 211, 298, 928, 945, 1043, 1070, 1071
Stone, Benjamin (S.C. pilot), 1154, 1295
Stone, Cabb, 1358
Stone, John, 968
Stone, Jonas, 1132
Stone, William [consignee, brig *Friendship*], 1052, 1349, 1369
Stone, William (Master), 1368 (*Polly*)
Stone, William (Capt., Cont. Navy): portrait, 718*; personal qualities, 1306; **from** Continental Congress, Naval Committee, 640, 719–20; mentioned: 59, 672, 773, 1020, 1054, 1263, 1338 (*Hornet*)
Stone & Duall, 595
Stonehouse, Robert (Master), 1368 (*Union*)
Stonington (Conn.) Committee, 679
Storie, Samuel, 1023
Stormont, Lord [David Murray, 7th Viscount Stormont] **to:** Count de Vergennes, 408, 417, 471; Lord Weymouth, 473, 475, 498–99; **from** Count de Vergennes, 414, 478; mentioned: 415, 434, 507
Story, ——, 73
Story, Ralph, 306
Story, William, 914, 992, 1170, 1182
Stott, John (Capt., R.N.), 1396 (*Alarm*)
Stout, Timothy B., 1202
Stow, George, 975
Strombolo: HM Fire Ship, 405
Stuart, Charles, 458
Stuart, Charles (Capt.), **to** Earl of Bute, 1029–30
Stuart, John, 611
Stuart, John [British Superintendent of Indian Affairs for the Southern Department], 147, 148n., 301, 854, 1120, 1268, 1343
Stuart, Mrs. John, 1141
Stuart. William, 11
Stull, —— (Capt.), 1055
Submarines, 823, 1101, 1111
Success: brig, 1369 (Wright); schooner, 270, 273 (Peverly); 977 (Bowne); 1100 (Sowle)
Suffolk, Lord [Henry Howard, 12th Earl of Suffolk], **from** Francis Legge, 211; mentioned: 413, 468, 491, 492, 504, 505

Sukey: brigantine, taken into Newburyport, 810, 833n., 843*, 844n.; cargo of, 855, 1010; mentioned: 875n., 876n., 883, 914, 917n., 952n., 1017n. (Engs)
Sullivan, James, 274
Sullivan, John (Brig. Gen.), 628, 1314
Sullivan, Philip, 666n.
Sullivan's Island (S.C.): refuge for runaway slaves, 105; raid on, 202, 725; occupation by Gov. Campbell, 568; fortification, 684, 705, 760, 761, 898, 905, 928; stores for, 777; palmetto logs for, 839; battery on, 851, 1140, 1164; mentioned: 30, 191, 666, 740, 1003, 1042
Sultan: HMS, 371
Sur, ——, 809
Surgeons, 598; instruments, 872*
Surinam, 880, 934, 1082
Surprize: HMS, fitting out, 424; to be ready for sea duty, 433; mentioned: 409, 443, 451, 522, 1402 (Linzee)
Susannah: sloop, 927n., 1001, 1119n. (Bright); unspecified, 407 (Fraser)
Sussex County (Del.) Council of Safety, 1000n.
Sutherland, Andrew (Lt., R.N.), 1406
Sutton, Samuel, 294
Sutton, Woolman, 697
Swain, Jonathan, 704
Swaine, Samuel, to John Bosley, 1235–36
Swallow: HM Sloop, 1393 (Pigott); schooner, 1368 (Lovet); sloop, 309, 644, 645 (Burwell [Burrell])
Swan, —— (Capt.), 242
Swan, Jason, to John Howland, 968
Swan, John, 248
Swan: HM Sloop, deserters, 112; landing from repulsed at Brenton Point, 127; raid on Dyer's Island, 215; tender of, 127, 153, 752, 753, 1010n.; Journal: 37, 127, 678, 800; mentioned: 126, 153, 167, 214, 241, 279, 690, 767, 784, 794, 1008, 1134, 1399 (Ayscough)
Swan: sloop, 1368 (Brown)
Swann, John, 191
Sweet, James, 1146 (*Hope*)
Sweet, William, 752n. (*Greenwich*)
Swenney, John, 1292
Swift: sloop, 1155, 1238 (Morgan)
Swift, Ward (Capt.), 750
Swiney, William (Lt., R.N.), 1395
Swords, 785, 819*
Sybilla: storeship, 433
Syme, John, 645
Symes, Richard (Capt.), 813
Symmes, Andrew (Capt.), 966
Symmetry: HM Armed Transport, 254, 992, 1239, 1242n.
Symonds, John (Capt., R.N.), 9, 63, 1192, 1313 (*Cerberus*)
Symonds, Richard, 753
Symonds, Thomas (Capt., R.N.), to take American prisoners to Boston, 456–57; from Admiralty, 388; mentioned: 429, 545–47 (*Solebay*)
Symons, Peter (Master), 1367 (*Mary Carroll*)
Syren: HMS, to precede Sir Peter Parker's fleet to Cape Fear, 360, 368; sails for America, 370; arrives at Cape Fear, 622; provides munitions to Gov. Martin, 723; captures by, 777, 1129, 1163, 1189, 1190, 1268, 1294; sails for Savannah, 778; at Tybee Lighthouse, 830; arrives at Savannah, 930–32; Journal: 622, 777–78, 866–67, 1129, 1189, 1294; mentioned: 340, 400, 445, 763n., 840, 852, 933, 1001, 1026, 1027, 1105, 1164, 1267, 1295, 1326, 1327, 1399 (Furneaux)

Tadamondert, —— (Master), 384 (*Eufrou Agatha*)
Tailfer, ——, 104
Talbot, Daniel, 716
Talbot, George (Capt., R.N.), 214 (*Niger*)
Talbot, Richard (Master), 1369 (*Betty*)
Tallman, Benjamin (Maj.), to Rhode Island General Committee 972; mentioned: 678, 858, 882, 917, 1228
Tallman, William, 817
Tamar [*Tamer*]: HM Sloop, at Charleston, 14; Gov. Campbell on board, 162; attempts to cross Charleston bar, 582, 593, 664, 665, 727n.; low on provisions, 593, 852; ordnance stores, 688, 790–91; provisions, 740–41, 763, 790–91; Continental Naval Committee suggests Esek Hopkins could capture, 847; Charleston fears attack from, 1326, 1327; Journal: 202, 249, 666, 829–30, 898, 916, 1027, 1165; mentioned: 105, 162, 164, 192, 255, 256, 286, 667, 674, 675n., 724, 762, 763, 778, 787, 788, 789, 794, 827, 840, 849, 866–67, 896, 930, 931, 932, 933, 1002, 1003, 1142, 1155, 1164, 1165, 1165n., 1239, 1326 (Thornbrough)
Tarpaulin Cove (Mass.), 53
Tartar: HMS, American prisoners on board, 64n., 123, 482, 483, 484, 494, 497, 503, 507–09, 513, 514, 516, 521–22, 542; convoys transports 122; struck by lightening, 319; arrives at Portsmouth, 843; ordered to fit out, 494–95; Journal: 122, 125n., 319, 483–84n.; mentioned: 81, 112, 122–125, 126, 166, 483, 484n., 488, 489, 497, 535 (Medows)
Tate, Benjamin, 175
Tattnall, Josiah, 853, 867
Taylor, —— (Quartermaster), 782
Taylor, Alexander, from Josiah Smith, Jr., 727; mentioned: 726
Taylor, Eldad, 51, 52, 631, 857, 877
Taylor, Jacob, 214
Taylor, John, 51, 52, 631, 857, 1301
Taylor, Joseph, from N. Taylor, 811
Taylor, N., to: Thomas Flucker, 811; Joseph Taylor, 811
Taylor, Ralph, 599

Taylor, William, 886

Tebout, Tunes, 221

Teesner, Lewis, 390

Telfair, Edward, 229, 270, 583

Temperance: sloop, 132–33 (White)

Templeton, Archibald, 832

Templetoun, Peter (Master), 1368 (*Jane*)

Tennant, William, 720

Tennent, ——, 1113

Terry, Nathaniel, 163

Tessier, ——, 281

Tew, —— (Capt.), 87

Thacher, Jonathan (Master), 1369 (*Nancy*)

Thames River, England, 447*

Thames: store ship, 166n. (Laird)

Thatcher, Elisha, 60

Thayer, Thomas (Master), 1081 (*Charlotte*)

Thetis: HMS, ordered to fit out for service, 494, 512, 513, 520, 531, 535; ordered to St. Helena, 520, 531; secret signals for, 536; mentioned: 340, 359, 388, 443 (Graham)

Thetis: transport, 407, 430 (Burns)

Thomas, Edmund, 1202

Thomas, Edward (Lt. Col.), 959, 1202

Thomas, Fisher (Lt., R.N.), 1397

Thomas, James (Master), 1369 (*Izabella*)

Thomas, John (Brig. Gen.), 1314

Thomas, John (Capt.), 1202

Thomas, Thomas, 764 (*Yankee Hero*)

Thomas, William (Master), 1369 (*Clibborn*)

Thomas, William, 974

Thomas & Stafford: sloop, 14, 42, 849n. (Gibbs)

Thomas & William: transport, 430 (Smith)

Thompson, —— (Capt., R.N.), 407 (*Golden Rule*)

Thompson, —— (Capt.), 89

Thompson, —— (Maj.), 1112, 1134

Thompson, Benjamin (Capt.), 77, 1322; to Esek Hopkins, 641 (*Experiment*)

Thompson, Charles (Capt., R.N.), to Philip Stephens, 375, 386; mentioned: 429 (*Boreas*)

Thompson, Charles (Capt.), 477 (*Liberty*)

Thompson, Ebenezer, 690

Thompson, Edward, 867

Thompson, James (Master), 795 (*Kitty* transport)

Thompson, John, 1368 (*Kitty* sloop)

Thompson, John (Sgt.), 849

Thompson, John D., to: Maryland Council of Safety 1042; Benjamin Rumsey, 1089; mentioned: 1309

Thompson, Rosanah, 698–99

Thompson, Samuel (Col.), expedition to Halifax, 1046, 1047n.; mentioned: 50, 150, 857, 1316

Thompson, Thomas, 197n., 273

Thomson, Charles, 72, 530n., 979n., 1120

Thomson, David, 607, 697, 1040

Thomson, John, 175

Thornbrough, Edward (Capt., R.N.): must release fugitive slaves, 135, 164; orders *Scorpion* to Charleston, 568, 759; **from** S.C. Council of Safety, 164; mentioned: 14, 105, 202, 249, 666, 789, 794, 829, 898, 906, 1027, 1165, 1326 (*Tamar*)

Thorndike, Larkin, 1362, 1365

Thorne, Stephen, 753

Thorner, John, 631

Thornhill, John, 602

Thornton: ship, 1369 (Gray)

Thorton, Daniel, 1228

Three Brothers: transport, carries arms from England, 342

Three Brothers: sloop, 1071 (Pindar)

Three Sisters: transport, convoyed by HMS *Mercury,* 901, 993, 1232

Thunder: HM bomb vessel, fitting out for Southern Expedition, 339, 368, 371, 400, 420, 423, 429, 432, 445; ordered to accompany infantry to America, 368; ordered to join Peter Parker at Cork, 423, 432, 435, 439, 452, 459, 484; driven back to England by wind, 473, 501, 506; Capt. complains about ship and crew, 533; mentioned: 359, 361n., 371, 426, 433, 443, 444, 467, 470, 533, 543, 1411 (Reid)

Thurbers & Cahoon, 690

Thurston, Daniel (Col.), 632

Tibbett, James (Capt.), 448, 578, 684, 1368, 1370 (*Rachel*)

Ticonderoga (Fort, N.Y.), list of cannon, 10–11, 21; French intelligence concerning, 115; removal of cannon to Fort George, 115, 129, 138, 195, 717; building bateaux at, 650, 1137; Continental Congress authorizes repair of defenses, 979; mentioned: 12, 100, 129, 779, 925

Tidyman, Philip, 223, 594

Tiley, John (Lt.), 1077, 1361, 1365

Tilghman, James, 864n., 927, 1139

Tilghman, Matthew, to John Hancock, 643; mentioned: 297, 692

Tilley, Edward (Lt.), 636n., 691, 692n., 736n., 769, 883

Tillinghast, Daniel, 677, 1158

Tillinghast, Henry (Surgeon's Mate), 264 (*Alfred*)

Tillinghast, John, 1081

Tillinghast, Joseph (Capt.), 690

Tillson, Edmund, 849

Timmons, O., 1379, 1386

Timothy, Peter, 720

Tingey, Thomas (Master), 449, 450 (*Hawk*)

Tinker, Jonathan, 974

Tinsley, Francis (Lt., R.N.), 1411

Titcomb, Jonathan, to Benjamin Greenleaf, 4–5, 52

Tobacco trade, 448, 484–85, 525, 1186, 1238, 1285–87, 1297

Tobey, Eliakim, 750

Todd, Anthony, 413

Todd, Michael, 262

Tollemache, John (Capt., R.N.), 14, 42, 539, 593, 794, 1071 (*Scorpion*)

Tonken, Thomas (Lt., R.N.), 401, 423, 484

Tonyn, Patrick (Gov. of E. Fla.): portrait, 230*; dispatches for, 358; orders supplies, 688; sends provisions to British Navy, 740–41, 763; **to:** John Graves, 15–16; Lord Dartmouth, 231, 788–90, 1328–29; Henry Clinton, 1343; **from:** Arthur Clarke, 788; William Panton, 853–54; Martin Jollie, 1270–71; mentioned: 43, 147, 1120

Toone, John (Master), 536 (*Elizabeth*)

Topham, John (Capt.), 782

Torbay: HMS, 451, 1193, 1407 (St. John)

Tories, *see* Loyalists

Torrans, ——, 164

Torry, Samuel, 975

Tower, —— (Mate), 861

Towers, Robert, 91, 172, 216, 264, 304, 562, 590, 641, 700, 785, 821, 888

Towner, Joseph (Master), 1368 (*Hannah*)

Townsend, Bartlett, 102

Townsend, George, 1013

Townsend, I., 903

Townsend, John (Justice), 68

Townsend, William Bartlett, 102

Townshend, George Viscount, **from** Lieutenant General and Principal Officers of the British Ordnance Office, 341; mentioned, 435

Towser, Daniel, 946, 988n.

Toy, William, 608, 609, 611, 612

Tracy, ——, 683

Tracy, John, 34, 51, 52, 764

Tracy, Nathaniel, 5, 34, 52, 764

Tracy, Robert, 764

Trade: Continental Congress debates, 61, 683, 837, 977, 1080, 1102, 1126, 1152, 1245, 1257, 1262, 1283, 1284, 1292, 1320, 1336, 1337; intercolonial, 89, 602, 837, 926; to obtain arms and ammunition, 116, 206, 683, 743, 838, 856, 865, 877, 956, 963, 999, 1126, 1257, 1297; S.C. regulations concerning, 190, 963, 1238; illicit, 222, 348, 415, 968, 1318; British measures concerning, 348, 388–89, 534, 628, 981–85, 1248, 1328; Maryland regulations concerning, 684; N.C. regulations concerning, 826; reopening of ports considered, 837, 838, 894–95, 1152, 1320, 1336; mentioned: 659, 710, 716, 752, 798, 817, 858, 934, 936, 968, 972, 973, 980, 981–85, 1003, 1054, 1071, 1079, 1081, 1116, 1138, 1162, 1176, 1237, 1249, 1276–77, 1278, 1333, 1337, 1367–70. *See also* Nonexportation; Contraband; Nonimportation

Trail, James, 164, 1310

Trail, John (Capt.), 1202

Travis, Edward (Lt.), 188

Treat, —— (Dr.), 651

Tree, Abel, 1245

Trefather, Abraham (Master), 1368 (*Greyhound*)

Trevett, John (Lt., Cont. Marines), 302, 615n. (*Columbus*)

Trew, Richard, 291

Trichet, Pierre, 458

Trident: HMS, 994, 1078, 1097

Trigg, John (Lt., R.N.), 1410 (*Arethusa*)

Triton: HMS, ordered to North America, 357; sails for Halifax, 388, 404; returns to Plymouth for repairs, 485, 487–88, 523; mentioned: 340, 358, 370, 404, 488, 507, 522, 524, 1399 (Lutwidge)

Triton: sloop, 1334n. (Whipple)

Truck, Adam, 1381

Trudeau, Louis, 458

Trumbull, Jonathan (Gov. of Conn.): dispatches from Lord Dartmouth for, 362; **to:** George Washington, 557; Nathaniel Shaw, Jr., 1134–35; **from:** Giles Hall, 88; Greenwich Committee of Inspection, 257; S.C. Council of Safety, 328; Samuel Mott, 815–17; Nicholas Cooke, 1049, 1254; Nathaniel Shaw, Jr., 1111–12; George Washington, 1169; mentioned: 95, 557, 559, 733, 802, 844, 902, 918, 998, 1184, 1304

Trumbull, Joseph (Commissary General, Continental Army), **from:** Nathaniel Shaw, Jr., 241, 679; William Watson, 796–97; mentioned: 1159

Trumbull: Continental Frigate, 90n., 195n., 917n.

Tryal: HM Schooner, 763, 972, 1007, 1276 (Brown)

Tryal: sloop, 681, 1102, 1334n. (Sheldon)

Tryon, Edward, 975

Tryon, William (Gov. of N.Y.), receives intelligence from Philadelphia, 77; contemplates sailing southward, 89–90; requests arms for New York, 158; transmits intelligence, 558–60; proclamation dissolving New York General Assembly 576*; certificate from, 1037; communication with Loyalists limited, 1348; **to:** Lord Dartmouth, 1217; Samuel Graves, 89–90; Whitehead Hicks, 159, 160*; Hyde Parker, Jr., 861; **from:** Hyde Parker, Jr., 159, 160*, 1037, 1047; mentioned: 34, 139n., 154, 155, 157, 207, 291, 362, 654, 698, 815, 857, 886, 920, 941, 943, 1011*, 1030, 1122–25, 1149, 1199, 1216, 1260, 1282, 1293n., 1319, 1335, 1347

Tryton: schooner, 1368, 1369 (Forbes)

Tucker, Samuel (Capt.), **from:** Jonathan Glover, 1108–09; mentioned: 873n., 1007, 1122, 1181; (*Franklin*)

Tucker, Samuel [chairman of N.J. Committee of Safety], 1307

Tucker, Thomas, 1364, 1365

Tucker, Thomas (Capt.), 1326

Tudor, William, 35n.

Tufts, Simon (Capt., S.C. Navy), ordered to secure *Betsey,* 93; to transfer from *Prosper* to *Defence,* 728; to remove Negroes from a Spanish snow, 850–51; reports **to** S.C. Council of Safety, 1220; **from:** S.C. Council of Safety, 828–29; Henry Laurens, 1140–41; mentioned: 62, 312, 623, 739, 761, 865, 988, 1002, 1165, 1342 (*Prosper, Defence*)

Tupper, Benjamin (Maj.), 796, 871,

Turks Island, 545

Turnbull, George (Lt., R.N.), 1398

Turner, Daniel (Capt.), 1273, 1345 (*King Solomon*)

Turner, John, 607, 609, 612

Turner, Moses (Lt.), 542

Turner, Thomas V., 962

Turner, William, 298

Turney, Thady, **to** Richard Button, 1020

Turpin, Joseph (Capt., S.C. Navy), 1220, 1268, 1326 (*Comet*)

Turtle Bay (N.Y.), 1149

Tussey, Francis, 608, 609

Twisden, John, 1130

Two Brothers: ship, 1121; sloop, 38, 1121; sloop, 1367 (Woolf)

Two Friends: 2n. (Lemmon)

Two Sisters: schooner, 968n.; sloop, 1118, 1369, 1370 (Oakman)

Twyman, —— (Capt.), 407 (*Earl of Oxford*)

Tylee, Nathaniel (Capt.), 691, 769

Tyler, Ebenzer, 53

Tyler, James, 691

Tyler, Moses, 678, 715

Tyng, William (Col.), **to** —— ——, 1312–14

Tyrrel, —— (Capt.), 407 (*Nancy*)

Underwood, Thomas (Capt., R.N.), **from** Admiralty, 518 (*Atalanta*)

Unicorn: 1350 (Hutchinson)

Union: HM Transport, 407, 422, 555, 994 (Burton)

Union: ship, 1368 (Bryson); 1368 (Stonehouse); sloop, owner's bond for, 956 (Case); unspecified, 1367 (Ross)

Union River (Mass.), 150

Unity: brigantine, 714; schooner, 915 (Potter); sloop, 322–23, 736n. (Allen); unspecified, 479 (Chevalier)

Urquhart, James (Capt.), 238, 969

Vail, Edward (Capt.), 41

Vail, John, 522

Vaillant, Isaac (Lt., R.N.), 1407

Van Alstyne, Abraham, **from** Matthew Van Alstyne, 1129–30

Van Alstyne, Matthew (Capt.), **to** Abraham Van Alstyne, 1129–30 (*Polly*)

Van Bebber [Van Bibber], Abraham, 659, 774, 1370

Van Bebber [Van Bibber], Isaac (Capt.), **to** Benjamin Rumsey, 1349; **from** Maryland Council of Safety, 684–85; mentioned, 1370 (*Hannah*)

Van Courtland, Pierre, to John Hancock, 587–88

Van Dam, Isaac, 619

Vandeput, George (Capt., R.N.): refuses clearance to New York vessel, 89; issues clearance, 115; empowered to make seizures 129; requests slops for crew, 155; reprimanded, 241: sends Scotch immigrants to Boston, 455; alleged contact with Thomas Hartwick, 692, 769; refuses to exchange Edward Tilley, 883; requests New York Committee of Safety to permit burial of purser, 957; confers with Gen. Clinton, 1216, 1282; **to:** Samuel Graves, 158; Hyde Parker, Jr., 157; mentioned: 154, 671, 794, 857, 920, 1030, 1031, 1161, 1199 (*Asia*)

Van Derbilt, John, 22, 168, 170, 1065, 1066

Vandervoort, Peter, **to** Nathaniel Shaw, Jr., 89, 115, 195; mentioned: 87

Vangilder, Ezekial, 849

Vanhorn, —— (Capt.), 1176

Van Rensselaer, James (Capt.), 1244

Van Schaick, Goose (Col.), 10

Van Vorhis, Daniel (Capt.), 802

Van Wyck, Gilbert, 68

Van Zandt, Jacobus, 22, 67, 168, 170, 1065, 1123, 1124, 1347

Vattel, Emeric, 101

Vauban, Sebastian Le Prestre, 283

Vaughan, Daniel (Lt., Cont. Navy), 208, 302, 1219 (*Cabot*)

Vaunce, —— (Capt.), 850

Veasey, Joseph, 849

Veazey, John (Col.), **from** Maryland Council of Safety, 1309; mentioned: 1042, 1089, 1292

Verdin, Tobias, 1323

Vergennes, Count de [Charles Gravier]: assesses changes in British cabinet, 377; **to:** Count de Guines, 377, 391, 417, 419, 467; Gabriel de Sartine, 360, 415, 461; Lord Stormont, 414, 478; **from:** Count de Guines, 340, 359, 370, 387, 404, 414, 425, 426, 434, 443, 451, 504, 505, 515, 535; Gabriel de Sartine, 344, 417, 465; Lord Stormont, 408, 417; mentioned: 333, 507, 530n.

Vesey, Joseph (Capt., S.C. Navy), 211, 596, 647 (*Hawke*)

Vial, Samuel, 676

Victory: HMS, 341, 443

Victory: sloop, owner's bond, 1110 (Rhodes)

Viguhard, —— (Capt.), 507 (*La Breton*)

Vincent, Joseph, 648, 1359, 1365

Violenti: schooner, 1142n.

Virginia: possibility of river defenses, 5; naval defenses, 219; British Navy off, 296; revolutionary sentiment, 75, 393–95; lack of arms, 1263

Virginia: Continental Frigate, 90n.

Virginia Committee of Safety: to arrange prisoner exchange with Lord Dunmore, 92; letter from, 132; **to** Maryland Council of Safety, 1019; **from:** Maryland Council of Safety, 1179; Secret Committee of Congress, 1262; Minutes: 1180, 1207, 1340

Virginia Convention: resolves against unauthorized reprisals, 103; resolves on treatment of captured tories, 103; provisions for British Navy, 295; ordnance for naval defenses, 736; **from:** Robert Howe, 93, 592; Naval Committee, 640–41; William Woodford, 905; Journal: 61, 78, 92, 103, 163, 197, 295, 579, 591–92, 643, 685, 722, 736–37, 774–76, 825, 850; mentioned: 294

Virginia Gazette [Dixon and Hunter's], **1775:** *Dec. 16,* 132; *Dec. 23,* 219; *Dec. 30,* 306; **1776:** *Jan. 13,* 774; *Jan. 20,* 895; *Jan. 27,* 646, 1019; *Feb. 3,* 1119; *Feb. 10,* 1207; *Feb. 17,* 1139; *Mar. 2,* 1188; *Apr. 6,* 1121, 1295

Virginia Gazette [Holt's], **1776:** *Jan. 18,* 808–09, 809n.

Virginia Gazette [Pinkney's], **1775:** *Dec. 9,* 25, 125n.; *Dec. 13,* 93; *Dec. 15,* 117; *Dec. 20,* 187–89; *Dec. 22,* 210, 645n.; *Dec. 23,* 220; *Dec. 29,* 297; *Dec. 30,* 306, 307, 646n.; **1776:** *Jan. 5,* 645; *Jan. 6,* 661–62; *Jan. 10,* 723; *Jan. 12,* 756; *Jan. 20,* 673n., 894; *Jan. 26,* 1019; *Feb. 9,* 1187, 1207; *Feb. 16,* 1323

Virginia Navy, ordnance for, 737; row-galleys, 1019

Vulcan: HMS, plan of 982–83*

Wade, Francis, **to** Pennsylvania Committee of Safety, 698; mentioned: 1287

Wadsworth, Peleg (Capt.), **to** George Washington, 124, 150; mentioned: 233, 714

Wait, —— (Capt.), 598

Waldgrave, W. (Capt., R.N.), 1396 (*Zephyr*)

Waldron, Jacob, 177, 1154, 1190

Wales, Nathaniel, 1173

Walkar, John, 522n.

Walker, ——, 1369

Walker, —— (Col.), 950

Walker, Benjamin, 1198

Walker, George, 192

Walker, George [Commissioner, St. Augustine], 763

Walker, James, 827

Walker, John (Capt.), 1065 (*New York*)

Walker, Thomas, 1197, 1212, 1244

Walker, Thomas [Va. Convention], 825

Wall, William, **to:** Nicholas Brown, 864; Esek Hopkins, 773; mentioned: 642, 1178, 1370

Wallace, Charles, 786, 927

Wallace, Hugh, 1122, 1123

Wallace, James (Capt., R.N.): raids Conanicut, 58, 214; threatens Newport to obtain provisions, 86, 278; attacks Brenton's Point, 127; Newport supplies with provisions, 648, 835, 901, 917, 937, 938, 939, 954, 955; Prudence Island battle, 767, 882; intelligence supplied by, 901, 1025; Fishers Island raid, 1064n.; attacks and raids Pt. Judith, 1145, 1158–59, 1183, 1195–96, 1252, 1253, 1254; **to:** Inhabitants of Newport, 861, 902; Samuel Graves, 278; Molyneux Shuldham, 784–85; mentioned: 66, 99, 113, 149, 167, 181, 215, 240, 278n., 292, 650, 751, 794, 800, 844, 857, 916, 970n., 1031, 1049, 1063, 1250 (*Rose*)

Wallace, Robert (Master), 1369 (*Mary*)

Wallace & Davidson, 448

Wallais, John, 867

Walley, Zedekiah (Master), 1368 (*Mary*)

Wallis, —— (Capt.), 407 (*Myrtle*)

Wallis, William, 602, 631

Walter, Arthur (Lt., R.N.), 1397

Walters, G. R. (Capt., R.N.), 1393 (*Salisbury*)

Walton, George, 229, 270, 674

Walton, Samuel (Lt., R.N.), 359, 1405 (*Wells*)

Wanton, John, 240

Wanton, John (Master), 1081n. (*Molly*)

Wanton, John G., 837

Wanton, Joseph (Royal Gov. of R.I.), dispatches for, 362; mentioned: 240, 257, 262, 323, 575, 954, 1249–51

Wanton, William, 954

Ward, Andrew, 1112

Ward, Artemas (Maj. Gen.), **to** John Hancock, 1109; mentioned: 150, 992, 1314

Ward, Benjamin, 601, 631

Ward, Elisha, 975

Ward, Elizabeth, 973

Ward, Henry, **from** Samuel Ward, 101, 264, 324; mentioned: 67, 238, 879, 953

Ward, Samuel, "The Marine Service is of such vast Importance that we doubt not of your utmost Attention to it in all its Branches . . .," 673; **to:** Nicholas Cooke, 673, 820; Nathaniel Shaw, Jr., 91; Henry Ward, 101, 264, 324; **from:** Nicholas and John Brown, 879; Nathanael Greene, 149; mentioned: 91, 138, 293, 753, 837, 846, 878, 879, 1103, 1152, 1153, 1263, 1284, 1285, 1286

Warden, James (Capt.), 122 (*Tryal*)

Warden, James (Lt., R.N.), 1409

Wardlaw, William (Lt., R.N.), 1405 (*Alarm*)

Wardroop, ——, 309

Waring, John, 221

Waring, Thomas, 312

Warner, Elisha (Lt., Cont. Navy), 208, 302, 1219 (*Andrew Doria*)

Warner, Seth (Lt. Col.), **from** Philip Schuyler, 230–31; mentioned: 780, 785, 842, 918, 976, 1035, 1255

Warner, William, 974

Warre, Charles (Lt., R.N.), 1393

Warren, Christopher, 175

Warren, James, **to:** John Adams, 49–50; Samuel Adams, 165, 784, 833, 1060; **from:** John Adams, 1284; Samuel Adams, 670, 719; Benjamin Fessenden, 765; Stephen Moylan, 1060; mentioned: 51, 183, 673n.

Warren, Samuel (Capt., R.N.), 518n. (*Weazle*)

Warren: Continental Frigate, 90n., 678n., 902

Warren: Pennsylvania Armed Boat, 266, 1305n., 1322 (Montgomery)

Warren: sloop, 679n., 874n. (Denny)

Warren: Washington's Armed Schooner, takes *Rainbow,* 92; retakes *Sally,* 253n., 318, 979n., 1066n.; William Burke commissioned as commander, 553, 1077; crew, 573n.; disposition of *Rainbow*'s cargo, 783; mentioned: 36n., 873, 1130 (Adams, Burke)

Washington, George (Gen.): portrait, 18*; receives Resolves of Congress relative to captures made by Continental vessels, 94; recommendations on transports deferred by Continental Congress, 101; accepted by Continental Congress, 171; receives confirmation of *Washington*'s capture, 122; threatens reprisal for mistreatment of Ethan Allen, 146–47, 148; turns down request for troops to aid Rhode Island, 182; prisoner exchange application submitted, 253; urges Continental Congress to establish Admiralty Courts, 253; orders sale of captured cargos, 274; opposes provisioning of British Navy, 648; unable to reinforce Canadian expedition, 1043; suspects reconciliation attempts, 1273–74; notes lack of gunpowder, 1345–46; **to:** William Bartlett, 111, 274, 991; William Burke, 1077; Continental Agents, 599; Nicholas Cooke, 95, 136, 182, 648–49; Charles Dyar, 871–72; Jonathan Glover, 253; John Hancock, 45, 94, 147, 209, 232, 318, 600–01, 733–34, 782–83, 950, 1043–45, 1180, 1273, 1345–46; William Howe, 146; Richard Henry Lee, 253; John Manley, 1023–24; William Ramsay, 5; Joseph Reed, 233, 599, 783, 1060, 1193; Philip Schuyler, 841–44; Lord Stirling, 712; Jonathan Trumbull, 1169; William Watson, 253; **from:** Benedict Arnold, 781–82; William Bartlett, 17, 44, 45, 93, 648; Beverly Committee of Correspondence, 44; Phillip Callbeck, 223; Nicholas Cooke, 56, 167, 901; Joseph Denison, 679; Richard Dodge, 122; Nathaniel Freeman, 65; Jonathan Glover, 165; John Hancock, 11, 887; William Howe, 193; inhabitants of Nova Scotia, 1165–66; Jonathan Jackson, 810–11; John Knight, 713; Henry Knox, 138; Charles Lee, 1280–81; Lachlan McIntosh, 1327; Perez Morton, 992; Northampton Committee of Safety, 833–34; Joseph Otis, 66; Winthrop Sargent, 289; Philip Schuyler, 768; Jonathan Trumbull, 557; Peleg Wadsworth, 124, 150; William Watson, 214, 795–96, 937, 995, 1031–33; Joshua Wentworth, 711; mentioned: 19, 32, 35n., 39, 59, 80, 86, 92, 137, 434, 522, 601n., 798, 862, 871, 876, 887, 918, 940, 941, 992, 1017, 1034, 1035, 1050n., 1066, 1112, 1126, 1184, 1185, 1233, 1254, 1314

Washington's Fleet: officers, 6, 991, 1077; commissions, 553, 966, 1077; reenlistment, 713; to lend ordnance stores, 111; cargos taken, 274; operations, 482; colors, 482; enlists British prisoners, 832; prize shares, 871, 1157; instructions to captains, 71–73; lack of ammunition, 873; flag, 873n.; want of shirts for crews, 1033; prizes, 1076, 1181; rental cost, 1130, 1226; mentioned: 5, 50n., 96, 572, 820–21, 1024

Washington: Continental Frigate, 90n., 697n., 1051n.

Washington: Mass. privateer, 63n. (Boardman)

Washington: Pennsylvania Armed Boat, 563n., 1322 (Dougherty)

Washington: Rhode Island Armed Sloop, 1099 (Crawford)

Washington: Washington's Armed Brig, orders for survey, 9; carpenters' survey, 9–10; carried into Boston, 96; capture confirmed to George Washington, 122; colors, 321, 482, 488, 489, 492, 503; crew as prisoners, 483n., 509, 514, 522, 951n.; taken to England 97, 112, 318; ordered on board guardships, 494, 532; members taken into British Navy, 511, 513; smallpox among, 535; officers, 542; mentioned: 50n., 53n., 81, 82n., 165, 166n., 285n., 299n., 488n., 573n., 660, 1353 (Martindale)

Wasp: Continental Schooner, fitting out in Maryland, 163, 218n., 607–09; to convoy vessels from Baltimore, 640, 692, 693, 719; underway from Baltimore, 774n.; watch list, 849; powder and arms, 1001; joins fleet, 1219n., 1263, 1264n.; signals for, 1288, 1290n.; mentioned: 173n., 186n., 643, 672, 721, 722, 738n., 848n., 1127n., 1307n. (Hallock)

Wasp: HM Sloop, 404, 426, 1404 (Bligh)

Waterbury, David (Col.): on committee to purchase Connecticut armed brigantine, 114; purchases *Lilly Ann,* 205; **to** Connecticut Committee of the Pay Table, 205; mentioned: 589, 603–05, 1112

Waterbury, Silvester, 605

Waterman, Andrew (Capt.), 917

Waters, —— (Master), 1340n., (*Molly*)

Waters, Daniel (Capt.), 553n., 1024, 1077, 1108, 1122, 1181 (*Lee*)

Waterstone, John, 602

Watertown (Conn.) Committee of Correspondence, **from** Norwich (Conn.) Committee of Correspondence, 1280

Watherston, Alexander (Lt., R.N.), 1408

Watkins, Samuel, 716

Watlington, Richard, 347

Watson, —— (Capt.), 495

Watson, —— (Master), 1041 (*Portland*)

Watson, Alexander, 1203

Watson, Brook, 67, 100, 480

Watson, Jacob, to Christopher Champlin, 1283

Watson, James, 1161

Watson, Jonah, 1052

Watson, William, to George Washington, 214, 253, 795–96, 796–97, 937, 995, 1031–33; **from:** Samuel Brown and others, 53; Robert Hanson Harrison, 870–71; Stephen Moylan, 81, 966, 1024, 1076–77; mentioned: 291, 321n., 599

Watson & Spooner, 86, 113, 165

Watt, James (Lt., R.N.), 1407

Watts, Edward (Dr.), 1313

Waud, William (Master), 1138, 1367 (*Resolution, Betsey*)

Wayman, Moses, 584

Wayne, William, 664, 687

Weaver, Thomas (Lt., Cont. Navy), 208, 302, 1219 (*Cabot*)

Weazle: HM Sloop, 518, 520, 1403 (Warren)

Webb, James, 161, 884, 885, 886

Webb, John, 1291

Webb, Samuel, 584

Webb, Samuel Blachley (Maj.), **from** Joseph Reed, 820–21

Webley, Edward, decisions, 868, 988; **to** Clark Gayton, 832, 1243; **from:** James Davis, 946; Joseph Fitch, 831–32; John Kennidy, 1242; mentioned: 1331

Webster, John, 849

Webster, Pelatiah, 655, 657

Weeks, George, 1202

Weeks, George (Capt.), 68

Weeks, Stephen (Master), 898, 1165n. (*York*)

Welch, Richard, 912

Welcome: schooner, 1367 (Paine)

Wells, —— (Capt.), 829

Wells, Charles (Capt.), 1264 (*Chatham*)

Wells, John, 286

Wells, Joseph, 305

Wells, Thomas (Capt.), 882

Wells: HM Cutter, to intercept *Anna Catherina*, 359; mentioned: 449, 1405 (Walton)

Welsh, George, 60

Welsh, John (Capt., Cont. Marines), 304, 615, 700, 961 (*Cabot*)

Wentworth, Hunking, 110

Wentworth, John (Royal Gov. of N.H.), 362

Wentworth, John, Mrs., 969

Wentworth, Joshua, **to:** Stephen Moylan, 711; George Washington, 711; **from:** Robert Hanson Harrison, 783; Stephen Moylan, 95; mentioned: 121

Werden, John, 1192, 1242

Wereat, John, 231

West, Joseph, 915

West, Stephen, **to:** —— Burgess, 1055; Maryland Council of Safety, 1054, 1127; **from** John Hobson, 448

West, Thomas (Lt., R.N.), 1396

West, William, list of timber supplied for Philadelphia frigates, 1039–40

West, William (Brig. Gen.): **to:** Nicholas Cooke, 954–55, 1082–83, 1158, 1249; Gideon Hoxie, 1083, 1101; Newport Town Council, 916, 937–38, 955–56, 1063; **from** Newport Town Council, 938–39; mentioned: 882, 917, 1049

West, William [owner, *Polly* schooner], 1105n., 1119n.

West Florida: reinforcement for, 482; invasion possibilities, 502; naval defense, 524, 532. *See also* East Florida

West Indies: prices rise, 87; as source of military stores, 124, 212, 746, 956, 1100, 1230; source of supply for British, 224; involvement in contraband trade, 231; trade to be resumed, 838; "Extract of Letter From," 1296; affected by non-exportation, 1319

Westcoat, Samuel, 677

Westcott, James (Capt.), **from** Nicholas Brown, 1249, 1278–79; mentioned: 1230 (*Enterprise*)

Weyman, William, 68

Weymouth, Lord [Thomas Thynne, 3d Viscount Weymouth]: **to** Admiralty, 459–60; **from:** Admiralty, 453, H. Katenkamp, 533–34; Lord Grantham, 490; John Marsh, 512; Lord Stormont, 473, 475, 498–99; mentioned: 369n., 377, 414, 419, 425, 468, 505, 515, 1335

Weymouth, Moses (Master), 1133, 1170 (*Lively Locust*)

Weymouth: packet, flags, 431 (Flyn)

Whale boats, 1117, 1170, 1281

Whaling, 765. *See also* Falkland Islands whaling fleet

Wharton, Isaac, **from** Nathaniel Shaw, Jr., 86; mentioned: 115, 683, 700

Wharton, James, Day Book, 1377–90; mentioned: 693, 697, 1205n.

Wharton, John, 696, 1039

Wharton, Reynold, 608, 609, 611

Wharton, Samuel, **from** Thomas Wharton, Jr., 563

Wharton, Thomas, Jr., **to** Samuel Wharton, 563; mentioned: 115, 700, 838, 1186

Wharton & Humphreys, **from** Pennsylvania Commissioners for Building the Continental Frigates in Philadelphia, 696–97

Wheeler, Joseph, 193

Wheeler, Stephen, 1202

Wheelock, Eleazer (Dr.), **from** Robert Hanson Harrison, 62

Whipple, Abraham (Capt., Cont. Navy): appointed, 207, 302; portrait, 656*; ordered by Naval Committee to place *Columbus* under Esek Hopkins, 657–58; mentioned: 11, 55, 67, 131n., 264, 672, 721, 891, 1088, 1219, 1236, 1322 (*Columbus*)
Whipple, Christopher (Master), 1334n., (*Triton*)
Whiston, John (Lt., R.N.), 1404
Whitby: transport, 7n., 65n., 254, 633, 992, 1239, 1242
Whitcomb, John, 51, 52, 631, 877, 967, 1029
White, ——, 1047
White, Aaron, 974
White, Alexander, 294
White, Benjamin, 52, 631, 857, 877, 1078
White, John (Master), 1005 (*Nicholas*)
White, Martin (Master), 113 (*Brittania*)
White, Paul (Capt.), 132, 200 (*Temperance*)
White, Phillips, 252
White, Syms (Capt.), 721
White, William, 608, 609
White, William (Lt., R.N.), 1408
Whitehead, Benjamin (Capt.), 68
Whitehouse, John (Lt., R.N.), 1411
Whitfield, Gideon, 962
Whiting, Thomas, 825
Whitney, Daniel, 953
Whittlecey, Dave, 975
Whittredge, Livermore, 45
Whyte, Robert, 172, 286, 1186, 1304
Whytth, William, 1296
Wickham, George (Lt., R.N.), 1408
Wickham, Samuel, 1145
Wiesenthal [Weisenthal], C. F. (Dr.), **to** Maryland Council of Safety, 1204; mentioned: 685
Wigfall, John (Capt.), 596
Wigglesworth, John (Lt.), 937, 966, 1077
Wilcocks, Alexander, 607
Wilkins, Richard, 801
Wilkinson, Henry, 991n.
Wilkinson, John, 69
Willard, ——, 886
Willard, —— (Col.), 1064
Willard, Aaron (Capt.), 841, 854–55, 1274, 1275, 1317
Willet, John, 68
William: brig, 342, 586; 1367 (Ferguson); brigantine, 705, 728, 731, 1002, 1056, 1069, 1092, 1294 (Mercier); sloop, 1369 (Hutchins)
William: HM Armed Ship, Lord Dunmore publishes *Virginia Gazette* on board, 27; letter from a gentleman on board, 242; bombards Norfolk, 661; mentioned: 228, 297
William & Mary: HM Yacht, 1412 (Norton)
Williams, ——, 229
Williams, —— (Pilot), 421
Williams, Abraham, 611
Williams, Benjamin (Capt.), 1065, 1084
Williams, Benjamin [Bermuda], 537
Williams, Francis, 612
Williams, James, 174
Williams, James (Lt., R.N.), 1410
Williams, Jonathan, Jr., **to** Benjamin Franklin, 385
Williams, Samuel, 849
Williams, Shubal, 1183
Williams, William (Capt., R.N.), ordered to join Sir Peter Parker, 452 (*Active*)
Williamson, ——, 864
Williamson, Andrew (Maj.), 1002
Williamson, John (Lt., R.N.), 1408
Williamson: 342
Willing, James, **from** Willing, Morris & Co., 1336–37
Willing, Thomas, 90
Willing, Morris & Co., **to:** Gregory and Guille, 22–24; Oliver Pollock, Francis, Philip, and James Willing, 1336–37; **from:** Richard Champion, 371–73, 416; John Jones, 999, 1000; mentioned: 60, 534, 613, 617, 818, 1091, 1179
Willis, Joe, 1050
Willis, Richard, 747 (*Squirrel*)
Willson [Wilson], James, 863, 1292
Willson, James (Master's Mate, Cont. Navy), 849
Willson, John, 991n.
Wilmington (N.C.), 161; Committee of Safety Minutes: 580, 646, 663, 704–05, 826–27, 1021, 1140; mentioned: 189, 592
Wilney, Peter (Master), 1272n. (*Diamond*)
Wilson, —— (Capt.), 309, 643 (*Agatha*)
Wilson, —— (Capt.), 407 (*Neary*)
Wilson, —— (Capt.), 724 (*Portland*)
Wilson, George [*Blue Mountain Valley*], 1203
Wilson, George [*Defence*], 306
Wilson, Henry (Master), 458 (*Adamant*)
Wilson, Isaac, 643
Wilson, Jacob, 601, 631
Wilson, James Hood (Lt., Cont. Marines), 304, 615 (*Cabot*)
Wilson, John (Capt.), 490n., 534 (*Lion*)
Wilson, Joseph, 1041
Winchelsea: HMS, 410
Windsor, T. (Lt., R.N.), 1395
Windsor (Nova Scotia), 1047
Winning, John (Master), 962, 1041 (*Columbus, Minerva*)
Winslow, Edward, **from** Jonathan Sewall, 495–97
Winslow, Job (Capt.), 1034, 1065
Winslow, Zenas, 1276
Winstanley, Thomas, 866
Winter, John (Lt., R.N.), 1400
Winters, John, 962
Winthrop, I., 877
Wintworth, Samuel Solly, **from** Nathaniel Shaw, Jr., 817
Winyard, ——, 42, 61

Wisenthall, John (Surgeon, Cont. Navy), 849 (*Wasp*)
Wisner, Henry, 803
Withers, William R. (Lt.), 135, 191
Witmore, Nathaniel, 975
Woddrop, James, 644
Woedtke, Frederick Wilhelm, Baron de, 1277n., 1302n.
Wogan, ——, 685
Wolcott, Erastus (Col.), 100
Wolcott, Oliver, 837
Wolf: HM Sloop, 404, 1404 (Kempe)
Wood, Mrs. Ann, 886
Wood, Joseph, 45
Wood, Thomas (Master), 1367 (*Wren*)
Wood, William, 174
Wood, William (Capt.), **to** Robert Hanson Harrison, 1075; mentioned: 991, 1247 (*Jenny*)
Woodard, John, 1365
Woodfall, —— (Capt.), 473 (*Good Intent*)
Woodfall, H. S., 479n.
Woodford, William (Col.): to effect prisoner exchange, 92; turns over command to Robert Howe before Norfolk, 118; answers Squire, 119; refuses supplies to British ships off Norfolk, 307; **to:** Thomas Elliott, 617; Edmund Pendleton, 28, 39, 40, 78–79, 118, 139; President of the Virginia Convention, 905; mentioned: 25, 26, 75, 103, 579, 580, 646, 661, 662, 850
Woodham, Timothy (Master), 1369 (*Lively*)
Woodruff, Benjamin, 1202
Woodruff, Dall, 1202
Woodruff, Elijah, 1202
Woodruff, Jonathan, 1203
Woodruff, Lewis, 1202
Woods Hole (Mass.), 54
Woodward, ——, 1113
Woodward, James, 1358
Woolcombe, Joseph, deposition of, 1012–14; mentioned: 902, 903, 924, 942, 943, 1037
Woolf, Henry (Master), 1367 (*Two Brothers*)
Woolsey, George, **to:** John Pringle, 218; George Salmon, 12, 591, 1000–01; mentioned: 1186, 1370
Woolsey, William (Master), 1367 (*Industry*)
Woolsey & Salmon, **to** Stephen Skinner, 13
Wooster, David (Brig. Gen.): prepares to build gondolas, 1243–44; **to:** Continental Congress, 1212; John Hancock, 1004–05, 1244; Philip Schuyler, 145, 779–81, 1027–28, 1213, 1243; Gov. Trumbull, 902; **from:** Benedict Arnold, 314, 570, 596, 624; Jacob Bailey, 900; Donald Campbell, 312; Richard Montgomery, 120; mentioned: 250, 396, 657, 732, 736, 741, 781, 837, 838, 917, 949, 976, 1034, 1035–36, 1047, 1137, 1147, 1159, 1185, 1197, 1273, 1336
Wootten, ——, 1019
Worcester County (Md.) Committee of Observation, 102
Worcester (Mass.), jail keeper, **from** Council of Massachusetts, 631
Worcester: HMS, 543, 1407 (Robinson)
Worder, John, 1331n.
Wordwell, Jeremiah, 1074
Wordwell, Daniel, 1074
Worley, R., 962
Wormstead, Benjamin (Capt.), 150 (*Betsey*)
Worth, James (Capt., R.N.), **from** Admiralty, 391–92; mentioned: 429 (*Deal Castle*)
Worthen, Ezekiel (Capt.), 252, 912
Wosan, Robert (Master), 942 (*Sally*)
Wren: brig, 1367 (Wood)
Wright, —— (Capt.), 1295
Wright, —— (Lt.), 266
Wright, Sir James (Gov. of Georgia): urges colonists to provision British Navy, 1269; boards *Scarborough,* 1295; **to** Council at Savannah, 1269; mentioned: 15, 166, 254, 358, 852, 853, 867, 933, 992, 1239, 1325, 1326
Wright, John, 305 [*Defence* workman]
Wright, John (Lt., R.N.), **from** Andrew Snape Hamond, 1188; mentioned: 1188, 1400 (*Betsey*)
Wright, John [Marine, *Minerva*], 975
Wright, John (Master), 1369 (*Success*)
Wright, Thomas, released, 130n.; **to** Lord Dartmouth, 288, 290n.; mentioned: 2, 627, 709
Wyer [Wyens], Joseph, 1362, 1365
Wyes, Russell, 1357
Wylly, Alexander (Capt.), gives intelligence of runaway slaves on British men-of-war, 105; mentioned: 568, 593, 763, 1071 (*Georgetown*)
Wynkoop, Cornelius D. (Lt. Col.), **from** Philip Schuyler, 577, 670; mentioned: 100
Wynkoop, Jacobus (Capt.), 957, 1137
Wynne, Jonathan Lascelles (Capt.), 240 (*Endeavour*)
Wythe, George, 116, 158n., 171, 301, 770, 846, 1017, 1074, 1103n., 1104, 1184, 1320, 1337

Yankee: Mass. privateer sloop, 602, 1033 (Barnes)
"Yankee Doddles Intrenchments near Boston, 1776," 255*
Yankee Hero: brig, bond for, 764 (Thomas)
Yarmouth (Mass.) Committee, 1276
Yarmouth (Nova Scotia), inhabitants, **to** Francis Legge, 3; neutrality petition, 108, 121, 179; raid, 109
Yates, ——, 1198
Yates, Peter (Lt. Col.), 10
Yetts, John (Lt., R.N.), 1404
York and Potts, 830n.
York Packet: sloop, 898, 1165n. (Weeks)
Yorke, Sir Joseph, 479

Yorke, Thomas, 25
Yorktown (Va.), 645
Yost [Youst], ——, 1277
Young, Elias, 14
Young, Gideon, 1228, 1230, 1278
Young, Henry, 849
Young, Hugh, 1052, 1186, 1309
Young, James, 1242, 1243
Young, John, 633
Young, Joseph, 1074
Young, Walter (Lt., R.N.), 1406
Young, William (Capt., R.N.), 177, 179n., 1395 (*Pomona*)
Younge, Peter, 697n.
Younger, Robert, 602

Zephyr: HM Sloop, 1396 (Waldgrave)
Zubly, David, 674
Zuylestein, William Henry [*see* Rochford, Lord]

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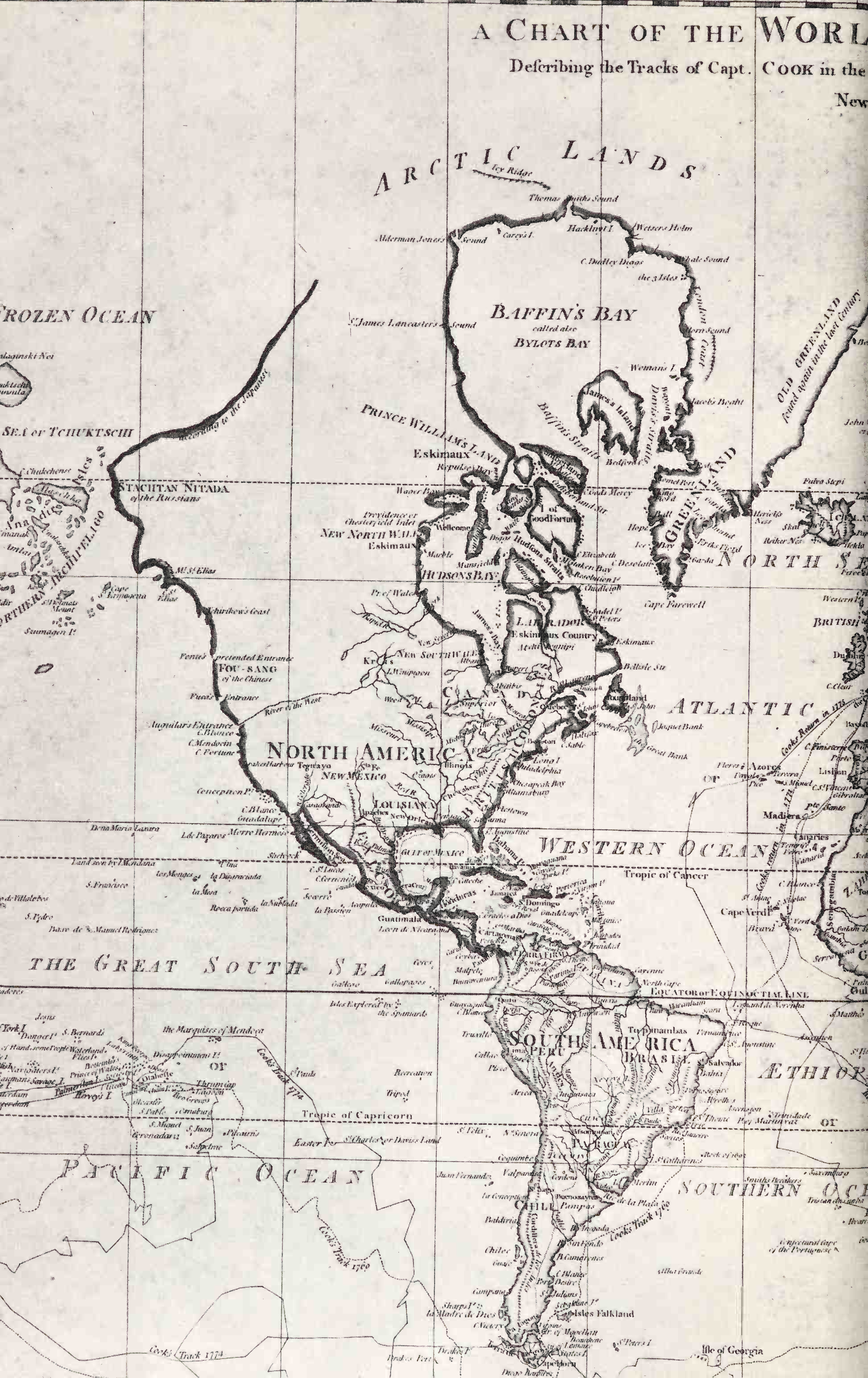


A CHART OF THE WORL

Deſcribing the Tracks of Capt. COOK in the

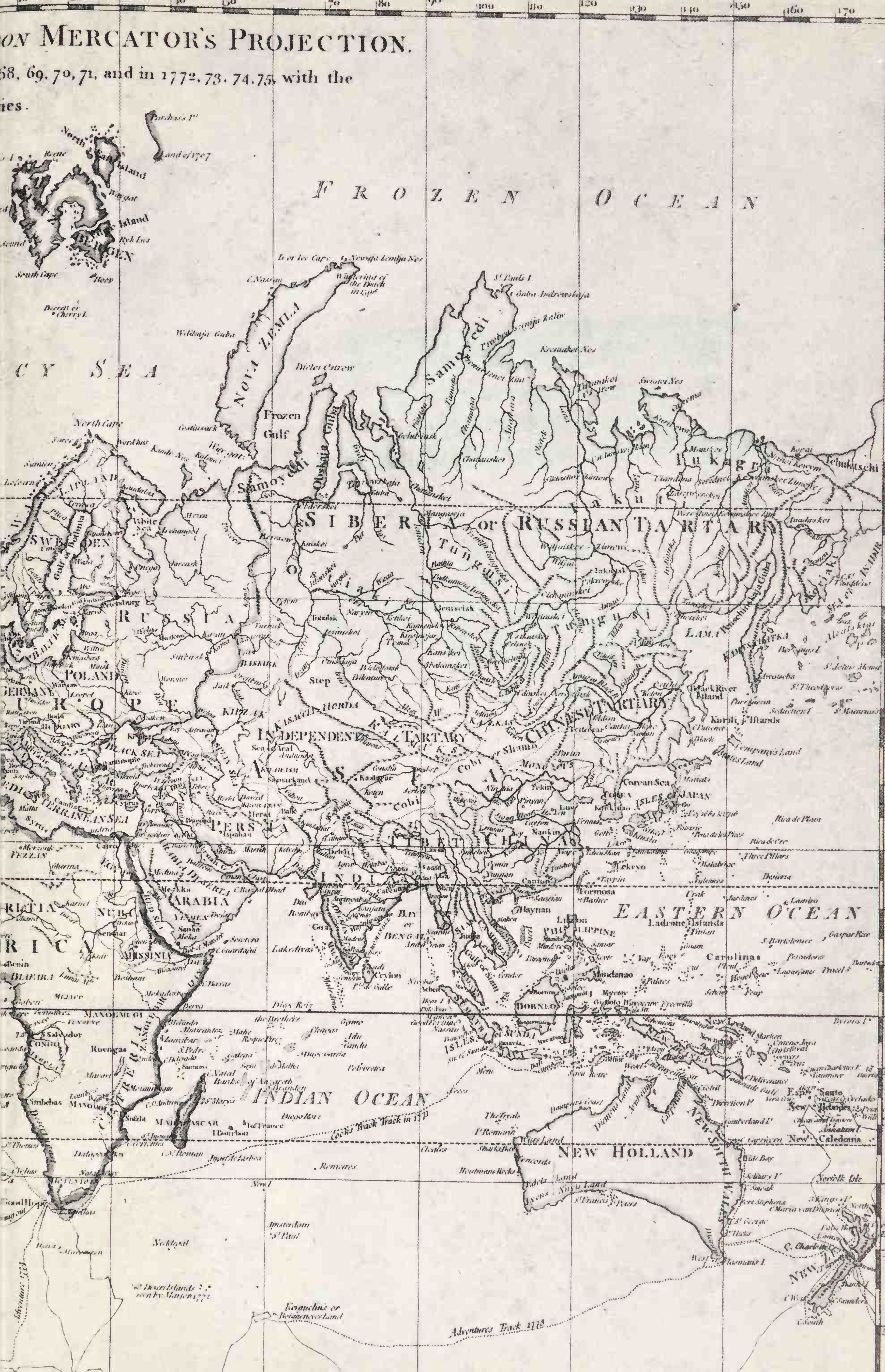
New

ARCTIC LANDS
Icy Ridge
Thomas Smiths Sound
Alderman Jones's Sound
Carey's I.
Hacklnyt I.
Wetsers Holm
C. Dudley Diggs
Whale Sound
the 3 Isles
London Coast
S.t James Lancasters Sound
BAFFIN'S BAY
called also
BYLOTS BAY
Horn Sound
Wemans I.
James's Island
Baffins Straits
Davis's Straits
Jacob's Bight
OLD GREENLAND
found again in the last Century
GREENLAND
FROZEN OCEAN
SEA or TCHUKTSCHI
According to the Japanese
PRINCE WILLIAM'S LAND
Eskimaux
Repulse Bay
Wager Bay
STACHTAN NITADA
of the Russians
NORTHERN ARCHIPELAGO
Providence or Chesterfield Inlet
NEW NORTH WALES
Eskimaux
Wellcome
Marble
Mansfield
HUDSONS BAY
I. of Good Fortune
Hudsons Straits
C. Desolation
Cape Farewell
NORTH SEA
Mt. S.t Elias
Shirikow's Coast
Pr. of Wales
NEW SOUTH WALES
LABRADOR
Eskimaux Country
Bellisle Str.
Fonte's pretended Entrance
FOU-SANG
of the Chinese
Fuca's Entrance
River of the West
CANADA
Newfoundland
ATLANTIC
Aguilar's Entrance
C. Blanco
C. Mendocin
C. Fortune
NORTH AMERICA
NEW MEXICO
LOUISIANA
BRITISH COLONIES
Boston
Philadelphia
Chesapeak Bay
Azores
Madiera
Canaries
WESTERN OCEAN
Tropic of Cancer
GULF OF MEXICO
MEXICO
Jamaica
S.t Domingo
Cape Verd Is.
Guatimala
TERRA FIRMA
GUIANA
THE GREAT SOUTH SEA
Gallapagos
EQUATOR or EQUINOCTIAL LINE
Isles Explored by the Spaniards
the Marquises of Mendoca
Otaheite
Cook's Track 1774
SOUTH AMERICA
PERU
BRASIL
ÆTHIOP
Tropic of Capricorn
Easter I.
S.t Charles or Davis's Land
PARAGUAY
PACIFIC OCEAN
Juan Fernandez
CHILI
Pampas
R. de la Plata
Cook's Track 1769
SOUTHERN OC
Isles Falkland
Cook's Track 1774
Isle of Georgia
Cook's Return in 1775

ON MERCATOR's PROJECTION.

68, 69, 70, 71, and in 1772, 73, 74, 75, with the

ies.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CAFFRARIA
Good Hope
NEW HOLLAND
NEW SOUTH WALES
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New Hebrides
Norfolk Isle
NEW ZEALAND
Cooks Track Track in 1773
Adventures Track 1773
Kerguelen's or Bolguenevs Land
Amsterdam
St. Paul
Desert Islands seen by Marion 1772
Spitsbergen
North East Land
Cherry I.
North Cape
White Sea
Archangel
Petersburg
Moscow
Tobolsk
Pekin
Nankin
Canton
Delhi
Agra
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